



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Part of The Romero Catholic Academy

Issue 09:
Friday 12th
March 2021



Dear parents, children, staff and parishioners,

Welcome back everyone! I so wish that I could have captured the smiles and sounds of laughter as the children arrived at school on Monday morning. Seeing them reunited with their teachers and friends after a lengthy time at home was a beautiful moment. The school has definitely got its heartbeat back! Personally, I have really enjoyed meeting lots of the children for the first time this week. Many of them have seen me on screen, however, it really has been wonderful to put some names to faces and start to get to know their personalities around school. Myself and Mr Madia would also like to extend our thanks to all of the parents that we have had the pleasure of meeting this week. Whether it was a friendly smile, a cheery hello or a quick wave, it has made us feel very welcome and we look forward to working in partnership with you all.

As school's have opened this week, many of you will have heard the phrase 'lost learning' mentioned in the media and how schools now have a duty to help the children catch up on 'missed opportunities'. We would like to take this moment to clarify that at St Gregory's we will not be speaking of 'lost learning' however, will create opportunities to *strengthen learning*. We will encourage our staff and children to *take opportunities*, not dwell upon *missed opportunities*. After all, if we want our children to strive and achieve after all that they have been through, we need to instil a sense of positivity and strong sense of belief in each and every one of them. What we set out to achieve with them needs to feel believable. Therefore, our message to the children has gone out loud and clear this week: **we are all in this together and together we achieve more!**



Mother's Day always falls on the Fourth Sunday of Lent which is this weekend. This is also the day we say 'thank you' to our Mothers, those here on earth and those who are in heaven. We ask God to bless our Mothers on this special day and I wish all our St Gregory's Mums a very happy Mother's Day on Sunday!



Updated Arrangements

Each week we will review our current arrangements and make any tweaks or changes so please be patient with us. Our overall intention is to follow the guidance for the DfE but also make arrangements as quick and easy as possible for you during drop off and collection.

- 1) Drop off times have now changed. The gates will now be open from 8:40am until 8:55am.
- 2) Nursery and Reception will now eat lunch in the hall. All other classes will have their lunches in their classrooms. Hot lunches are still available 😊
- 3) If you are dropping your child off in nursery at 8.30am and have another child waiting to enter school, you must wait with your child on the playground until they enter their classroom at 8.40am.

☆ Star Workers of the Week ☆

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Eva	Alan	Maddison	Ethan	Anais	Fremah	Koby	Meghna
P.E. Days (come to school dressed in P.E Kits)							
N/A	Tuesday Friday	Tuesday Wednesday	Tuesday Wednesday	Tuesday Wednesday	Thursday Friday	Monday Friday	Monday Thursday
Attendance: 95.8% Overall (total attendance for the week for the whole school) Our school target for this year is 97%.							
91%	97.7% 😊	99.6% 😊	96.8%	94%	99.1% 😊	98.8% 😊	97.7% 😊
Class Attendance Winner		Year 1 😊 Well done!					

Parent Consultations

All parents are invited to attend a 10 minute consultation with their child's Class Teacher to discuss how they have settled back into school life. These will take place on **Monday 29th March** from **1pm – 7pm**. Time slots are available to book via the Arbor App. If you are having trouble, please contact the school office and they will be happy to assist you with this.



Snack Time

During their morning break time, children are able to bring in a snack for them to enjoy. This snack should be fruit based. However, we have noticed that some snacks are consisting of crisps and chocolate. Could we please ask you to support us in ensuring that these are no longer provided for break time and that children have a piece of fruit instead. Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 will receive a piece of fruit each day should they want it.

Laptop Reminder

If you were loaned a laptop to assist with your child's remote learning, can you please return it to school asap. These can be handed into your child's class teacher or dropped into the office. We currently have a few still outstanding and now need to use these within school to support with our learning offer.

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Back to Learning

We have been so impressed with how the children have returned to school and have delved straight back into their learning. Each Year group have summarised their week below to give you a flavour of what has gone on! We are so proud of all of the children.

Reception

It has been wonderful having all of reception back in our classroom this week! The children were so excited to see each other and it was lovely to see them skip into school on Monday morning! They have been very busy this week. They have been making mud pies in the mud kitchen, building dens, painting spring flowers and singing their favourite nursery rhymes with musical instruments. Reception have also enjoyed celebrating Science week by building bridges using junk modelling and blocks and drawing pictures of what they think a Scientist looks like! They have also thought about their mums and carers at home and why they are so special to them, they have created their own Mother's Day cards and can't wait to give them to their special grown up! Finally, a huge thank you to our children and their parents for their wonderful videos and photos for their talent show – they were fabulous!



Year 1

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed being back in school this week and have been very busy! They have taken part in Mrs Nevin's science week challenge and tried to build the strongest bridge. They have also enjoyed their investigation and had a go at making 'Wind Socks' this week which they all persevered with. They were filled with excitement when they were reunited with Mrs Tate as she taught them on screen for theme this week. The children enjoyed performing the Battle of Hastings and have lots of new knowledge about this significant event. It has been a busy week, but the smiles on the children's (and staff's!) faces say it all – we are very glad to be back!

Year 2

Year 2 have had so much fun this week during science week. We especially enjoyed going to the forest to look for worms for our habitat experiment and building bridges out of paper. We have also completed lots of fun tasks during English and found out there may be dragons living in Coventry. Our favourite part of the week was seeing all of our friends again after so long at home.

Year 3

Year 3 are delighted to be back together once again. Every member of our class has made a terrific start to their learning in school and loved sharing the fantastic work they have completed in lockdown. We have enjoyed exploring our new text for English 'The Iron Man,' working collaboratively to create artwork using a painted sunrise with silhouette figures layered on top and the children created actions to our story map. They have focussed on good listening, sharing ideas, and ensuring they continue to be a good friend using those skills of kindness, compassion, and thoughtfulness. During PSHE lessons this week we have been exploring resilience and being thankful. We discussed what we are thankful for, remembering that God calls us to be thankful in all things. We have been thankful that this week is science week! We used our scientific enquiry skills to build the best bridge, create natural paint and find out about Mary Anning.



Year 4

We are so delighted to have all of Year 4 back together again and what a brilliant week we have had! We began our week by taking part in a fantastic team building challenge for Science Week. We had to build bridges and work well as a team by communicating effectively and listening to each other. The children planned their bridges as a team and discussed their ideas with their team members. During our PSHE lesson this week we explored the importance of caring and loving everyone in our community, we discussed the people who care and love us and why they play such an important role in our lives. As part of our Rainforest theme, we explored the story of Bagheeras cage and identified the locations of rainforests across the world on our world map. The children enjoyed a fun and skilful PE lesson with Mr Hastings. Let's see what next week brings for Fantastic Four!



Year 5

It has been lovely to have all of Year 5 together! They have been busy working hard and enjoying being back with their friends! This week we have thrown ourselves into our learning and enjoyed a Reading Lesson linked to our African Theme. We studied a poem called 'Saved' which was about an endangered animal. Science has been the subject of the week – we have enjoyed participating in lots of activities to celebrate Science Week. We have held our very own Selective Breeding Debate, built bridges in teams and also entered the poster competition! We also laced up our trainers and have enjoyed our PE Lessons focussing on Netball Skills and Multi Skills. It's great to be back!

Year 6

It has been amazing to have Super Six back, we have loved catching up with each other and becoming our own little community again– we have all missed each other so much! We have got straight back in to a routine and have spent the week re-capping on all four calculations methods using fractions. Not only have we re-built relationships, we have also been building bridges of another kind: using paper we have tried to build a strong build that would hold as many glue sticks as possible. During our English lessons we have continued reading Kensuke's Kingdom and are beginning to plan our diaries as Michael – I wonder what adventures we will go on! As part of our PSHE lessons we have been looking at how we feel and why we need to have a sense of individuality. In R.E we have been continuing on our Lenten journey with Christ at the centre of our lives.

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This week marks British Science Week and we have been excited to celebrate this here in school. Across our classes there has been a buzz as classes competed to see who could create the strongest bridge? The rules were debated, and both design and technique were compared. Afterwards, children then asked questions, tested ideas and evaluated their design. As you can see from the photographs, they did a great job.



In addition to this, each class has enjoyed an investigation linked to this half term's science topic. The photographs show Year 2 exploring what conditions worms prefer and Year 3 investigating whether you can create paint from natural materials.



As a school we have also entered the National Science Week's poster competition. Children will need to create a poster based on the theme of 'innovation for the future'. Details of these will be sent home by your child's Class Teacher and if you have children in the same phase they can work together to enter their designs. There are 3 categories: EYFS – Reception & Nursery, Infants – Years 1, 2 & 3 and Juniors – Years 4, 5 & 6.

Remembering Fr Bob



Recently, we have been working to remodel certain aspects of the school so that the children have an inspiring environment to learn in and to be proud of. Our most recent refurbishment has been of our school hall. For us, the school hall is at the heart of our school and is a place where we can come together as a St Gregory's family. It is also a place in which we can come together to worship God, reflect upon the beauty of life and celebrate our successes. When we thought about the uses of our hall, another person also came to mind – Fr Bob! He was also the heart of our school and brought us all together for many of the same reasons as detailed above. Therefore, as a tribute to Fr Bob and reminder of his lasting legacy the newly renovated hall will now be known as the 'Robert Wright Hall'. Something which we all know he would have loved and will be our special way of remembering him. He is forever in our thoughts and always in our hearts. If you would like to donate to assist with our refurbishment, you can do so here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/therobertwrighthall>

Thank you to all of our families and parishioners for the generous donations so far, we are forever grateful for your support.

We need your help – Community Project!

As you know, improving the school environment has been a high priority on Mr Madia and Mrs Scullion's School Improvement Plan. We have made a huge start on the inside and the time has now come to make a start on the outside areas too! We are hoping to renovate the courtyard area, which is situated outside the hall and the library. We are hoping to make this something of a community project and therefore are looking for people or families who wouldn't mind volunteering and giving up their time to help us clear this area. If you would like to be a part of this project, please can you email Mrs Scullion to volunteer: m.scullion@romeromac.com
Please note: You would need to be available on Saturday 12th June (This date is subject to Covid restrictions lifting).

ADVERT – We are hiring!

Please find details of a new vacancy within the Romero Academy for a **Casual Catering Assistant**. The Board of Directors wish to appoint an enthusiastic and dedicated support staff member who would support the Catholic Ethos of our happy and successful Academy in the role of Catering Assistant.



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This position will support the Catering Team infrastructure across the Academy under the direction of the Academy Catering Manager and the post holder may be based at any of the 8 sites within the Multi Academy Company.

<p>Casual Catering Assistant Grade 1 (points 1-2, £17,842 – £18,198) paid pro rata to hours and weeks worked 0 Hour Contract Casual Contract – As and When Required</p>	<p>Application forms are available to download from https://romeromac.com/vacancy/casual-catering-assistant-the-romero-catholic-academy/ Application forms should be returned to hr@romeromac.com</p>
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Please find details of a new vacancy within the Romero Academy for a **IT Technician**.

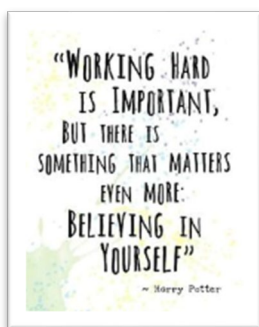
The Board of Directors wish to appoint an enthusiastic and dedicated support staff member who would support the Catholic Ethos of our happy and successful Academy in the role of **IT Technician**:

<p>IT Technician Whilst primarily based at Sacred Heart and St Gregory's this position will support the IT infrastructure across the Academy with the collaboration of the Academy Head of IT and the post holder may be based at any of the 8 sites within the Multi Academy Company. Grade: 4, points 6 – 14 (£19,698 – £23,080) paid pro rata to hours and weeks worked. Contract: Permanent Hours: 35 hours a week, 39 weeks per year Monday – Friday 08:30am – 4:00pm</p>	<p>Application forms are available to download from https://romeromac.com/vacancy Application forms should be returned to HR at hr@romeromac.com</p>
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Next week at a glance

Date	Time	Activity
Value and Virtue – Attentive and Discerning		
Sunday 14 th March	9.30am & 11.30am	4 th Sunday in Lent (Parish Mass at St John Fisher)
Wednesday 17 th March	All Day	St Patrick's Day (children can wear something green if they wish)
Sunday 21 st March	9.30am & 11.30am	5 th Sunday in Lent (Parish Mass at St John Fisher)

Thought of the Week ..



Thank you so much for all of your continued support.

Mrs Scullion

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