

# ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

Living, learning and growing together with Jesus  
**NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2010**



Should you wish to contact the PTA, please call on 07906 695835 / [stgregoryspta@googlemail.com](mailto:stgregoryspta@googlemail.com)



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



### ADVENT

We have had a good Advent. The children responded brilliantly to the Shoe Box Appeal. **81 shoe boxes** filled with goodies have been sent to cheer up very needy children in Romania. The Prebend Street collection had a wonderful response and box loads of toiletries, clothes, tinned food and chocolates have now been delivered. The Prebend Street Centre does a huge amount for the community of Bedford, giving hope to the poor and needy who have next to nothing.

As a community, we can all be very proud of how we have considered others as part of our preparations for Christmas.

The Christmas disco, organised by the PTA, proved to be a wonderful community occasion. Thanks go to Ann Peace and her team. The large number of parent helpers made it a real social event and the children were all perfectly behaved and had a great time.

The Christmas Carol Concert was a huge success. Over 150 people enjoyed the talents of children from every year group. The Nine Lessons and Carols told the whole story of the Nativity and gave a timely reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. St Gregory's choir were extremely impressive and all the students involved, especially the soloists, should be very proud of themselves.

At long last, we have fully functional boilers for the school. It has taken nearly four year for those responsible to sort them out. Special thanks need to go to our site agent, Les Beddall, who, over this period when the weather has been cold, has worked brilliantly to keep everyone as warm as possible.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my three and a half years working with the students and staff of St Gregory's. I have learnt much and move on to new challenges with a wealth of fond memories and experiences. I am leaving behind a dedicated team of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff. I take this opportunity to thank them, the children and you for all your kindness, friendship and support. Exciting times are ahead for St Gregory's and I am sure you will make Ms Topa feel very welcome

I wish you all a very happy Christmas. This is a time to rejoice in the knowledge that Christ the King was born for us in a simple stable. In today's materialistic society, which is dominated by shopping, adverts and electric lights, it is good to take the time to remember that this is a festival set aside for the simple message of joy, peace and good news.

Have a Happy Christmas and a successful New Year.



Robert Mundy (Headteacher)



## STAFF NEWS

***Congratulations to Miss Sumpter who has been appointed as Headteacher at St Joseph's Lower School from next term. Miss Sumpter has played a major part in St Gregory's successes in her role as Key Stage 2 Assistant Headteacher. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her dedication and hard work over the last two years.***

***We would like to welcome back Mrs Belcher from her maternity leave. For those who are not aware, Mrs Belcher had a baby girl in the Summer holidays.***



***Congratulations to Mrs Phillips, a Teaching Assistant/Midday Supervisor, who gave birth to a little boy on Monday of this week.***

## ABSENCE/ATTENDANCE

Please can we remind you to ring the school on your child's **first day of absence** and leave a message on the attendance line.

On your child's return to school, please write in their homework diary (yellow, perforated sheets) the reason for their absence.

## PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS

**Parents' evening for Year 5 pupils took place on 6 October, giving parents the opportunity to meet with their child's form teacher early on in the term. Parents' evening for Years 6, 7 and 8 took place on 1 December. However, due to wintry weather conditions, the decision was made to postpone the 2 December session and a new date will be set for early next term.**

**The form teachers were very appreciative of the time parents gave up to bring their children back to school to discuss their progress and effort.**

## GOOD NEWS



It has been a busy and successful term for PE at St Gregory's. The children have benefited from a wide range of after school clubs, including Dodgeball, Taekwondo, Netball, Football and Dance.

As always, we are grateful to the Bedford & Kempston Partnership for helping to fund these activities.

Successes:

- Year 7 football team have made their way into the County semi-finals
- Year 7 boys' indoor athletics team are in the County finals at the end of January
- Year 6 girls' 5-a-side football team came runners up to Daubeney in the Bedford Borough competition
- Year 8 girls' netball team won all their matches and won the 'B' league again this year
- Congratulations to Sarah Kerr, who has recently received the Bedford Borough 'Rising Star' award (for her all round ability). A huge achievement – well done Sarah!

A big thank you to Mrs Worthington, who has covered Mrs Belcher's maternity leave with enthusiasm and dedication. Her 'fame dance' will be long remembered.

## FEDERATION NEWS



The Federation wishes to draw your attention to a Consultation Document and also the new Admissions Policy for St John Rigby and St Joseph's Lower Schools.

If you wish to view these documents, they can be found on St Gregory's website [www.st-gregorys.beds.sch.uk](http://www.st-gregorys.beds.sch.uk)



In the event of school being forced to close due to severe weather conditions, we will do our best to inform parents as early as possible. We will use the following means of communication:

- A message on the school answer phone
- A Groupcall text message (it is imperative that we have up-to-date mobile telephone numbers for this system of communication to work)
- A message through the local radio stations (usually included within the news bulletins):  
**Heart Radio (96.9 FM)**  
**BBC Three Counties Radio (90.4, 92.1, 94.7, 95.5, 98, 103.8 and 104.5 FM)**
- Please check the school's website: [www.st-gregorys.beds.sch.uk](http://www.st-gregorys.beds.sch.uk) – a message will be displayed announcing if the school is closed.

#### REMINDER OF START TIMES

Please remember that **no children should be on site before 8.30am.** There are an increasing amount of children arriving at school at 8.00, which is far too early.

#### ROAD SAFETY



You may have noticed new traffic signs outside our main gates, on Biddenham Turn, which display the following information:

**'NO STOPPING  
MONDAY – FRIDAY  
8.00AM-4.30PM  
ON ENTRANCE MARKINGS'**

Please, for your child's safety, adhere to these guidelines.

#### REMINDER

All parents please support us by ensuring your child does not:

- Have extreme hairstyles, such as patterns and logos cut into their hair
- Wear **any** make up in school
- Wear jewellery – only a single gold stud in each ear is allowed and this must be removed for PE

#### HOMEWORK

Please access our school website [www.st-gregorys.beds.sch.uk](http://www.st-gregorys.beds.sch.uk) and click on 'students' and then 'timetables' to view homework timetables for Years 7 and 8. Please support your child's learning by ensuring any homework set is completed by the deadline stated.

#### SWIMMING

Year 5 children will have the opportunity to go



to Robinson Pool for swimming lessons after Christmas. The lessons will be in blocks of six weeks and the first block will begin on


Tuesday, 11 January. Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution of £7.50 to help cover the cost of hiring the pool, instructors and transport. A letter with more information will follow straight after the Christmas break.

#### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

As you are aware, we are taking the whole school to see 'A Christmas Carol' at Wavendon Stables, in Milton Keynes, on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 January. If your child still has not returned their reply slip and money, please, please ensure it is received in school on the first day back in January!



Messages



If you need the Office staff to pass a message to your child, please ring before 1.00pm where possible.

## TERM DATES 2011

### SPRING TERM

Wednesday, 5 January – Friday, 8 April

(Half term Monday, 21 February – Friday, 25 February)

### SUMMER TERM

Wednesday, 27 April – Friday, 22 July

(May Day Bank Holiday Monday 2 May)

(Half term Monday, 30 May – Friday, 3 June)

**REMEMBER:**  
**CHILDREN COME BACK TO**  
**SCHOOL ON**  
**WEDNESDAY, 5 JANUARY**