

Dear Parents and Carers,

Father Weymes has been in to confirm the following Mass times for the second half of the Spring Term. Everyone is invited to attend and we look forward to welcoming some of the parishioners too. The dates and times are

- Wednesday March 13th: Lenten Mass: 9.30
- Tuesday April 2nd: Easter Mass: 9.30

On our return to school on Monday February 25th the children can look forward to a Creativity Week that features individual class interaction with “Bigfoot Arts”, a special series of events on top of the usual themed activities that mark the start of every new half term.

- Monday February 25th: Morning Session: Bigfoot Beats – African Themed Music for Y1. Afternoon Session will again see Bigfoot Beats work with our Reception Children
- Tuesday February 26th: Morning Session: Madame Dragon’s School for Dragon’s with Y2: Afternoon Session: Making Movies with Y3
- Thursday February 28th: Morning Session: “Tell me a story I will never forget” Y4
- Friday March 1st: Morning Session: Hogwarts’s 1: Y5 and Afternoon Session: Hogwarts’s 2 for Y6.

Y5 will also have the reorganised “Show Racism the Red Card Day” on the morning of Thursday February 28th. So all in all a very busy, informative and hopefully, exciting and enjoyable week awaits!

On Wednesday February 27th at 4.00 the Full Governing Body will meet for the main Admissions meeting of the year. I know that a number of parents are busy seeking out Baptismal Certificates etc. These are vital as RC pupils have priority and applications from other faiths supported by a proof of baptism or the equivalent also impact on priority order and help to make sure that children are in the appropriate categories, again, on the day. Future plans or retrospective information cannot be taken into account.

Looking further ahead, World Book Day is on the horizon and I know that the children and indeed many staff enjoy dressing up as a favourite character. Please do not go to the trouble of buying additional outfits or costumes – home-made or already purchased are more than adequate. It’s supposed to be a fun day to celebrate reading and authors and it is not compulsory to get dressed up. If children would rather come in their uniforms then this is absolutely fine. We will have a lot of reading and book based activities in each class all to emphasise the joy of reading.

Talking of uniforms I would be grateful if over half term parents and carers can make sure that every child has their PE kit with them in school. The kit is kept as simple as possible – White T Shirt / Blue Shorts / Sandshoes or trainers (the latter for outdoor activities). We have St Gregory’s “official” T shirts and shorts but plain White or dark Blue are more than adequate. A warmer top or hoodie and

“joggers” can be brought if the session is to be outdoors. Recently, older pupils have been particularly lax in adhering to the PE kit policy with several forgetting kit and others having an array of garments that are not fit for purpose. At the suggestion of a parent we are looking to buy a full class KS1 set of brightly coloured T Shirts to make our children “stand out” on the increasing number of inter school sports events that we attend. We are thinking of bright yellow with the St Gregory’s logo. These will be kept in school, washed and used when necessary.

After a very full and demanding day yesterday, Governors unanimously approved the appointment of Mrs Kathleen Wilson as Deputy Head Teacher. We were fortunate in having two very strong candidates who impressed the governors greatly and it was after some deliberation that the decision was made. Mrs Wilson has shown the utmost loyalty, dedication and devotion to St Gregory’s throughout her working life here and has made a massive contribution to the success of our school. She is very keen to tackle any challenges that the future may bring with her central focus ever being upon this school, our children and our community.

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated, experienced and focused Governing Body who have given up a great deal of their time of late to oversee this appointment and do a lot of work behind the scenes to support our school in any way that they can. Their input is invaluable and they will soon be called upon again to give of their time with the main Admissions meeting on the horizon alongside budgetary and recruitment tasks that are scheduled in the next half term. At the minute our governors can play a full and influential role in ensuring that our school and our pupils are the one and only focus of our attention – we would like this to continue. Just now, the level of expertise, interest and enthusiasm amongst governors clearly makes this one of the strongest, if not the strongest board we have had at our school. This is very good news and bodes well for whatever challenges lie ahead.

Half term is upon us then and a week’s break will be an opportunity to take stock and look forward. I hope that you can enjoy some time with your children and that the weather will be kind.

Best Wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

K J Smithson

Head Teacher.