



Nursery & Pre-School Newsletter

St Gregory's Child Trust, Spring Term January 2023

Contact us:

Call us: 01242 515387.

Email us:

Claire: Deputy Manager

childcare@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk

Kids Club: Sam & Suzzie

kidsclubs@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk

Lisa: Office Manager

cct@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk

Website:

www.stgregoryschildcaretrust.co.uk

Useful Links

Early Years Funding.

Apply for 30 hours free childcare at:

www.childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk

Tax Free Childcare - register here:

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

Happy New Year!

2023 is upon us and I would like to take the opportunity of welcoming everyone back to an exciting new term and hope you all enjoyed the festivities. We said a fond farewell to Denise at the end of last term and I am currently acting Manager. My door is always open and should you have any worries, questions or queries please do come and see me or give me a call. The children are busy settling into the theme of Frosty Days this term and will be learning all about winter, weather and wildlife. There is lots of practical information for you in this newsletter and don't forget to add the relevant dates to your diary. We will continue to communicate with you via email and we are in the process of updating our website to keep communication and information at the forefront of everything we do. Don't forget to notify us if you have changed your email address or if you are not receiving any correspondence, invoices, newsletters etc.

With very best wishes.

Claire

Confidential Help

If you are struggling in any way, or you know of one of our families that may be struggling, you can confidentially contact Claire. There are many ways in which we can offer help and support, or you may just need a chat. Call Claire on 01242 515387 or email: childcare@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch

5 Star Environmental Health Inspection

This week we have been inspected by the environmental health agency and are proud to have received a 5 star rating. A big thank you to our staff who work extremely hard to maintain the records required, the standards of cleanliness in the kitchen, providing our healthy eating menus and maintaining the many allergen requirements of our children.

Learning this Term

FROSTY DAYS Monday 9th January – 17th February

9th – 13th January: Frosty Webs

Children will be encouraged to explore changes in the seasons focusing on winter. The Children will be making frosty web pictures.

16th-20th January: Frost and Snow

Children will be looking at animals and people and comparing those that live in hot climates to those that live in cold climates.

23rd – 27th January: Trees in Winter

Children will be looking at how trees change in winter and will create their own frosty winter trees.

30th January – 3rd February: Feed the Birds

Children will make a winter visiting area for birds and think about the things the birds may need to help them during the winter months.

6th February – 10th February: Winter Days

Children will explore their local environment with a focus on the weather and how that might affect native wildlife.

13th February – 17th February: Wildlife and Bugs

Children will be discovering and exploring where native wildlife and insects may live.

Languages

The pre-school children will continue to learn Mandarin and Spanish this term and will be learning to sing nursery rhymes in different languages.

Physical Education

The pre-school children will be attending PE sessions on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons in the school hall. PE kits are not required until after the Easter holidays, but please ensure that your child's shoes are suitable for them to learn to put on and take off themselves. We will inform you nearer the time what PE kit items are required.

Liturgy

Father Francis will be leading the Liturgy, The Last Supper, on Wednesday 25th January. The children will be learning about The Last Supper, they are practicing hymns and will be writing prayers with their keyworkers.

Parent/Keyworker Meetings

Parent/Keyworker meetings will be held during week beginning 6th March for Pre School and week beginning 20th March for Nursery. You will be invited to meet with your child's keyworker to discuss your child's progress. Further information and available appointment times will be communicated near the time.

Funding

- **REMINDER:** From January 2023 there will be an additional charge for consumables, services and resources on funded hours. This additional charge will be 46p per funded hour and will be clearly identifiable on your monthly invoice.
- Any hours in addition to the funded hours will be charged at our usual rate of £4.70 per hour.
- Funded hours can be used term time only for 38 weeks per year starting in September and ending mid-July.
- Don't forget that funding codes need validating every three months so please ensure that you renew your codes before the expiry date.
- Children are eligible for funding the term after they turn three. Fifteen hours free childcare will automatically be credited to your account. Please see the Early Years Funding link at the beginning of this newsletter to check your eligibility for additional hours.

Illness

- If your child has been diagnosed by a doctor with Strep A or Scarlet Fever please let us know ASAP. If your child is ill at all please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school.
- If your child has experienced vomiting or diarrhoea they must not return to the setting until 48 hours after the last episode.
- Please ensure you call us to inform us when your child will not be attending due to illness. Sharing the nature of the illness will ensure we keep an eye on any outbreaks of contagious infections.
- Please see the attachment for guidelines of when to keep your child off school. If you are unsure just give us a call.

Head Lice

Please check your child's hair regularly for nits or head lice. They are common, particularly in schools and can easily spread or keep returning unless the entire family is treated with the correct treatment as soon as the nits or head lice have been noticed. If you have difficulty purchasing the correct treatment, please speak to the room leaders.

Holiday Club

- The February half-term holiday club will be available for booking at the end of this week. Please go to our website: www.stgregoryschildcaretrust.co.uk to book spaces.
- Places are limited and are allocated on a first come first served basis.
- Bookings are not confirmed until you have received confirmation via email.
- If your child is attending for the first time you will need to complete a registration form. Please request a form from a member of staff or email Lisa at cct@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk

Clubs and Availability

- Breakfast and After School Clubs are currently full. We apologise for any inconvenience. If you would like to be added to the waiting list please complete a booking form and submit it to the office. Please email Lisa on cct@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk for an electronic copy of the booking form.
- Please remember there is a three week cancellation policy. If you need to change your booking please request and complete a change- to- booking form confirming last day of attendance.
- If your child is attending for the first time you will need to complete a registration form. Please request a form from a member of staff or email Lisa at cct@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk

Invoices

- Invoices are sent monthly in arrears via our booking system 'Famly'. Occasionally emails from Famly get filtered to junk so please look out for your monthly invoice. If you do not receive your monthly invoice please do let us know.
- May we please request that the full outstanding amount on the invoice is paid each month. Late payment may incur additional charges and result in your booking being cancelled.
- Please remember the three week cancellation policy if you wish to cancel your booking. Note that unattended sessions due to absence will still be charged.
- Thank you to everyone for embracing payments via bank transfer. We are still operating a cashless system; please do let us know if you require any assistance.
- If you have any billing queries please contact Lisa on cct@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk who will be very happy to assist you.

Lunches

- If you are providing a packed lunch please ensure items that could be a choking hazard are cut up appropriately, grapes, cherry tomatoes, cocktail sausages etc.
- Please provide the appropriate cutlery within the lunch pack if it is required.
- Please be mindful of our healthy eating policy when providing children with a packed lunch
- If you would like to order a hot dinner, please do so at drop off in the mornings. If you will be arriving later than 9.30am please pre-order the day before or call before 9.30am. The cut off time for orders is 9.30am, after this the kitchen are unable to accept any late orders.
- The cost of a hot dinner is £2.36.
- The spring menu is now available. Please ask a member of staff if you would like a copy.
- We operate a nut free environment. Please ensure you do not provide food items in your child's lunch box that contain nuts. Items containing nuts will need to be removed from lunch boxes to ensure the safety of children with severe allergies.

Parking

We are still experiencing difficulties with parents/carers parking on the double yellow lines on St James's Square or using the staff carpark during breakfast and after school clubs. This is extremely dangerous for the children. Please stop and think about how you would feel if a child was badly injured because you had parked around school. Please make a New Year's resolution to use Waitrose car park for the safety of all our children—including your own.

Photographer

The photographer will be visiting on 13th March from 8.30am. If your child does not normally attend the setting on this day you are more than welcome to bring them in for the photo. If this is not your usual day to attend but you would still like a photo, we will allocate time slots for this nearer the time. If you would like any siblings to be in the photo please do let us know. Please send an email to cct@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk

Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park

We will be heading to the Cotswold Wildlife Park at Burford for our annual visit in April 2023. This is a fabulously popular trip for our children. Dates have been booked for Nursery 21st April 2023 and Pre-School 20th April 2023. There will be an additional (subsidised) charge for the trip, save the date and we will be providing full information nearer the time.

Big Garden Bird Watch 2023

Big Garden Birdwatch is fun, free and for everyone. And you don't need a garden to take part! Counting birds from your balcony, or your local park will play a vital role in helping us understand how UK birds are doing. Sign up HERE <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch> for your free guide and let's look out for birds together on 27-29 January.

Suitable Clothing

Please make sure your child has a coat, hat and gloves and suitable footwear whilst the weather is very cold. We always try to have outdoor play times to allow the children to get some fresh air. Don't forget to label items clearly.

Books and Book Bags

Children are welcome to borrow and take home their favourite story books. Please encourage your children to bring home a book that they can read with you or perhaps can be supported in re-telling you a story they may already know. School book bags are available to purchase from the office at £5. Please help yourselves to the free books from the boxes outside pre-school.

Labelling Clothing and belongings

Please ensure that you label all your children's clothes, hats, scarfs, hats, bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, possessions etc. Inevitably things do sometimes get lost and it makes life much easier when things are named. Without a label it will get donated to charity. We donated lots of things to charity last term as we were unable to find the owner.

T Shirts/Sweatshirts

Children's T shirts and sweatshirts with the Child Care Trust Logo are available for purchase at a cost of £10.00 per T shirt and £11.00 for a sweatshirt. If you would like to purchase these please order from Lisa at cct@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk the cost will be added to the monthly bill.

Changing bags

If your child is in nappies please provide a changing bag to include nappies, nappy sacks and wet wipes as these are not supplied. A change of clothes should also be included. Please remember to label the bag and any clothing items.

Earrings

If your child has pierced ears, for safety reasons please ensure that only studs are worn.

Contact Details

- Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your address, telephone number, email or emergency contact details. Changes should be emailed to Lisa at cct@st-gregorygreat.gloucs.sch.uk.
- Only contacts whose details have been provided on the registration form can collect your child at the end of the day. If you need someone different to collect your child in an emergency, please call the office to arrange this.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term Dates

Half Term: 20th February 2023 – 24th February 2023
Easter Break: 31st March 2023(1.20pm finish)–14th April 2023
May Bank Holiday: 1st May 2023 & 29th May 2023
Half Term: 30th May 2023 – 5th June 2023
Summer Holiday: 21st July 2023 (1.20 finish)

Events

Photographer: 13th March 2023 from 8.30am
Parent/Keyworker Meetings:
Pre-School WC 6th March 2023
Nursery WC 20th March 2023
Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park:
Pre-School 20th April 2023
Nursery 21st April 2023

A Note From Denise

Dear Everyone

I would like to thank all parents and staff for their help and support over the years at St Gregory's. I have learnt so much during my time with The Child Care Trust and it has been an honour and a privilege to work with you, your children and many many families for the past 25 years. When you love what you do it doesn't feel like work, if you choose a job you love, you never have to work a day in your life. I have loved every minute.

I have been invited back to join in with the world book day activities and will hopefully be returning to run some story workshops in the future. So it is not goodbye and I will see you all soon.

To my amazing outstanding team and the Trustees, I wish everyone all the very best for the future of the Childcare Trust. To all those I have had the pleasure of working with and the children within my care, I will miss you all.

With my heartfelt thanks.

Denise