



Newsletter

Weekly News Digest



Little Way Catholic
Educational Trust

FEB (2) 2026

HOUSE POINTS WINNER

St Teresa

COOL CATS
100%
ATTENDANCE

No Cool Cats

POSITIVE MIND VIBES

You
Belong
Here

**"True belonging
doesn't require
that we change
who we are. It
requires that we
be who we are."**

— Dr. Brené Brown



St Gregory's
[Virtual Library](#)



A beautiful smart, tidy
uniform.

APP SAFETY GUIDES
[CLICK HERE](#)

HALF TERM

What a busy but fantastic six weeks of school! We are so proud of the progress our children are making, the effort they are putting into improving their learning, and the way that manners and good behaviour are continuing to grow. A special thank you for making me feel so welcome as the new Headteacher of St Gregory's.

Have a wonderful half term, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 23rd February, bright eyed and bushy tailed. Please can we ask that all children return in correct, smart and tidy uniform, and arrive at school on time. All pupils must be seated at their desks and ready to learn by 8.50am. The gate closes promptly at 8.50am.

This half term, try to spend some time together as a family. We know parents and carers still have to work, but even making time for a story or a film night can mean so much. It's the simple things children remember forever.

Mrs Penney

**Bright
Eyed
and
Bushy
Tailed!**



Shrove Tuesday—17 Feb 2026

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, and going to confession. A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the "Pancake Bell" and is still rung today. Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter Sunday, so the date varies from year to year. Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients. So next



Tuesday go have fun flipping some pancakes and visit the link [HERE](#) for some great recipe ideas.

Ash Wednesday—18 Feb 2026



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is a special Christian day that starts a 40-day period called Lent, leading to Easter. During this time, people remember Jesus by praying, fasting, and saying sorry for their mistakes. Many receive a cross of ash on their forehead as a reminder to be good and to change their ways.

The Ash Cross: A priest or minister puts a dark cross on your forehead.

What it means: The cross is a symbol of saying sorry (repenting) for wrong things, remembering that we are made from dust, and preparing for Easter.

Lent: Ash Wednesday starts Lent, a time when people give up something (like sweets or video games) or choose to do extra good things for 40 days, such as praying and helping others.



Newsletter—Weekly News Digest

New Deputy Headteacher Appointment

We are delighted to share the exciting news that Mr Stephen Adkins will be joining us as our new Deputy Headteacher after Easter. Mr Adkins is an experienced Deputy Headteacher from South Gloucestershire and brings a wealth of experience and qualities.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our Senior Leadership Team, who have stepped up brilliantly during this period without a Deputy Headteacher. In particular, my thanks go to Mrs Barnes, who has taken on additional responsibilities with great commitment and care.

Mr Adkins will be visiting school after half-term, and I know you will join me in giving him a very warm welcome to our school community.

Mrs Penney

A message from Mr Adkins is below.



Dear Families,

I'm really pleased to be writing to you as the new Deputy Headteacher at The Catholic School of St Gregory The Great, and I'm very much looking forward to joining the school community after Easter.

From the moment I started learning more about St Gregory's, it was clear what a special place it is. The school's strong sense of community, its inclusive ethos and its commitment to nurturing the whole child really stood out to me, and I feel very privileged to be becoming part of it.

I have spent a number of years working in primary education in leadership roles in London and parts of the South West, with a particular focus on pastoral care, behaviour, safeguarding and inclusion. Supporting children's wellbeing is something I care deeply about, and I strongly believe that children thrive when they feel safe, known and valued. I also know how important strong, trusting relationships with families are, and I'm very much looking forward to getting to know you and your children over time.

In my role as Deputy Headteacher, I'll be working closely with Mrs Penney, staff and the leadership team to support children both academically and pastorally, while continuing to build on the warm, relational approach that St Gregory's is known for. As a Catholic school, faith sits at the heart of school life, and I am fully committed to supporting the school's mission and values in all that we do.

I'm really excited to be joining St Gregory's after Easter and to meeting many of you in person over the coming months. You'll likely see me around school, on the gate, and getting to know the children as I settle in. I'm very much looking forward to the journey ahead.

With best wishes,

Stephen Adkins



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Student Teachers at St Gregory's

Year 3 Clearwell Class and Year 5 Snowhill Class are very lucky to have been chosen to have University of Gloucestershire Student Teachers joining them for their teaching practices this year.



A huge welcome to Miss Evie Oliver and Mr James Boyles who started their placement on Monday 9th February, they will remain with us until Friday 1st May 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children, as they will benefit from having an extra teacher in the class, who will work alongside the teachers in the first instance and then take on more responsibility as her time with us continues.

Half Term — Keep the Children Occupied

Indoor Activities & Creative Play

- Build a Blanket Fort: Use pillows, blankets, and furniture to create a cosy, imaginative space for reading or movies.
- Arts and Crafts: Set up a craft station for painting, making cards, or using recycled materials for DIY projects.
- Baking and Cooking: Involve children in making snacks or meals, such as decorating cookies or pizzas.
- Indoor Talent Show or Cinema: Organise a “cinema day” with popcorn or a talent show with costumes.
- Board Games & Puzzles: Host a family tournament to encourage critical thinking and turn-taking.
- Movie Night: Get the popcorn on and settle down for a fun evening.

Outdoor Adventures & Active Fun

- Nature Scavenger Hunt: Create a list of items to find in a local park or woods, such as specific leaves or stones.
- Garden/Park Olympics: Organise sack races, relay races, egg-and-spoon races, or a game of football.
- Bike Rides & Scooting: Explore local trails or cycle paths.
- Photography Safari: Give children a camera or phone to take pictures of nature based on a list of themes.

Free & Low-Cost Local Activities

- Library & Museum Visits: Many museums offer free, interactive, child-friendly exhibits, and libraries often have free activities.
- Visit a New Park: Explore a playground in a different neighbourhood to keep things exciting.
- Community Events: Look for local parkruns, community walks, or holiday workshops.

Structuring the Week

- Create a Routine: Alternate between high-energy activity days and “chill” days to avoid burnout.
- Involve the Kids: Let children help plan the week by brainstorming activities.
- Independent Play: Encourage independent play with puzzles or books to give parents a break.

Half Term
Survival Guide:
Stress-Free
Ideas to Keep
Kids Busy

WE CHALLENGE YOU! TO A DIGITAL DETOX THIS HALF TERM

A digital detox challenge is a deliberate break from digital devices (phones, social media, computers) to;

- reduce screen time,
- lower stress,
- improve focus, and
- reconnect with the real world

Can you go without a
screen for a ONE,
TWO, THREE, FOUR
OR FIVE days?? Let us
know how you get
on....



Good Luck!
😊



Newsletter—Weekly News Digest



SEND Parent & Carer DROP IN Sessions

We now run parent & carer drop in sessions throughout the year. If you are worried or have concerns regarding your child or you need advice regarding additional needs then this is for you!

**We are here for any
advice or support you
may need!**

Drop In Dates:

- Thurs 5th March
- Thurs 30th April
- Fri 22nd May
- Thurs 25th June



Book Now
Book on your
EduLinkOne App
under
"PTRs & Meetings"



COFFEE MORNING

**Join Mrs Penney
on Fri 27th Feb
8.50am—9.30am
Small Hall
For a coffee and a
chat**



What Amazing News

Did you know that St Gregory's is the 3rd fastest in the local area for schools using TTRS! Woohoo

Sporting Opportunity / Get Outdoors

Martial Arts

Gloucestershire

www.samurai-martialarts.co.uk

Through structured practice, kids learn respect for themselves and others, boosting confidence and resilience. Martial arts also teach goal-setting and perseverance, as progress is earned through consistent effort. Importantly, they gain self-defence awareness without aggression, encouraging peace over conflict. Visit the website to book a free trial class.

Cheltenham Junior Parkrun

The Park, Cheltenham

www.parkrun.org.uk/cheltenham-juniors

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds) held every Sunday at 9am. Free but register before you first go along. The aim is to have fun so go along and join in whatever your pace.

The Stick Man Trail at Beechenhurst

Beechenhurst

www.forestryengland.uk/beecehurst

The interactive family trail follows Stick Man on his journey as he tries to get back to the family tree. Enjoy the wonderful world of Stick Man as you complete lots of fun stick-based activities, discover tree-mendous facts and learn about forest wildlife.

Premier League Kicks FREE football

Next dates

Tuesday, 10 February 2026
Tuesday, 17 February 2026
Tuesday, 24 February 2026
Tuesday, 3 March 2026
Tuesday, 10 March 2026
Tuesday, 17 March 2026

Join Cheltenham Town Community Trust at The Rock Youth Centre, for FREE football sessions, open to everyone aged 8 – 16, all genders welcome

Whether you've played before or you're brand new to football - come along, get involved and be part of the Kicks community!

Tuesdays

5 - 5:45pm

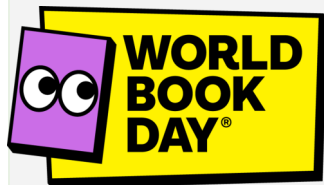
Mudfest 2026

WWT Slimbridge Wetland Centre

www.wwt.org.uk

Grab your wellies and head to WWT Slimbridge this February half term to get stuck in with Mudfest – where messy means fun! Take aim in a mudslinging contest and sculpt your own wetland bird using clay and natural materials - daily 10.30am-12pm and 1.30-3pm.

World Book Day is coming on Thurs 5th Mar



Children are encouraged to wear any costume linked to a book and there will be prizes for the most creative outfits.

As part of our celebrations, we would love every child to bring in a favourite book from home to share with their class. This is part of our work for the National Year of Reading, where we are focusing on building a strong reading culture across the school. One of the simplest and most powerful ways to do this is by getting children talking about books they enjoy and recommending stories to one another.

A £1 donation on ParentPay would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all your amazing support with reading. I know it's not always easy, but it is making a huge difference every day.

The Library

Audio Books

Perhaps it's been a while since you've 'read with your

ears.' Why not have a look at the audiobooks available for FREE through the [BorrowBox app](#)

"Champions keep playing until they get it right."

Charlton Kings Parish Council

FEBRUARY HALF TERM
FREE FOOTBALL SESSIONS

Hosted by:
Cheltenham Town Community Trust

BOOK NOW

Monday 16 February | 10:00 – 12:00 | MIXED SESSIONS (11 – 14 YRS)
Thursday 19 February | 10:00 – 12:00 | MIXED SESSIONS (7 – 10 YRS)
Friday 20 February | 10:00 – 12:00 | GIRLS ONLY SESSION (8 – 14 YRS)

For more info please contact will.mills@ctfcp.com

Donations Needed

Lunch time toy donations needed

- Old scooters/trikes
- Balance bikes
- Pots, pans,
- kitchen utensils,
- Wooden spoons
- Funnels/jugs
- Guttering
- Trowels
- Tarpaulin
- Shells
- Material
- Tambourines
- Maracas
- Musical keyboards
- Microphones
- Xylophones
- Glockenspiels
- Buckets and spades
- Diggers
- Tractors
- Buckets
- Watering cans
- Toy cars

Please drop off at the school reception. Thank you for your support