

Newsletter October 2017



Dear Parents and Carers

We can't believe that we are already at the end of our first half-term here at St Chad's! We are extremely proud of our children and the wonderful learning that has already taken place in such a short period of time. Our new starters in Nursery and Reception have settled very well into school life and have quickly become part of our St Chad's family.

I would like to say a special thank you for welcoming me into my new role as your Head of School. I am incredibly proud to be working here at the 'red love school'. Thank you for coming to say hello to me in the mornings and on the school gate—as lots of you will now know, I do love a good chat! If you haven't yet introduced yourself, please do come and say hello.

We have introduced some wonderful initiatives this half term and I have been blown away by your very positive feedback. The Golden Book and Superhero Table have been especially popular—thank you so much for your support. We are actively promoting our school ethos, LOVE, and are rewarding children who show our school's values. We:

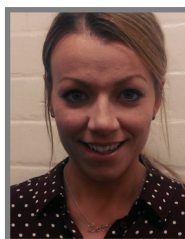
- Looking after each other and our school
- Only ever do our best
- Value everybody and show good manners
- Enjoy our learning!

As I currently type this, we are in the process of organising our Kings and Queens ceremony for this Friday. This half term in our Collective Worship we have been thinking carefully about the word 'responsibility' and what looking after our school and each other means. We will be crowning a King and Queen in every classroom as a special 'thank you and well done'.

Please have a wonderful half-term break with your children. We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday, 30th October**.

Best wishes (and Happy Holidays!)

Ms Leach and Mr Gallimore



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 30th October	SCHOOL RE-OPENS
Tuesday 7th November	Y1 and Y2 Tutbury Castle Trip
Wednesday 8th November	Reception Cinema Trip
Friday 10th November	School Photographs

PARENTS EVENING

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parent's Evening. Thank you so much for attending—it is vital that we have a very strong school-home partnership.

I hope that you found our new **Me and My Learning** sheets helpful. Copies of these will be sent out after the holiday for you to refer to at home. Please help to support the school in ensuring that your child:

- Attends regularly (95% attendance)
- Attends on time (9am)
- Has the correct school uniform
- Has the correct PE kit
- Brings their Book Bag everyday

My Learning: Autumn Term

Name: _____

Our school attendance target is 95%	My attendance is:	
Our school day begins at 9am	My punctuality is:	
Do I wear the correct school uniform?		
Do I have the correct PE kit?		
Do I bring my book bag to school everyday?		
Do I follow our Golden Behaviour policy?		

My Learning:

Progress Indicator	Accelerated	Good	Slow	Behind
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Reading	Writing	Maths
My current stages are:		
My end of year targets are:		

At school I enjoy: _____

My Strengths: _____

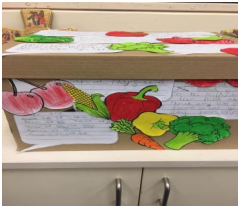
I am good at: _____

My Targets:

Reading	
Writing	
Maths	
PE/PSH	

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Tuesday, 17th October, the whole of the school visited St Augustine's Church to take part in Harvest Festival. Reverend Sarah (our school chaplain) led the service. Each class prepared a song and Mrs Clarke coordinated a whole school Harvest song—the children sang beautifully. Reverend Sarah encouraged the children to be thankful to God for the food and crops that we are so fortunate to have. The children were given a drink and biscuit and had some quiet ‘thinking time’ to help with their prayers. We were blown away by the number of parent volunteers who came along and helped the children walk to the church—thank you! I would also like to say an extra thank you for the food donations that we so kindly received to support Derby City Mission. Each class decorated a box to store the food in. Our older children wrote some thank you notes to accompany the food. Your kind donations will make a real difference to the lives of other people.



SCHOOL DINNERS

May I take this opportunity to remind all parents that school meals are free for all infant children. Thank you for supporting my quest to encourage all children to stay for a school dinner. As it gets colder, a hot school dinner is advisable so our children have lots of energy to play and learn. Please continue to encourage your child to try a school dinner.

We have introduced our Lunchtime Superhero Table. This rewards children for using excellent table manners and for trying new foods. It is proving to be very popular. Children get to dress-up as a superhero and eat their dinner on the decorated Headteacher table. We always have lots of fun!



ATTENDANCE

As we enter the colder season, it is inevitable that the winter germs and bugs will be on the rise again. Please remember that your child is fit and well to be in school even if they have a mild snuffle or cold. Children should only be absent if they are very sick (sickness, diarrhoea, fever etc.). We are very fortunate to have Mrs Thomas in school who support with our medical concerns. If you are unsure whether your child is too sick to be in school, please bring them in and we will help and support you.

Regular school attendance is vital: our school target is 95%. It is also essential that children arrive in school on time. Our gates open at 8:45am and our school day begins at 9am. If you arrive after 9am you are late. Please ensure that your child is in school and on time.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

I am noticing more of our girls arriving in school with very large, decorative and sparkly hair accessories. Please can I ask that children wear plain, red hair accessories. As a mum to a 5 year old, I understand that Jojo Hair Bows are very popular at the moment, however these are not appropriate for school (please save them for the weekend or for parties).

APPROPRIATE HAIR ACCESSORIES FOR SCHOOL



INAPPROPRIATE HAIR ACCESSORIES FOR SCHOOL



Please can you also ensure that your child has a thick, warm winter coat with a hood. Please ensure that names are in every items of school uniform, coats and PE kits.



FOLLOW US AND LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

I have noticed that our St Chad’s Facebook page is growing in popularity. Thank you if you have ‘liked’ and are ‘following us’. If you haven’t, our Facebook page can be found searching ‘St Chad’s CE Nursery and Infant School’.



We are currently looking into software that will allow us to better share the learning that is happening throughout school. We are also updating our website: <http://www.stchads.derby.sch.uk/website> and providing training to our admin team so our calendar will be up-to-date with key events.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

This half-term we have started some of our after-school clubs:

Miss Gilsenan (STEM - Science)

Mrs Harley (Art)

Mrs Clarke and Mrs Bibi (Choir)



We have plans in place for even more exciting after-school clubs in the near future, we will of course keep you informed. Mrs Holland is working very hard to arrange some after-school PE provision using our Sports Premium funding. Fitness and well-being in an important whole-school priority for us this year.

LOVE TO READ

At St Chad’s, we want everyone to ‘Love to Read’. This half-term we have been ensuring that children have their books bag with them in school everyday.



We have been reviewing our Home Reading systems and will be updating all parents of the changes after the holiday. As already discussed at parent’s evening, children need to be reading regularly at home: we advise three times a week for no more than 10 minutes each time. It is also essential that children are being read to regularly at home by an adult. I will be leading several parent workshops next half term focusing on home reading. Dates will follow shortly.

HALF-TERM HIGHLIGHTS

NO PENS DAY

On Thursday, 5th October, the whole school took part in No Pens Day. This is a nationwide celebration that encourages schools to put down their pencils and focus on speaking and listening activities for a day. It was lovely to see all of our staff and children dressed up as their favourite word. This year Communication and Language is an important priority for us. We want all of our children to be happy, confident and able talkers: talk leads to good reading, writing and problem-solving! After the holiday, I will be organising a whole school parent workshop focussing on the *Importance of Talk*. Dates will be sent out after the half-term break.

VOLUNTEERS DAY

We were very lucky to have 10 volunteers from Environmental Health spend a day in school and help to improve our Foundation Stage outdoor playground. They kindly helped to design and build an outdoor stage, planters, a Bug Hotel and a woodwork bench. We can’t wait to see our children use these new areas in their play and learning!

IN THE MOMENT PLANNING

We are so proud of our new starters in Nursery and Reception, they have settled so well into their new school routines. We have made some very exciting changes to our Early Years provision, introducing *In the Moment Planning*. It has been lovely to see that our Stay and Learn sessions have been very well attended in Reception class. I know Miss Gilsenan and Miss Aziz have been explaining In the Moment Planning in their sessions and feedback from parents has been very positive. Mrs Begum is excited to start her Play and Learn session after the half-term in Nursery. We have already had a number of schools in Derby (and beyond)! express their interest in our approach to teaching and learning. We are very excited for the future of our Early Years!

SCHOOL AMBASSADORS (YEAR 1 and YEAR 2)

We have appointed our School Ambassadors and they are doing an excellent job helping around school. Congratulations to: Mina, Mohammed Usman, Arhum, Victoria, Moez and Mariah. Our School Ambassadors wear a special badge everyday in school to promote their roles. Some of their responsibilities include welcoming visitors, attending our School Council and supporting in our Collective Worship. We are very proud of them all!

READING VOLUNTEERS

Mrs Bola has been working very hard to recruit a new team of Reading Volunteers. If you have some free time and are interested in becoming a reading volunteer, please speak to Mrs Bola or Ms Leach.