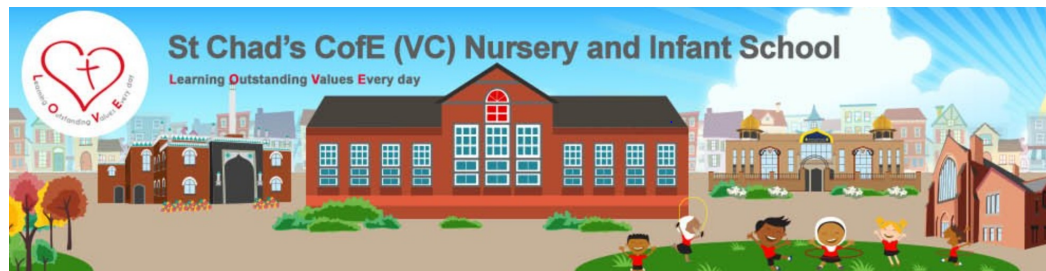


Newsletter December 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, it has a very busy term here at St Chad's. We have just completed Assessment Week and we are so proud of the progress that the children are making. We can't wait to share this with you during our next Parent's Evening in January. The run-up to Christmas is always busy and I would like to say a special thank you for our staff for their ongoing commitment and hard work.

As a church school, Christmas is a very important event on our annual calendar. This year, we wanted to do things a little differently to help us to think about the true meaning of Christmas. I would like to say a HUGE thank you for supporting our 'Toilet Twinning' campaign. We are well on our way to being able to fund two toilets in two impoverished family's households. Running an initiative like this allows our children to see school and home 'living out' the values that we talk about every day in our Collective Worships so thank you for your generosity.

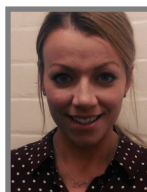
Our close partnership with St Augustine's Church continues to grow from strength to strength and we have taken part in a number of services, both in the church and in school, this term. Reverend Andy and our school Chaplain, Reverend Sarah Watson, continue to be regular visitors into school and we are so thankful for the love and support that they give to our school community.

We have recently ran staff and parent surveys and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. We will be re-opening parent surveys in January as I am keen for everybody to share their views and ideas. **Please ensure that you have your voice heard and respond to our survey.** It will only take a few minutes to complete and will really help us to ensure that we are doing our very best to improve the school for you and your child.

Please have a wonderful break with your children. To our families celebrating Christmas, please let peace and joy be with you and your loved ones.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday, 7th January**.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Love Ms. Leach x



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 7th January	SCHOOL RE-OPENS
Tuesday 15th January	Year 2 Fire Safety
Wednesday 23rd January	PARENTS EVENING
Thursday 24th January	PARENTS EVENING
Friday 15th February	BREAK-UP FOR HALF TERM
Monday 25th February	INSET Day (school closed)
Tuesday 26th February	SCHOOL RE-OPENS

Staff Updates We would like to say a fond farewell to Miss Easton, who has been covering Miss Hewitt's maternity leave in Ladybirds since September. Miss Easton has done an excellent job teaching our children and we wish her all of the best in her new role at Hardwick Primary. We welcome Miss Hewitt back to our school (and to the Lovely Ladybirds) following her maternity leave.

Governor Updates We would like to say a fond farewell to Kathryn, who has retired from our Governing Board. Kathryn has served as a Governor for a number of years and, understandably, would now like to spend more time with her grandchildren. Thank you Kathryn for your many years of service and commitment to our school. We are thrilled to welcome Nazia (Rumaysa's mummy) and Waheeda (Isaac's mummy) to our governing Board.

CHURCH SCHOOL INSPECTION (SIAMS)

All Church of England dioceses and the Methodist Church use the Church of England Education Office's framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. The inspection framework has recently been changed and is now called an Evaluation Schedule.

The Evaluation Schedule has one inspection question: how effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

This is explored through seven strands:

- Vision and Leadership
- Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
- Community and Living Well Together
- Dignity and Respect
- The impact of collective worship
- The effectiveness of religious education



As a Church of England School, we are due to have our SIAMS next summer term (2019). In order to help us to prepare for the inspection using the new Evaluation Schedule, we requested a 'mock inspection'. On Thursday, 29th November, we were visited by a SIAMS Inspector, Mr Clapham. Mr Clapham is not only a Church School inspector but is also the Headteacher of an outstanding church school in Dronfield. Mr Clapham spent the morning in school we us, meeting staff, parents and children. He also spent time observing in classrooms and during playtime. Mr Clapham met with governors, members of the senior leadership team and spent a significant amount of time looking through key documentation. The report from the visit was incredibly positive and identified the following strengths:

- The school has a clear and inclusive vision (LOVE) which is clearly understood by the whole school community.
- Parents speak highly of the school as a church school, exemplified through recent questionnaires.
- The school is characterised by care and compassion for children, families and the wider communities.
- Governors and clergy are highly supportive of the school.
- Collective worship is valued as an important part of the school day and is enjoyed by the children.

We are incredibly proud of the report, but as always, we are committed to ensuring that we further improve our provision and practise. We are excited to further develop our school vision, ensuring that it is distinctively Christian and underpinned by clear theology. We would like to further develop the Christian values of our school and build our curriculum intention around our school vision. We would like to involve children more when planning and evaluating ur school improvement and introduce practical ways for evaluating the impact of Collective Worship across the whole school community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Chair of Governors, Reverend Andy and our Foundation Governor, Michael, for giving up their work commitments to meet with Mr Clapham. As always, we value your feedback and we hope that you will continue to be part of this next chapter on our exciting school improvement journey. Thank you staff, parents, governors and of course our wonderful children!

ACADEMY UPDATE (DDAT)

As you know, over the past year, we have been in the process of converting to join the Derbyshire Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT). We have completed all of our statutory Due Diligence checks and as I write this, we are on track to be within the academy for the start of January 2018. I would like to say a special thank you to our School Business Leader, Mrs Richardson, and School Business Administrator, Mr Richardson, whom have both worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition and handover to DDAT. We already work in close partnership with DDAT and we are looking forward to further developing our relationship going forward.



SNOW

As we begin to enter the colder months, please can I take this opportunity to remind everyone of our school procedures in the event of heavy snow. **We will always endeavour to remain open. If we are unable to remain open**, any school closures will be announced on our website (on the newsfeed page) and through local media sites (Radio Derby, Derby City Council and Derby Telegraph). **We will also send out a text message. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY CHANGED YOUR MOBILE PHONE NUMBER.**

HATS AND GLOVES

Please ensure that your child has hats and gloves in school whilst it is very cold. Please ensure all items have your child's name on them. It is vital that children are dressed in sensible footwear.

KINGS AND QUEENS AWARDS



Congratulations to:

Hajra and Abaan (Pandas)

Amina and Rudolf (Bears)

Tomas and Dominkia (Crocodiles)

Razi and Muhadisa (Ladybirds)

Alex and Alisha (Elephants)

HEAD OF SCHOOL VALUES AWARDS

This half-term, we have been exploring the value 'compassion'. Congratulations to:

Aisha

Aronia

Misha

Misbah

Musa



ATTENDANCE

Weekly Class Attendance Awards:



Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Elephants	Crocodiles	Ladybirds	Ladybirds	Elephants	Elephants
98%	99%	99%	97%	98%	98%

OUR SCHOOL CHOIR ROCKS!

Thanks to Mrs Clarke's hard work and enthusiasm, our school choir continues to grow from strength to strength. We now have over 20 choir members (some of our members are still 4 years old!). Recently, our school choir have been involved in a number of very successful events. On Tuesday, 11th December, they sang and fundraised at Tesco's in town. On Wednesday, 12th December, they took part in an after-school Christmas concert, and successfully raised funds for school. On Tuesday, 18th December, they were invited to sing at the Council House and spread some much needed Christmas cheer. Phew! Their standard of singing, confidence and enthusiasm are astounding! Of course, none of this would be possible without Mrs Clarke. Thank you Mrs Clarke for allowing each choir member to shine like a star. I would also like to say thank you to Mrs Scholes and Mrs Bibi for supporting in after school club and on outings with the choir. If your child would like to start choir, Mrs Clarke runs her club every Monday after school (until 4pm).

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

We have held a number of key events this term to help celebrate this special time of year and help to reinforce the values that we are learning about in our Collective Worship Here are some of our highlights....

21 ACTS OF KINDNESS

Thank you so much for supporting our ‘21 Acts of Kindness’ advent calendar. We have been blown away by the activities that the children have been carrying out to support our Collective Worship value, ‘compassion’. It has been wonderful seeing photographs and bearing the children talk about their Home Learning so enthusiastically. We hope that an extra pair of hands around the household have been useful!

THE KINDNESS ELF

We took the idea of Elf on the Shelf but used it to teach model and teach compassion to the children (we don’t like the word ‘naughty’ at St Chad’s!). Every day Elf was hidden in each classroom, alongside an Act of Kindness Card. The children had to carry out their act of kindness, without getting caught!



CAROL SINGING AT TESCOS

On Tuesday, 11th December, our school choir were invited to perform Christmas songs at the Tesco Metro store in town. They did a wonderful job entertaining shoppers with their beautiful singing. After their performance, the children were invited for treats and took part in Christmas crafts organised by the staff. This is becoming an annual tradition at St Chad’s. thank you to Mrs Lambert and her friend, Di, for organising. And thank you to all the staff at Tesco for making us feel so welcome!

RECEPTION NATIVITY

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Reception class Nativity this year. Bears certainly helped us all to get into the Christmas spirit. The costumes, singing and performances were AMAZING! Watching your child’s first nativity is always special and we hope that these memories live with you forever. Thank you to all staff in EYFS for their hard work and creativity!

EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS AT ST AUGUSTINE’S

On Monday, 17th December, Year 2 children were invited to take part in a Christmas Experience at St Augustine’s church. They took part in various ‘Christmas related’ activities and workshops (and were treated to a yummy drink and biscuit!). As always, the children behaved impeccably. Thank you to Miss Wright for organising this annual event on our school calendar.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND SANTA VISIT

All of the children and staff enjoyed a yummy Christmas lunch. It was fantastic to see so many festive jumpers and sparkly tops on display! We finished a very successful term with a party and Santa even stopped by to say hello!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We are very pleased with the improvements that we are seeing in our school attendance target (96%). However, we still have a small number of families requesting Leave of Absence for holidays during term time. Please can I remind everybody that holidays during term time are not authorised in any circumstances. Full details about our Attendance Policy and attendance systems can be found on our school website. Please can I also remind everyone that our school day starts promptly at 9am. If your child arrives after 9am, they are late.

SCHOOL TRIP HELPERS

We are increasing the number of outings and school trips that our children experience throughout the year. We are very grateful for parents offering to support. However, we have recently had a number of parents ‘pull out’ from volunteering at the last minute. All local outings and trips require a full risk assessment—this is a time-consuming process for teachers. All volunteers are required to have a ‘List 99’ check before helping as part of our safeguarding procedures. Finding a volunteer replacement on the morning of a scheduled trip/outing is very difficult. Therefore, please can I kindly ask that you only commit to supporting on a trip/outing if you are certain that you are free on the actual day. Dates are shared in advance to give parents as much notice as possible. Thank you.