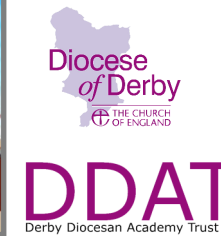


Newsletter December 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy but very successful half term here at St Chad's. As a church school, Christmas is a very important event on our annual calendar with lots of key learning and celebrations taking place. We are so grateful for our close partnership with St Augustine's Church and the wonderful support that we receive from our Chair of Governors, Reverend Andy Ward. We have really enjoyed taking part in a number of special services both in school and at the church. It is always wonderful coming together as a school community and celebrating the children's learning. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. The run-up to Christmas is always incredibly busy and I would like to say a special thank you to our staff for their hard work.

Children have just completed Assessment Week and we are so proud of the progress that the children are making. We look forward to sharing this with you during our next Parent's Evening in January.

This half-term has seen the successful relaunch of our Home Learning initiative. We hope that you have found the changes to our home learning positive. The feedback from the children has been AMAZING! It has been fantastic seeing the children proudly bringing in their creations and completed projects. So that we can better display (and celebrate) the children's work, we have ordered some new shelving for our school hall. I will be take some photos and upload to our website. Please have a look and keep an eye out when you are next visiting school.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting our 'ethical Christmas'. From our fundraising, we have managed to donate £120 to the local charity, Upbeat Communities. Children have done a fantastic job decorating and filling their Christmas shoeboxes —THANK YOU!

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, 6th January**

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Ms. K Leach x (Headteacher)



#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Monday 6th January**

**SCHOOL RE-OPENS**

Wednesday 22nd January

Parent's Evening

Thursday 23rd January

Parent's Evening

W/B 17th February

E-safety Week

Friday 14th February

**BREAK-UP FOR HALF TERM**

**Monday 24th February**

**INSET Day (school closed)**

Tuesday 25th February

**SCHOOL RE-OPENS**

**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 and have a warm coat with a hood.

**In Collective Worship after half-term, we will be exploring the value:**



NEW SCHOOL LIBRARY AND BOOKS

This term, we have installed a new school library in our old nursery room. Mrs Maciejaska has once again has used her ‘creative magic to transform the room into an oasis of beauty, calm and relaxation. We are very grateful for the fantastic sofa suite that was kindly donated to us by Birlea furniture. Children helped to select some of the play spaces, toys and costumes, linked to some of their favourite books, stories and fictional characters. We will be introducing a library timetable so that all classes can visit the library across the week. Key Stage 1 children will have the opportunity to regularly select, ‘book out’ and take home a library book of their choice. We are really looking forward to sharing this new library with you and the children over the coming weeks as part of our new ‘Snuggle and Read’ initiative (watch this space!). We continue to work hard to develop our reading books in school and recently have invested in a new reading scheme to better support our children’s ‘using and applying’ of their phonics in their independent reading.



TRIPS AND OUTINGS

It has been another busy half-term with lots of local outings and school trips taking place. Crocodiles, Flamingos and Elephants thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Tutbury Castle to support their theme learning, Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. Bears enjoyed visiting the Riverside Library and getting signed up with their own Library card. To support our Collective Worship learning around the value of ‘service’, our LOVE Council took part in a special Remembrance Service at Chaddesden Park and visited the RSPCA Centre on Abbey Street.

KINGS AND QUEENS

I am thrilled to announce that our Kings and Queens for this half-term are:

- Laura and Jasper (Bears)
- Jasminka and Zayan Crocodiles)
- Iqra and Kristian (Ladybirds)
- Aliza and Shah (Elephants)



HEAD OF SCHOOL LOVE AWARDS

This half-term, we have been exploring the value ‘service’. Congratulations to:

- Hasaan

Anaya

Ayaan

David M
- Tomas

Aazeen



ATTENDANCE

Weekly Class Attendance Awards:

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Crocodiles	Elephants	Elephants	Elephants	Elephants	Bears
98%	97%	99%	98%	97%	94%



Thank you for once again continuing to attend the frequent parent workshops that we organise in school. We are so proud of the strong home-school partnership that we have.

**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 Christian values that we are learning about in our Collective Worships Here are some of our highlights....

**ALTERANTIVE ADVENT CALENDARS**

To support the work that we have been doing in Collective Worship around the value, ‘service, we introduced an ‘alternative’ advent calendar to each of our Key Stage 1 classes. Instead of the traditional chocolate advent calendar (where we tend to ‘take’ and think of ourselves) children were asked to fill their class advent calendar with acts of service, encouraging them to think of and help other before themselves. Acts included holding the door open, greeting everybody with a smile and helping to keep the classroom tidy.

**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.

**EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS AT ST AUGUSTINE’S**

On Monday, 16th 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. As always, the children behaved impeccably.

**WHOLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AT ST AUGUSTINE’S**

On Tuesday, 17th December, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took part in a special Christmas performance at St Augustine’s Church. Each class had the opportunity to showcase their talents and learning about Christmas through song, poetry and art and Reverend Andy shared a special prayer. It is always wonderful coming together as a school community.

**SCHOOL CHOIR**

On Tuesday, 10th December, our wonderful school choir put on another fantastic performance at our annual evening Christmas Concert. It was great to see so many relatives there watching. I am always so impressed by our children's singing and confidence, especially using the microphones! Thank you Mrs Clarke for organising another very successful concert to help support school funds.

**STAFFING UPDATES**



I would like to say a fond farewell to Mrs Clarke who will be leaving us at the end of this term to begin her retirement. As you know from my previous letter, Mrs Clarke has worked at St Chad’s for 40 years (!) and will be missed dearly by us all. Mrs Clarke was treated to a special leaving meal at the Slice of India with colleagues that she has worked with over the past 40 years, as well as a surprise leaving party in school.

*Mrs Clarke, thank you for your ongoing love, commitment and service to our children and school community. We hope that you enjoy your well-deserved treats and gifts. We love you very much and look forward to hearing about your new adventures as you enjoy retirement.*  
*Love from your St Chad’s family x*

Congratulations go to Mr Taylor who has successfully been appointed as our senior lunchtime coordinator. Congratulations also go to Miss Hewitt who has successfully been appointed to help manage and lead our Pupil Premium strategy across school.

I would also like to say a special ‘welcome’ to Miss Wright who is our new Staff Governor and Simon Cox who is our new Foundation Governor.

**ROSIE POSIE**

Rosie Posie, our new school dog, is beginning to settle well into her new surroundings. She has already brought so much love and joy to our school community. Rosie has been familiarising herself with the school and is already enjoy walks on her lead on our field.

