

Newsletter May 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well yet again it has been an action-packed half-term. The sun has been shining and we have been making the most of playtimes and lunchtimes on our school field. There are so many wonderful events to reflect on, I hope you enjoy discovering all of the fun and exciting things that we have been up to over the past 7 weeks....

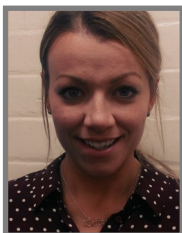
We began this term with another very successful parent's evening. I would like to say a huge thank you for your ongoing support. Attendance over the two days was amazing and it was wonderful to see all of our children's learning and achievements being shared in such a positive way. Parents and children left with huge smiles on their faces! Thank you for the helpful feedback regarding the information sheets that we use during these meetings. Some parents mentioned that it would be useful to see how their child's stages compare to the 'national picture'. With this in mind, I have amended our end of year reports and the templates that we will use going forward. As you know, I value and appreciate feedback from you all so please come and see me and share your thoughts and ideas.

We are already gearing up for the end of this academic year (I think I'm going to need lots of tissues!). We have LOTS of exciting events coming up including Enterprise Week, Health and Fitness and Transition Week. Please ensure that you keep up-to-date with our school calendar on our website and letters being sent out.

Letters have recently gone out informing you all about our DDAT Academy Conversion Consultation period. Please can I kindly ask you all to join in the discussions and complete our online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KXPMFR7>

I would like to say a special apology as I am aware that I have been rather absent on the gate over the past couple of weeks. I have been attending very important Safeguarding training to ensure that I am being the most effective and knowledge Designated Safeguarding Lead possible. I have missed your morning/afternoon smiles/greetings lots and I am looking forward to being more present on the gate after the half-term!



We wish you all a relaxing and fun half-term break in (hopefully) gorgeous sunshine. We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday, 4th June**. Happy half-term!

Ms Leach and Mr Gallimore

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 4th June

Thursday 7th June

W/B June 11th

Friday 15th June

Tuesday 26th June

Tuesday 26th June

Tuesday 3rd July

Friday 6th July

W/B July 16th

Saturday 21st July

Monday 23rd July

Wednesday 25th July

SCHOOL RE-OPENS

Derby Book Festival

Year 1 Phonics Screening

International Day

School CD Recording

Mosque Visit—Giraffes

Cycle Derby

INSET Day

TRANSITION WEEK

Summer Fair

Parent Reports

BREAK-UP

HATS AND SUNCREAM

Over the past few weeks, we have been enjoying glorious but very hot sunshine. Please ensure that your child has a sunhat in school and is dressed in suitable clothing. Please can I also remind you to ensure that your child comes to school wearing sun cream. We have cream in school but can only support with a 'top-up' application on very sunny days. Parent permission must be given for sun cream use and staff cannot apply sun cream to any child. Please help your child to practise at home.

YEAR 2 SATs

Last week, our Year 2 children completed their statutory SATs tests. There were two reading tests and two maths tests. There is no longer a formal writing test. These tests are used to support teacher's end of year assessments and mark the completion of Key Stage 1.

Our children blew us all away with their hard-working and 'can do attitude'. The tests are tricky but our children showed great determination. I am incredibly proud of every single child. It was lovely seeing some of our children using our mindful techniques to help them to stay calm and relaxed!

Although the SATs tests are statutory and important, we are very aware that our children are still very young. We create a calm environment and always encourage our children to 'try their very best'.

I would like to say a very important thank you to my hardworking and dedicated team in Year 2. Although we keep our children relaxed, preparing for SATs takes a significant amount of hard work from the staff. Thank you Mrs Harley, Mrs Maciejewska, Mrs Sohanpal, Miss Amrat and Mrs Scholes for supporting every single child on their journey through SATs. We will share our school results once they have been finalised. In the meantime, if your child is in Year 2 please congratulate them on their effort and hard-work. Oh, and remind them how brilliant they are....



SATs don't measure sports
SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music,
Or the kindness in your heart.

SATs don't see your beauty,
SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons,
You were put upon this earth.

SATs don't see your magic,
How you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly,
You can run a mile.

SATs don't hear your laughter,
Or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse,
Of who you really are.

So sitting at your table,
With a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are,
Remember **you're the best!**

100 DOJO REWARD

Last term, we launched Class Dojo to support our Golden Behaviour Policy. I promised the school that the first child to earn 100 Dojos would be treated to a chauffeur driven outing...to a cake shop... in my golden car! I am thrilled to announce that Sara in Tigers was the first child to earn 100 Dojos. Myself and Mrs Sohanpal had a great afternoon rewarding Sara for her caring nature, hard-work and LOVE values. Well done Sara!



Our School Councillors have finalised how many Dojos need to be earned for a Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificate (100 Bronze, 200 Silver, 300 Gold). They have also introduced a Platinum Certificate at 400 Class Dojos!

SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE




You may have noticed that our school's Facebook Page has suddenly disappeared! Over recent months, our Facebook Page has been growing in popularity (so much so that some of our posts were beginning to be shared lots and lots). The purpose of our Facebook Page is to stay connected and share news with parents and key stakeholders only (I had visions of us going viral at one point!). I would like to begin using our Facebook Page to share photos of everyday learning experiences in school. As the safety of our school and children is always our number one priority, I have made the decision to close our 'open' Facebook Page. Over the half-term break, I will be setting up a 'closed' Facebook School Page. This means that we will have tighter privacy and security settings. We will begin sharing our new page with you on the school gate once I have it up and running.

PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

The week beginning June 11th, our Year 1 children will be taking part in their Phonics Screening Check. Some Year 2 children will also be re-sitting their Phonics Screening check. This term, I held two parent sessions to support parents in understanding what the phonics screening check is and some ideas for supporting at home. The sessions were very well attended—thank you for your support.

Our children are working very hard in the run-up to their phonics screening checks and we have been blow away by their recent assessments. As you know, we have had a huge focus this year on phonics and reading and we are incredibly proud of the results that we are already seeing.

If your child is in Year 1 or is re-sitting their test in Year2, please can I encourage you all to use the resources pack that has been handed out to you. It is really important that children continue with their reading over the holiday, wherever possible. I have provided a list of useful games/activities for tablets to help children to practise in a fun way:

Phonics Play CLICK ON FREE PHONICS PLAY https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm	
Phonics Bloom https://www.phonicsbloom.com/	
Letters and Sounds http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/	



I would like to say a special thank you to Pat (one of our governors) who has kindly given up some of her afternoons to help with phonics groups in school—we love you Pat!

NEW SCHOOL LOGO

This term has seen the launch of our brand new school logo to support our school vision of LOVE. At St Chad's, we:

Look after each other and our school

Only ever do our best

Value everyone and remember our manners

Enjoy our learning!

We wanted a logo that supported our church school ethos but more importantly celebrated and reflected the diverse context in which our school community serves. LOVE encompasses all walks of life, regardless of our background, ethnicity, nationality, faith or religion. We are thrilled with the new logo and we hope you like it too!

Over the coming weeks, we will begin updating our paperwork and school website with our new logo. We will have updated school uniforms, ready for September (and hopefully a new sign for outside!). As already shared in our previous letter, if you are re-using older uniform that may have belonged to siblings this is absolutely fine.



Thank you to Lucy at Eaton Stationery for helping with the design of our new logo!



ROYAL WEDDING

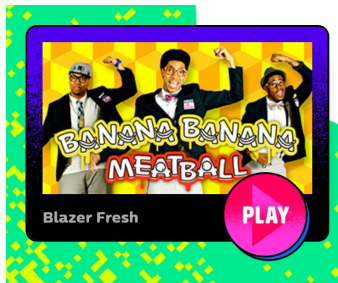
On Friday, 18th June, we celebrated the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Staff and children were invited into school wearing 'wedding clothes'. We were blown away by the array of beautiful dresses and smart suits! It was fantastic to see traditional clothing from different cultures and religions—thank you parents for supporting this very special day!

Children enjoyed learning about Prince Harry and Meghan Markle and the history of the British Royal Family. We collapsed our timetable for the day and created a 'thematic day' of learning. Children wrote wedding vows, designed wedding dresses, made wedding jewellery, sampled cake...At lunchtime, the whole school celebrated the Royal Wedding with a 'British Summertime picnic' on the field. We had LOTS of fun!



RAMMIE'S DAILY MILE

This year we are raising the profile of health, fitness and well-being across school. This half-term we have been trying to increase the amount of daily physical activity that we are doing in school. Mrs Holland is working very hard as our PE Coordinator and has already purchased trampettes, outdoor speakers so we can dance during playtimes/lunchtimes, increased the amount of sporting clubs on offer in school and increased the amount of inter-school competitions and events. On Monday, 30th April, we were visited by Derby County's very own Rammie Mascot! He has set us the challenge of Rammie's Daily Mile. Every day, children will be encouraged to walk/run for a total of 10 minutes. We are slowly building up our fitness levels to see if we can eventually run a mile! We are having lots of fun with his initiative and are already seeing an improvement in our fitness levels.



Every week in our Golden Disco, the whole school takes part in a 'dance'. We have been using some fantastic videos from <https://www.gonoodle.com/>. Every class now has their own dance routine and we also have a school routine. The videos can be accessed from home so fun and fitness can take part in your own living room. Please give it a go! 'Banana, Banana, Meatball' is my particular favourite!

RSPCA

This half-term, we have been learning about charities in our Collective Worships. On Monday, 14th May, we were visited by Georgina and Lucy from the RSPCA Centre on Abbey Street. They brought along Sebastian—a homeless rabbit who is currently staying at the centre. Georgina and Lucy explained the important work that the RSPCA carries out. We learnt that they require £9000 every week to stay open! On Tuesday, 22nd May, our School Councillors visited the RSPCA Centre. We wanted to put our LOVE ethos to good use and our School Councillors decided to organise a non-uniform day to help raise funds for the centre (they chose an animal dressing-up theme for our last day of term and convinced some staff to help with rabbit face painting!).



We were asked to help the centre name a girl and boy rabbit. Our School Councillors helped to organise surveys to support their understanding of voting and democracy. They are doing a fantastic job!



I would like to say a special thank you to Max's Mummy in Monkeys for giving up her time and supporting with the visit to the RSPCA Centre.

I am thrilled to announce that Sebastian the Rabbit has found his forever loving home! However, there are still lots of animals at the Derby Centre in need of love and care. If you are interested in re-homing an animal, please contact the RSPCA Centre on 01332 344620.

