







Derby Diocesan Academy Trust

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, we find ourselves again at the end of another busy but glorious half term here at St Chad's. I cannot believe that we will be starting our summer term after this half term-break—the year just seems to be flying by!

We have definitely packed a lot in and covered lots of learning over the past six weeks and we continue to be immensely proud of the progress that are children are making, both in their personal development and academic outcomes. It was wonderful to share and celebrate this with you all during our Parent's Evening in March....IN SCHOOL! For many of you, this was the first time that you had stood inside your child's classroom. We received lots of positive feedback about our displays and our school's 'cosy feel' - thank you! We do try to share as much with you all via Class Dojo but there is nothing like standing inside our school building to get a true feel for our school's family ethos, underpinned by our school's core values of *love*, *friendship*, *compassion* and *respect*.

We have a short half-term on the horizon and are now gearing up to our statutory Year 2 SATs (which will take place throughout May) and our Year 1 Phonics Screening Check (which will be starting in June). Over the past few weeks, we have had several Leave of Absence Forms for holiday requests submitted. We understand that Covid has meant that many of us have not been able to visit family members, some of whom are abroad, for a very long time. However, it is imperative that our children's attendance is not further impacted. Staff are working incredibly hard to get our children 'caught up' and on track for their year group expectations following the disruption of Covid. We can only do this is our children are in school every day to access their teaching and learning.

I would like to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Easter break with your loved ones. Hopefully the sun will soon be here for us all to enjoy!

I look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday, 25th April. <u>Please can I remind you all</u> that school is closed on Thursday, 5th May, for polling day.**Love Ms. Leach X

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 8th April SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 25th April SCHOOL RE-OPENS

Thursday 28th April Reception NHS Screening Check

Thursday 5th May SCHOOL CLOSED (Polling Day)

Monday 9th May Year 2 Fire Safety

Friday 27th May SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

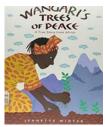
# DERBY CITY COUNCIL EASTER HAF PROGRAMME

The Easter Promise provides free activities and free school meals for Derby city eligible families, funded by the Department for Education. Derby City Council is working in partnership with Community Action Derby to provide an active programme for the children to enjoy. For more information, please click here.



In **Collective Worship** after halfterm, we will be exploring the value, *peace*, and using the following quality texts to help inspire our learning:





### **COVID-19 UPDATES**

As shared with you all this week via Class Dojo, now that the population has a much stronger protection against Covid-19 than at any other point in the pandemic, the government wants us to begin managing the virus like other respiratory infections. The guidance has now changed considerably, as summarised below:

If your child is unwell and has a high temperature they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Your child can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Medications such as Calpol can help to alleviate their symptoms.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 they cannot attend school and need to remain at home for 3 days. This starts from the day after they did their test.

Maintaining regular school attendance, whilst also ensuring that our school community is as safe as possible, requires all of our support.

A temperature is classed as high when it is 38C or over. We advise that all parents/carers have a digital thermometer at home to help capture an accurate reading of your child's temperature if they are feeling unwell. You can buy these from supermarkets and pharmacies. NHS advise that glass thermometers or forehead strips are not used.



We have a digital thermometer in school and can help take your child's temperature if you are unsure. Where we have attendance concerns (90% and below) and/or a child being repeatedly absent with reported respiratory infection symptoms, including a repeated high temperature, we may need to carry out additional checks.

Further information about Covid and other respirator infections can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

### LOVE TO READ

We will be enjoying these storybooks next half term:

## Nursery

# Reception

#### Year 1

### Year 2









You may consider purchasing your child's year group book so that you can enjoy it together at home OR you could visit Normanton Library to loan a copy....completely free of charge! Don't forget to visit our school website—Mrs Sohanpal is working hard to record reading our half termly books.

# **Normanton Library**

# **Address**

St Augustine's Community Centre Almond St Derby DE23 6LX

# COULD YOU BECOME A ST CHAD'S VOLUNTEER?

Following the success of our lunchtime board games club, we would like to recruit four volunteers to come into school across the week to help play board games with some of our children. Ideally, we would like



to assign one board game volunteer for each class to come into school for one afternoon a week. If you are able to spare an hour a week, feel that you would be able to teach and play board games with our children and would like to find out more information about the role of a volunteer, please speak with Ms. Leach. To support with our safeguarding procedures, an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check would be required. Full training to support the role of a volunteer would be provided.

### THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

On Monday, 4th April, we had a wonderful afternoon using, applying and sharing all of our superb earning from this term's theme work, the Great Fire of London.

With the support of Mr Taylor, we were able to plan and start a controlled fire on our school field to replicate the Great Fire of London of 1666! The children had the opportunity to make houses and buildings and create a 'mini London' scenery that Mr Robert then set fire to (starting in a bakery on Pudding Lane!). We experienced, from a safe distance, that fires are very hot, smelly and smoky—and quickly spread. We would like to say a huge thank you to Anthony Richardson, our Health and Safety Link Governor, who helped to safely distinguish the fire. Once the fire was safely put out, we were able to inspect the aftermath of the fire damage, using our science investigation skills to compare and contrast different materials.













# **EASTER**

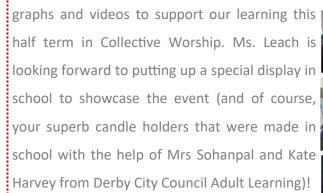
As a Church of England school, Easter is a very special celebration on our annual school calendar. On Thursday, 7th April, our Year 2 children took part in an Easter Experience at New Life Church. This is the first time that we have visited this church and our children thoroughly enjoyed the carousal of activities that they all took part in. I would like to say a special thank you to Miss Wright for helping to organise the trip (our first outing in a long while due to the disruption of Covid!).

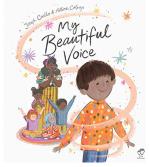
### TRIP VOLUNTEERS

As we turn our attention to the summer term, we are looking forward to planning and organising more outings and trips to help give our children more 'hands-on' experiences and enrichment opportunities to further support all aspects of their learning. Ensuring that we are adequately staffed when going out of school is an integral part of our risk assessment procedures. If you would be interested in putting yourself forward to support with future trips and outings, please let your child's class teacher or Ms. Leach know.

## **CELEBRATING OUR CHILDREN'S BEAUTIFUL VOICES**

We would like to say a HUGE thank you for joining in with our evening candle lighting ceremony on 7th April to celebrate your child's beautiful reading voice. Instilling in our children self-belief, a positive self-regard and a love of reading and books is of paramount importance to us as a school and we have thoroughly loved seeing all of your photo-







### **SCHOOL DINNERS**

We are looking forward to starting with <u>Relish</u>, our new school dinner catering provider from Monday, 25th April. We will be gradually re-vamping our school dinners offer, beginning with our children being able to self-register their school dinner options as they arrive into school in the mornings via their classroom computer. Soon, we will be rolling out a parent account, allowing you to pre-order your child's school dinner options, should you wish to do so. Thank you to those parents/carers that responded to our parent consultation survey regarding our meat options. We had a good response, with the majority of you conforming that you would like us to offer HFA halal meat as our daily meat option. With the support of Relish, we will begin to explore this option further. Should we decide to introduce HFA halal meat in the future, we will of course keep you informed. For now, please see our school dinner menu for the first week back after half term:

