

March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been truly wonderful welcoming all of our school family back following the government's lifting of school closures on 8th March. Undoubtedly, the past year has proven to be very difficult to us all—including our young children. Over the past few weeks, our focus has been on helping our children to settle back into school life and their daily routine. We have focussed heavily on supporting our children's mental health, well-being and PSHE, as well as their academic learning. Children have enjoyed beginning their school day with 'R-Time' - a structured lesson that builds and enhances relationships.

After a year 'in and out of lockdown', I know that I am more grateful than ever before for the simple things in life. It been so heart-warming to watch the children reuniting with their friends and teachers (in their bubbles of course) and having the freedom to play and 'be a child'. We are looking forward to the warmer and brighter days ahead and making the most of outdoor learning, as much as possible.

As I write this, the children are working very hard to prepare for our special Easter Collective Worship with Reverend Andy this Thursday. In keeping with the Christian tradition of Easter, this year we are focussing on 'new beginnings' in our own life, and all of the things that we are looking forward to over the coming months ahead. I do hope that your child has the opportunity to complete their 'new beginnings egg' challenge that Miss Wright has shared via Class Dojo.

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

I look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday, 19th April**.

Please can I remind you all that school is closed on Thursday, 6th May, for polling day.

Love Ms. Leach x



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 1st April

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 19th April

**SCHOOL RE-OPENS**

Thursday 6th May

**SCHOOL CLOSED (polling day)**

Thursday 20th May

School photographs

Friday 14th May

Wear Yellow Day *(more info. to come)*

Friday 28th May

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

## PE DAY REMINDER

To support with our COVID-19 safety measures, please ensure that **your child wears their PE kit to school on their PE day.**

Tuesday—Crocodiles

Wednesday—Elephants

Thursday—Bears

Friday—Flamingos



**If your child wears earrings, please ensure that these are removed at home on their PE day.**

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

peace

and

joy



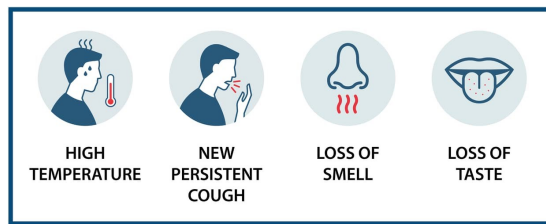
## COVID-19 ABSENCE

Once again, please can we remind you all of the symptoms of Covid:

If your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms then please telephone school urgently on 01332 345997. Your child and the household will need to isolate. You will need to book your child a Covid test. Please contact us if you need help with booking a test.

**Please remember that if your child has a cold e.g. a runny nose but is not displaying Covid symptoms then they are fine to attend school.**

We are encouraging all parents to purchase a digital thermometer to help check your child's temperature at home. A high temperature is 38C or above.



## ATTENDANCE

Following the very disruptive year to our children's learning over the past year, regular school attendance is more important than ever before.

Mrs Lambert is our school's attendance officer. Part of her role is monitoring school attendance and identifying children that are becoming a concern. We are monitoring children carefully where we are seeing random days /chunks of days of absence 'here and there'. Please note that if your child's attendance is 90% or below then we will be issuing letters and arranging a meeting to discuss this week you. If your child's attendance is below 80% then it is very likely that you will be referred to the Educational Welfare Officer.

Regrettably, we are still seeing a small number of children arriving late into school, often tired. **Please can we stress the importance of a good bedtime routine.** If your child is not going to bed on time, they will not want to wake up in the morning and they will not be ready (physically or mentally) for the school day ahead. If you are struggling with any aspect of your child's routine then please let us know and we will do all that we can to help.



## PARENTS EVENING

**We have set aside two weeks for Parent's Evening:**

- Week beginning 3rd May—Bears and Crocodiles
- Week beginning 10th May—Flamingos and Elephants

Regrettably, as we can't still have parents in school due to Covid safety measures, like last time, parent's evenings will be carried out over the telephone. We will confirm dates and times after half-term.



## STAFFING UPDATES

After half term, we will be bidding a fond farewell to Miss Holland, who will be leaving St Chad's. We are very grateful for all that Miss Holland has done at St Chad's, in particular developing our PE provision across school and introducing us all to the wonderful world of yoga and GoNoodle! We wish Miss Holland lots of love, luck and happiness in her new adventures.

I am thrilled to let you know that Mrs Bloxham-Williams will be joining our school family as our new School Business Manager.

## HEADLICE



**Please can we remind you all to be vigilant and check your child's hair for head lice as part of your weekly routine at home.** Regular (e.g. weekly) hair washing and combing sessions offer a good opportunity to detect head lice. Treatment can be purchased from the supermarket or chemist. If you do find head lice in your child's hair, please ensure that you contact the school office on 01332 345997. **If your child has long hair, please tie it up in a bobble for school.**

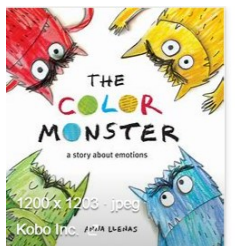
## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The emotional wellbeing and mental health of children is an absolute key focus for all staff at St Chad's. In light of Covid, this is even more important than ever before.

We teach the children that there are a whole range of emotions that they might feel, and that it is absolutely okay to have these emotions – even so-called 'negative' emotions such as anger, fear or sadness. We teach them how and why they might feel like this, and how they might try to resolve these feelings in a healthy way. We also teach them how we might recognise and understand when and why others might be feeling different emotions too.

One of the best ways to address mental health issues with children is through stories. Emotional literacy — the ability to understand, express and cope with a wide spectrum of emotions — lies at the heart of happiness, self-esteem, and positive relationships.

This half term, we have introduced two key texts to help support our children's emotional literacy:

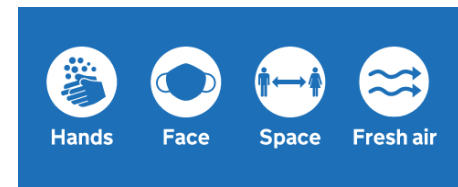


Mrs Bibi kindly made us some colour monster puppets for each classroom and Miss Hewitt's partner's grandma also made some Lucy dolls with the help of her local knitting club. We have some beautiful displays up in school.....

Please do talk to your child about their Colour Monster and Lucy Doll friends—can they talk about the different feelings and emotions?



## LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE



Although the 'stay at home' restriction has now lifted, Coronavirus restrictions remain in place. In England:

- Only socialise indoors with people who you live with or are in your support bubble
- Up to 6 people or 2 households can meet outside
- If you have symptoms get a test and stay at home

## CLASS DOJO

As Class Dojo is our main platform of communication, please ensure that you are regularly visiting your app (ideally, once a day).



We have seen a noticeable improvement in parents NOT using Class Dojo to report an absence—thank you! Please telephone the main school office on 10332 345997 or email [hello@stchads.derby.sch.uk](mailto:hello@stchads.derby.sch.uk) before 9:30am if your child won't be in school.

## RHE PARENT CONSULTATION

Our Relationships and Health Education parent consultation closed last Friday (26th March). Thank you to those parents who responded to the survey. Feedback about our draft policy and resources was 100% positive. We will now be meeting with city cluster heads to review feedback in all of the schools and plan next steps going forward.