

Newsletter March 2018



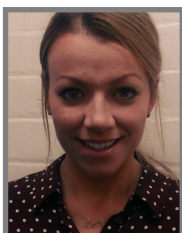
Dear Parents and Carers

Well I can't believe that we are already at the end of the term! Time really does fly by when you are having fun. Once again, we have so many happy memories to reflect on. The weather has been VERY miserable but we have not allowed it to dampen our mood. I would like to say a huge thank you for your support during our schools 'Snow Day' closures. The safety of our children and staff is always of paramount importance and the 'Beast from the East' meant that walking and driving conditions were too treacherous and therefore too unsafe for us to open.

We have had a very busy half-term and the children (once again) have astounded me with their enthusiasm, warmth, kindness and hard-work. We have recently completed our end of term assessments and we are thrilled with the wonderful progress that the children are making. We can't wait to share your child's learning at our next parent's evening in April. As always, I am very grateful for the amazing team of hard-working and dedicated staff that I have here at St Chad's.

Although it has been a short half-term it has been full to bursting! We have had a big focus on home reading and we are noticing significant improvements in book bags in school and the completion of reading records. Thank you for your continued support. Unfortunately we had to postpone our World Book Day due to the snow closures but we are excited to welcome children (and staff) into school this Friday wearing pyjamas to support our *Love to Read* campaign. We have ran further parent workshops, this half-term focussing on phonics, reading and vocabulary. Thank you for your attendance and very positive feedback!

As the signs of Spring finally begin to appear, I would like to take a moment of reflection and wish you all a safe and Happy Easter. We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday, 9th April**.



We wish you all peace and love over the Easter break,

Ms Leach and Mr Gallimore



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 9th April	SCHOOL RE-OPENS
Wednesday 18th April/	PARENTS EVENING (PM)
Thursday 19th April	
Wednesday 18th April	Multisport Festival—Frogs
Wednesday 9th May	Fundamentals Festival—Frogs
Monday 21st May	Year 2 SATs begin
Friday 25th May	BREAK-UP

GOOD LUCK MRS HABIB!

Mrs Habib begins her maternity leave on Monday, 9th April. We wish her all the best for the safe arrival of her baby boy!



NEW FACES

We welcome Mrs Maciejewska, who will be taking over from Mrs Habib in Friendly Frogs. Mrs Maciejewska has spent a week in school working alongside Mrs Habib and Mrs Sohanpal and has loved getting to know the children. Please join me in welcoming Mrs Maciejewska to our St Chad's family. We also have a new staff face in our office. Miss Richardson will now be working alongside Mrs Lambert.

GET CAUGHT READING!

As already shared in lots of letters and newsletters, we are having a big push this year on reading throughout school. We want all of our children to become confident and able readers and to *Love to Read*.

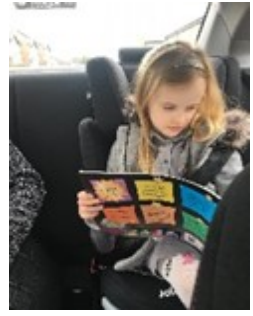
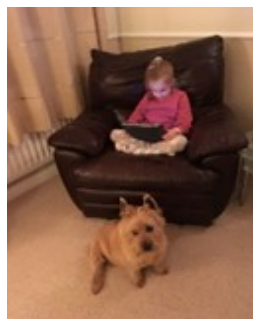
Please can I encourage you all to get involved in our recently launched 'Get Caught Reading' campaign. We would love for all of our children to have lots of fun with books and reading outside of school. In order to help our children see that they can read anywhere and everywhere, we have set them the challenge to **Get Caught Reading!**

Here are some ideas to help you to get started.....

- Somewhere comfy
- Somewhere outside
- To an adult
- Instead of playing
- Somewhere fun
- Somewhere unusual

Please take photos of your child and bring them into school. If you do not have access to a printer, please email photos to our school office: admin@stchads.derby.sch.uk

Please include the name of your child and their class in your email.



Where will your child 'Get Caught Reading'?

GATE SAFETY—SAFEGUARDING

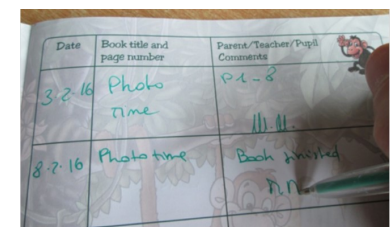
At St Chad's, the safety and security of our children is our number one priority. Over recent weeks, parents have been observed propping open our main school gate and opening the gate to the Foundation Stage playground. **Gates can only be opened and closed by staff.** Please never prop open or pin back the main school gate.



Please can I kindly remind all parents that the code to our keypad **is strictly confidential. No parents should be observing staff entering the code. Only staff have authorisation to use our keypad.**

READING REMINDERS

We are noticing a significant improvement in book bags in school. Please ensure that your child brings their book bag with them every day. We also noticed an improvement in reading records being completed. All children should be reading three times a week at home with an adult. Please remember to sign your child's reading record to say that they have read.



CLASS DOJO

You may have heard your child recently talking about receiving a 'Dojo'

Over the past term, we have been reviewing our behaviour policy. At St Chad's, we take a very positive approach to managing behaviour. Our school ethos, *LOVE*, underpins how we want everybody to behave in school. We:

- Look after our school and each other
- Only ever do our best
- Value everyone and remember our manners
- Enjoy our learning!

As a Church School, we use our Collective Worship to help to teach our children what these values mean and more importantly what they look like. For example, a child holding open a door is showing excellent manners; a child helping to sweep up after an art lesson is helping to look after our school; a child showing good listening and sitting is trying their best....

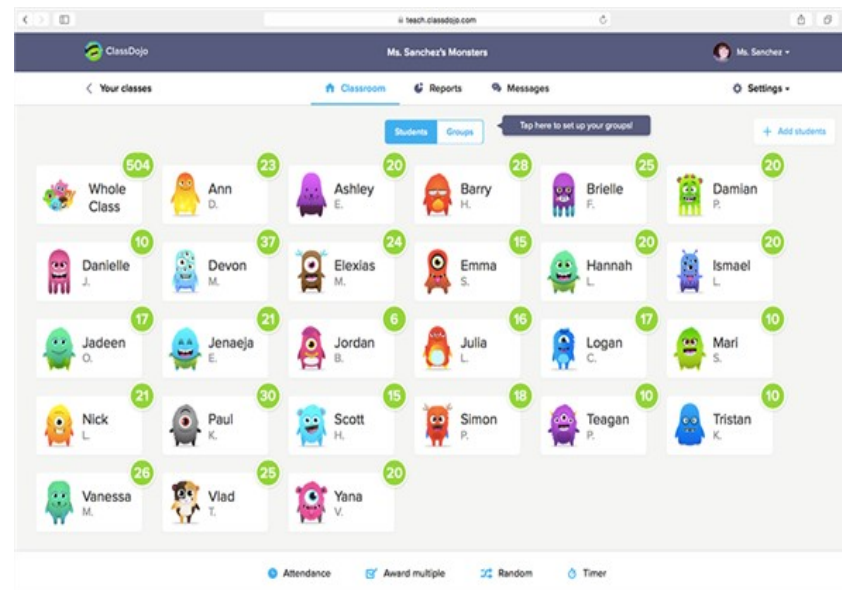
We have introduced Class Dojo (an online resource) to reward children for displaying LOVE in our school. Every child has their own 'Dojo' that they can see and access in all lessons. They choose the colour of their Dojo and can even give it a name! Feedback from children and staff has been excellent. We have linked our Dojo rewards to:

- home-school links e.g. remembering to bring book bag, reading three times a week at home, completing Home Learn activities
- general behaviour e.g. good sitting, good listening, sensible walking in school
- higher-level 'learning behaviour' e.g. asking a good question, using a new word
- values linked explicitly to our school's Christian ethos of LOVE e.g. showing kind hands, making good choices

At the moment, the School Council are reviewing how many Dojos a child needs to achieve to be rewarded with their Bronze, Silver and Gold award. We have a special 'surprise treat' for the first child to achieve 100 Dojos in school! As well as Class Dojo, we continue to run our weekly Golden Book disco and half-termly Kings and Queens.



ClassDojo



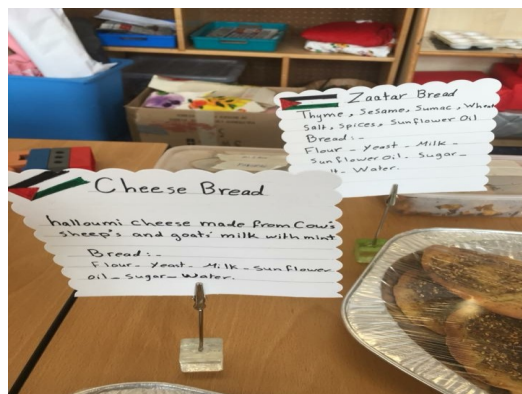
SCHOOL COUNCIL

As shared in our last newsletter, we have a new School Council up and running in school (our LOVE Council). Although we are an infant school, I want to teach our children the importance of democracy and show them that their voices matter. On Friday, 16th March, our 6 school counsellors had the opportunity to visit the Council House in town. The children successfully led their very own School Council meeting in the Council House Chambers. They are the youngest children to have ever sat in this part of the building! I was so immensely proud of them. They created an agenda, listened to each other's views and ideas and asked excellent questions. They have been instrumental in helping to get Class Dojo up and running in school. At the moment, they are supporting me in improving rewards given out for Golden Book and Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. They are responsible for generating pupil surveys and gathering the views and ideas of the whole school. I am so IMMENSELY proud of them. I would like to say a huge thank you to Pat Geary (our governor) for joining me on the outing. The children enjoyed touring the building and were even photographed by the Derby Telegraph. They definitely deserved their treat from Greggs for all of their hard work!



OUR WORLD WEEK

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all parents and carers in helping to make Our World Week so successful. We finished our last day of term on Friday, 16th February, with an International Food Fair. We were blown away by your kindness and generosity (and amazing cooking skills!). Children (and staff) enjoyed learning about different foods from around the world—I couldn't stop eating the delicious dishes on offer! Children spoke with such warmth and enthusiasm about 'family favourites' from home. As this event was so successful, we would like to do something similar in the summer term. It would be lovely to have a Food Fair on our field and sit together was one giant 'school' family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support. We are incredibly proud of our beautiful Our World Week display in school.



GROOVY GIRAFFES HAVE TALENT!

On Friday, 9th March, Groovy Giraffes took part in a Celebration of Dance festival at the Riverside Centre (Pride Park). The event was organised through Derby School Sports Partnership (SSP). Over the past 6 weeks, children in the Giraffes have been receiving dance lessons through a trained dance teacher as part of their PE lessons and have learned a fully choreographed routine. This year, the theme for the dance festival was 'Beach Party'. Children had the opportunity to perform on stage to a very large audience. We were very proud of their hard work and impressed by their dance skills. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Scholes who enjoyed one of our little girls on stage to help her with her performance.



YEAR 2 EASTER EXPERIENCE—St Augustine's Church

On Wednesday, 14th March, Year 2 children were invited to St Augustine's church to take part in an 'Easter Experience'. To start, a volunteer read the Easter Story and the children then acted it out with some props. In groups, they explored each part of the Easter Story e.g. the crucifixion, the Garden of Gethsemane and Last Supper. There was a lot of discussion about feelings, which linked well with Salvation. They finished at the tomb and celebrated Jesus being alive. Reverend Andy led a group (Garden of Gethsemane) and Reverend Sarah popped in to say hello! Pat Geary, our school governor, came to support us. At the end of the session, the children were given a chocolate egg. The children behaved excellently and answered questions sensibly.

