

Newsletter October 2023



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Wow, we can't believe that we are already at the end of our first half-term of the new academic year! Our new Nursery and Reception children have settled in so well into life at St Chad's and we have also welcomed new families into our Key Stage 1 classes. As parents ourselves, we understand what a huge milestone starting school is and we are so proud of how well all of the children have transitioned.

As we write this, parent's evenings are underway and we thank you for your attendance and ongoing support. We hope that you have found this 1:1 time with your child's class teacher helpful and that you have gained a good insight into how your child has settled into their new class and how their learning will be supported over the coming year ahead, both in school and at home.

Strong home-school partnerships are the bedrock of our school offer and research tells us that children make better progress when home and school work closely together. If you are new to St Chad's. we look forward to getting to know you over the coming years ahead. Although we are only a couple of months into the new school calendar, we have already hosted a number of parent workshops and events. We encourage you to join in with as many of these as possible. If you need any help or support with anything then please let us know, either on the gate or by contacting the main school office. We also have a wealth of information available on our school [website](#) so please do find the time to check it out, including our school [calendar](#).

We wish you a safe and relaxing half term break with your loved ones and we look forward to welcoming your child back into school on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November**.

With love,

Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x



#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

**SCHOOL BREAKS UP**

**SCHOOL CLOSED- INSET DAY**

**BACK TO SCHOOL- SCHOOL REOPENS**

Forest School begins (Bears and Crocodiles)

**SCHOOL BREAKS UP**

**BACK TO SCHOOL- SCHOOL REOPENS**

**GOVERNOR UPDATES** We are thrilled to welcome Alasdair Kay to our governing board as foundation governor. A very experienced Rector, Alasdair has recently taken up a new role in Derby as Community Minister/Team Vicar of Walbrook Epiphany, Normanton/Pear Tree. Alasdair is also married to Mrs Kay (and is the proud owner of Patch, our new school dog 🐶). Welcome to the school family Alasdair!

#### STAFFING UPDATES

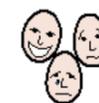
Towards the very end of last academic year, we made a couple of new staff appointments. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Butler and Miss Bull to our school family. Mrs Butler will be teaching in Bears and Miss Bull will be providing 1:1 support to some of our children as our SEND teaching assistant. Mrs Bibi has also had a slight change to her role in school and will now be working as our intervention and after school club teaching assistant.

Next half-term, in **Collective Worship**, we will be exploring the value:

**community**



We will also be learning about feelings and emotions and developing our emotional literacy skills through books and stories.



## KINGS AND QUEENS



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

- **Bears:** Ashley and Mohammed Ahil
- **Crocodiles:** Mohammed Ali and Anya
- **Flamingos:** Sebastian and Sofia
- **Elephants:** Divyanka and Luka

Thank you to all of the parents who attended to watch their children be crowned king or queen. 🤴👸

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to everybody who donated items for our 'Harvest Hampers'. The Padley Centre are extremely thankful for your generosity, and these items are on their way to people who really need them.

We had a wonderful morning in school on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October at our Harvest Celebrations. Each class confidently performed a song, or poem. It was truly amazing having the whole school together to watch these special performances.



## CLASS DOJO

Thank you to everybody who attended our Class Dojo Workshop.

Class Dojo is where we share all of our school news. Being connected to the app allows you to see a glimpse into your child's day at school, and not miss any important updates. We also expect one home reading video posted per week, in the portfolio section.

If you need support to connect to the app, or post home reading videos please speak to a member of staff on the school gate.

## ESOL Classes

We still have spaces in our ESOL classes. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn English. Parents are invited to attend school every Wednesday morning from 9am until 11am. If you would like to attend please speak to Mrs Sohanpal.

## Mrs Bibi's Adult Learning Sessions

Mrs Bibi has started her 'Adult Learning' sessions again, on a Tuesday afternoon in school. This is a time for parents to learning something new; or just come and have a chat 🗨️. If you are interested please speak to Mrs Bibi.

## NURSERY

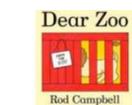


We currently still have 3-year-old spaces, in both our morning and afternoon sessions. **If you have a child who is 3, or due to turn 3 this year, please get in touch with the school office on 01332 345 997.**

Our Nursery is a really special place, full of love, and where children thrive. Our Nursery Cubs have settled so well into our school family, and we would love for even more children to join them. Mrs Morley would be pleased to give any families thinking about our Nursery a tour of the environment.



**Key Texts:** Here are the key texts for each class for next half term. You can buy these books from Amazon, but they are also available at the local library.



Nursery



Reception



Year One



Year One



Year Two



## LOVE DERBY!

We have enjoyed a number of local visits already this academic year. It has been so wonderful to get out into the local community, and bring children's learning to life.

This half term Cubs, Flamingos and Elephants have all visited the library. All classes enjoyed a story at the library, and had the opportunity to sign up for a library card. Next half term, Bears and Crocodiles will have the opportunity to visit the library and sign up for their library cards. Please share photographs on Class Dojo of you visiting the library using your brand-new library card 📷

Elephants had a wonderful time visiting Normanton Park. Flamingos visit to the park will be rescheduled soon. Next half term, we are looking forward to exploring Derby more, starting with a visit to the Florence Nightingale statue.



## FOREST SCHOOL

*"The best classroom is roofed only by the sky." (Margaret McMillan)*

We are all set and ready to launch our first ever Forest School sessions in school after the half term. Sessions will take place every Wednesday morning on our newly re-vamped field, starting with Bears and Crocodiles.

We are looking forward to working with Brendan, an experienced and qualified Forest School Leader this academic year. In addition to delivering our Forest School sessions, Brendan will also be helping us to develop the next stage of our field to further enhance our outdoor learning curriculum.

Our Forest School parent workshop for Bears and Crocodiles was very well attended – thank you! If your child is due to start Forest School next half term, please ensure that they have the correct items of clothing, including warm layers, wellington boots, a warm waterproof coat with a hood and waterproof trousers/a puddle suit.

## Become a Parent Governor 📷

The Governors at St Chad's CofE Nursery and Infant School are looking to elect a new Parent Governor to their board.



At St Chad's, we LOVE having parent governors serve on our board because, alongside staff, no one is more passionate about the quality of education a child is receiving than a parent. By becoming a governor, you will have the chance to influence all the areas that matter to both you and your child. Not only will you be able to support the school, but you'll be perfectly placed to challenge it and hold it to account. Put simply: you can truly have a positive impact on your child's education.

If you would like to find out more about this important role please speak to Ms. Leach or Mrs Morley.

## Attendance: Every Day Counts

We have designated staff in school to support you with your child's attendance. We closely monitor attendance, and support families whose child has low attendance. Please look out for parent workshops 'coming soon'.



**Mrs Morley**  
Senior Leader  
for Attendance



**Mrs Lambert**  
Attendance  
Officer



**Mrs Sohanpal**  
Family Support  
Worker

It is important that you contact Mrs Lambert on 01332 345997, if your child is going to be absent from school.

This **should not** be done via Class Dojo.

## UNIFORM REMINDERS

As we enter the winter months, please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof coat with a hood in school. We also advise hats, gloves and scarfs on very cold days.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 require a St Chad's book bag. Please ensure that these are brought into school every single day. You can purchase these from the school office or Uniform Direct on Babington Lane.



Please ensure that your child is wearing correct school uniform item (including their PE kit uniform on their allocated PE days).

