

Newsletter April 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, here we are at the end of another busy but successful half-term. There have been so many happy and exciting experiences for me to reflect on over the last seven weeks and I hope that you enjoy reading about some of my favourites within this newsletter.

Our school calendar seems to get busier every month and we have had lots of trips and visits taking place. As always, please can I remind you to visit our website regularly: we try and upload as much useful information as possible so that we are not overloading you with letters. Miss Richardson is doing a fantastic job updating our very busy school calendar with key events that are taking place in school so please keep checking (our home page has a useful 'newsfeed' section).

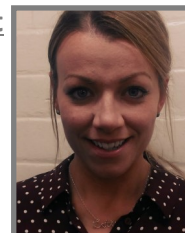
We have just finished a very successful assessment week and we are looking forward to sharing your child's progress with you at our next parents' evening (Wednesday, 8th May and Thursday, 9th May). Our Year 2 children are working very hard to prepare for their SATs (which are due to start in May) and our Year 1 children are already excited for their phonics screening checks (which are due to take place in June).

This year, we have focused some of our school improvement around reading. Mrs Harley has led a number of exciting projects, including improvements to classroom reading corners and the quality of reading books in school. We have had a number of school monitoring visits and all have commented on our excellent 'language rich' environments. Please keep your eyes open for reading tents, dens, beds and boats on your next visit into school!

I would like to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Easter break with your loved ones. I look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday, 29th April**. Please can I remind you all that school is closed on Thursday, 2nd May for polling day.

Happy Half-Term Holiday,

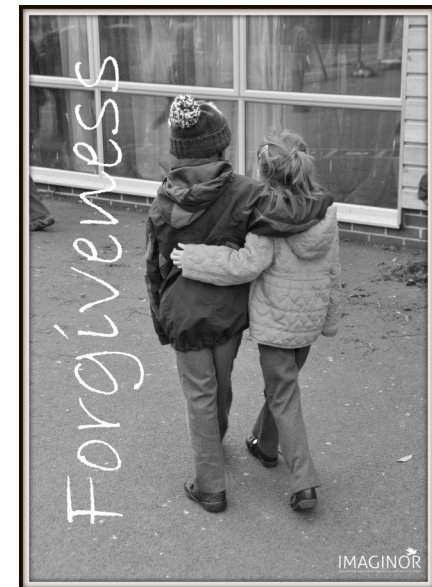
Love Ms. Leach x



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 29th April	SCHOOL RE-OPENS
Thursday 2nd May	SCHOOL CLOSED (polling day)
Monday 6th May	SCHOOL CLOSED (May Day)
Wednesday 8th May	PARENTS EVENING
Thursday 9th May	PARENTS EVENING
W/B 13th May	YEAR 2 SATs BEGIN
Friday 24th May	BREAK-UP FOR HALF TERM

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



BUDDY BENCH

This half-term, we have been exploring the value, ‘friendship,’ in our Collective Worships. Children were given the opportunity to purchase a school friendship wristband that had been personalised to reinforce one of our LOVE Promises: *Love and look after each other.*

I am thrilled to announce that we raised enough money to buy a ‘Buddy Bench’ for our school field. As well as the bench, we also had enough money to purchase a personalised sign. Our LOVE Council selected this fantastic design. We can’t wait to use the bench over the summer months during playtimes and lunchtimes. Thank you for supporting with our fundraising and for helping to bring our Collective Worship values to life!



BASIC SKILLS QUALITY MARK RENEWAL

I am thrilled to let you know that we have once again been successful in achieving our Basic Skills Quality Mark. The BSQM award celebrates and supports continuous improvement in literacy and maths. On Thursday, 28th March, we were visited by an accredited assessor from the BSQM. The assessor spent the whole day in school visiting classrooms, meeting with senior leaders and subject leaders, observing lessons, looking through books, analysing data and interviewing children. The renewal visit normally takes around 3 hours. Our assessor was so impressed with our school that she ended up staying for the majority of the day! We are so proud of the outcomes from her visit and I am looking forward to sharing with you our official report once I receive it. I would like to say an extra special thank you to Mrs Harley, Miss Hewitt, Mrs Smith and Miss Gilsenan who do an excellent job as our school’s English Lead, Maths Lead, SENCo and EYFS Lead. They were heavily involved in the visit and spoke with such passion and commitment for their subject areas. I would also like to say thank you to our wonderful children who continue to blow us away every single day. Well done Team St Chad’s!



KINGS AND QUEENS

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

- Haniya and Adam (Pandas)**
- Zara and Mohammed Ibrahim (Bears)**
- Becky and Yahya (Crocodiles)**
- Ummayyah and Mustafa (Ladybirds)**
- Aishah and Rayyan (Elephants)**



HEAD OF SCHOOL LOVE AWARDS

This half-term, we have been exploring the value ‘friendship’. Congratulations to:

- Aleena**
- Dorgen**
- Oscar**
- Aminah**
- Dominika**



ATTENDANCE

Weekly Class Attendance Awards:



Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Elephants	Crocodiles	Crocodiles	Elephants	Elephants	Elephants
98%	98%	97%	97%	98%	98%

STAFFING UPDATES

On Monday, 8th April, we welcomed back Mrs Habib to school following her maternity leave. Mrs Habib will be teaching in Nursery (Pandas) in the morning and Reception (Bears) in the afternoon. Mrs Begum will now be teaching mornings in our Bears class alongside Miss Gilsenan and Mrs Maciejewska.

GET WELL SOON MRS THOMAS

As you know, Mrs Thomas is currently taking some time off work to recover from a recent illness. Mrs Thomas is a much-loved member of our team and I would like to say thank you for your cards, prayers and well-wishes over the past few weeks. I am in regular contact with Mrs Thomas and I am pleased to let you know that she is making a speedy recovery. Mrs Thomas has been so touched by your kind words and she would like me to pass on her thanks to you all.

CONGRATULATIONS MRS IQBAL!

I am so excited to let you know that Mrs Iqbal gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on Tuesday, 19th February. Welcome to the world Hussain! Both mummy and baby are doing well. xx



IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS

Following feedback from our recent Pupil Surveys, we are currently looking into ways to improve our outdoor play areas. We particularly would like to develop our KS1 playground and outdoor Early Years area. Last year we successfully received some grant money and installed an outdoor stage and play equipment. Over the next few months we will be adding further enhancements so that our children can better engage in purposeful play over break times and lunchtimes (cosy spaces, music, costumes, games, toys etc.). Miss Gilsenan is currently visiting other FS settings to look at outstanding outdoor play areas and we will soon be applying for further grant money to help overhaul our valuable (and very used!) outside spaces. Our plans for the installation of a running track on our field are still going through.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This year, developing our Collective Worship has been a key area on our school development plan. We are very proud of the improvements that we have made in a short amount of time. Governors have spent time observing our different Collective Worship this past term, playing an active role in evaluating the effectiveness of us as a church school.

- Our Chair of Governors (Reverend Andy Ward) completed a Learning Walk alongside Miss Gilsenan and spent time in classrooms to watch RE lessons.
- One of our Foundation Governors had the opportunity to observe our LOVE Ambassadors delivering a Key Stage 1 Collective Worship.
- Our Parent Governors have observed Mrs Clarke’s singing Collective Worship and our end of term ‘King and Queens’ celebration ceremony.

Feedback from governors and other visitors into school has been incredibly positive. Here are some of their monitoring observations:

- *Collective Worship is valued and an integral part of the school day.*
- *Children enjoy Collective Worship and show high levels of engagement.*
- *Collective Worship is invitation and inclusive. All faiths and beliefs are valued and welcomed.*
- *Children actively participate in Collective Worship.*
- *Children's spiritual development is supported through the use of music, singing, mindfulness and reflection.*

I would like to say a special thank you to our governors who have given up their time to carry out these monitoring visits. Thank you to Reverend Andy, Elisabeth, Michael, Tasleem and Nazia—you have all done a fantastic job!

GAMES APPEAL (Jenga, Scrabble, Monopoly etc....)

Over the summer term, I would like to introduce a Games Club to school. Playing games is not only fun but is also an excellent way to develop social skills. I am kindly appealing for games donations. If you have any old games at home that are still in a good condition, please can you bring them into school.

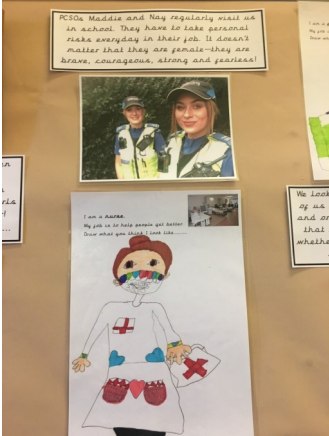
EASTER CELEBRATIONS

As a Church of England school, Easter is a very special celebration on our annual school calendar. Throughout school, we have had a number of special services and events. On Wednesday, 27th March, our Year 2 children took part in an Easter Experience at St Augustine's Church. Children took part in a number of different work-shops and activities to help bring the Easter story to life. On Tuesday, 9th February, Reverend Andy Ward and Reverend Sarah visited school to lead a special Collective Worship to the whole school. Children were involved in this special service and sang and shared their fantastic learning from their RE lessons. I would like to say a special thank you to parents for joining in with these celebrations. On Thursday, 11th April, Miss Gilsenan took a group of children to Derby Cathedral for a special Easter service alongside other schools from the city and Derbyshire.

VALUES IN ACTION: Courage

We are trying to increase opportunities within our curriculum design for children to learn about global issues. To support our Collective Worship value, ‘courage,’ children took part in International Women’s Week. Our Founda-tion Stage children celebrated their mums and thanked them for all of the wonderful things that they do every single day. Our Key Stage 1 classes took inspiration from the book, ‘Great Women who Changed the World’ and learned about three inspirational women who had to show great courage to overcome a personal challenge in life: Mary Anning, Coco Chanel and Amelia Earhart.

Some of our children believed that courage was to do with how strong we are (and believed that boys are strong-er because they have bigger muscles!). We noticed that some of our children thought that only boys could do certain jobs (e.g. play football) and only girls could do other jobs (e.g. nursing). We wanted to explore this fur-ther.... We were visited by three very courageous females: PCSOs Maddie and Nay and Firefighter Dani. They dis-cussed their jobs with the children and how they have to show courage and bravery every single day. We hope that we have inspired our children to think differently about their future jobs by tackling some the gender stere-otypes that they have.



E SAFETY WEEK

This half term the whole school has taken part in e-safety week. Children have been learning about how to stay safe online, including games and apps that they should/should not be using. Thank you to our governor, PCSO Rich, who visited one of Miss Gilsenan’s curriculum workshops. Please can I remind you all again to ensure that your child is only accessing ‘YouTube Kids’. This can be easily down-loaded from the app store and is safer than the normal YouTube. Please ensure that you regularly monitor what your child is playing/downloading/watching and keep up to date with parent and privacy settings on all devices. We have lots of useful guidance on our school website.

THE BIG PEDAL

It was great to see so many children scootering and cy-cling to school last Friday. We would love to encourage you to continue with this over the summer term!

TRIPS

It is really important for us that children have real-life ex-periences to support their learning in the classroom. You have probably noticed that we are trying to increase the number of local outings, visits and trips, as well as the number of visitors into school. The calendar has been VERY busy this half-term. Mrs Holland, our PE Lead, is us-ing some of our Sports Premium funding to help increase opportunities for children to visit different sporting ven-ues so that they can try different physical activities. Our Nursery children enjoyed visiting Build a Bear Workshop in town and our Reception children had a fantastic day at Highfield Happy Hens farm. More exciting trips are planned for the summer term!