

Newsletter February 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, we find ourselves at the end of another successful half-term here at St Chad's. February is the 'month of love' and our children continue to embody our school's vision and values each and every day. We have been able to welcome back visitors into school (with Covid safety measures in place) and they have all commented on how friendly and caring our children are: we couldn't agree more!

We know Spring is around the corner and with the gradual release of many restrictions, life is feeling a little more normal. Without jinxing us, the past few weeks in school have definitely felt more settled and calmer with fewer reported cases of Covid and we are remaining hopeful that we will now continue in this direction for the rest of the year ahead.

We are excited to be slowly retuning to 'life before Covid' with our first ever in school parent's evening in a very, very long time. Although we have always tried to showcase our beautiful school via Class Dojo, we cannot wait for many of you to have a 'socially distanced wander' to your child's classroom for the very first time.

It has been wonderful resuming our parent workshops and we have been able to increase our after school clubs offer now that staffing has stabilised. We have some exciting enrichment events planned for after half term, linked to our current theme work 'The Great Fire of London' and we are now looking to resume our school trips in the summer term.

Although there does finally seem to be light at the end of the Covid tunnel, it is important that we do continue to act with care and caution and we thank you for continuing to support our safety measures.

Please have a wonderful break with your children and loved ones, we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday, 28th February.



Love Ms. K Leach x (Headteacher)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 17th February

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Friday 18th February

SCHOOL CLOSED (Inset Day)

Monday 28th February

SCHOOL RE-OPENS

Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day (*come dressed as your favorite word*)

Tuesday 8th March and
Wednesday 9th March

Parent's Evening

Friday 8th April

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

SAVE THE DATE

In Collective Worship after half-term, we will be exploring the value, **hope**, and using the following quality text to help inspire our learning:



STAFFING UPDATES

At the end of the week, we will be bidding a fond farewell to Miss Richardson in our main school office. Miss Richardson has successfully secured a new job in a school closer to her home. We wish Miss Richardson lots of love and luck as she embarks on this new adventure. We are currently advertising for a new part-time position within our school office and will update you in due course. As shared with you all via Class Dojo, Miss Hewitt has now joined the senior leadership team and is the new substantive class teacher in Bears to cover Miss Gilsenan's maternity leave. Miss Frisby will be remaining with us until the end of the academic year as the substantive teacher in the Fabulous Flamingos. Both Miss Hewitt and Miss Frisby are looking forward to meeting their new class's parents/carers at parent's evening after half term.



PARENT'S EVENING

As shared via Class Dojo this week, we are looking forward to hosting our parent's evenings in school on Tuesday, 8th February and Wednesday, 9th February. After such a long time doing these meetings over the telephone due to the pandemic, we cannot wait to open up our doors and welcome parents onto our school premises (for many of you, this will be the first time that you have physically been inside your child's classroom!). Although we do now feel in a position to have parents on site, we must continue to proceed with caution. To support with our Covid safety measures, we are requesting that only one parent/carer attends the appointment. Face coverings will be worn by staff and visitors at all times and we will have in place social distancing measures. Reducing overcrowding will be very important, therefore, please arrive as close to your appointment time as possible. We are not able to accommodate your child at the appointment or younger siblings (including babies in pushchairs). This is a very important meeting: if you are not able to attend, please speak with your child's class teacher so alternative arrangements can be made.



PARENT WORKSHOPS



As a school, we are fully committed to working in close partnership with all of our parents and carers. Mrs Sohanpal works in school every Wednesday as our Family Support Worker. Part of her role is working alongside our parents to support them in playing an active role in all aspects of their child's learning, particularly supporting home learning. Mrs Sohanpal has had another busy half term delivering our parent workshops on a Wednesday morning—thank you to those parents/carers attending and for the wonderful feedback that you have provided. If there is a particular area of your child's learning that you would like some help with then please let Mrs Sohanpal know. Dates for Mrs Sohanpal's workshops are always shared via Class Dojo but can also be viewed on our school's [calendar](#).

MISTAKEN IDENTITIES! It has been brought to our attention that some parents are confusing Ms Leach for Mrs Suddery and vice versa, especially on the main gate in the morning. Although Ms. Leach and Mrs Suddery both like long 'duvet coats', chunky boots and headbands, Mrs Suddery can be spotted by her very curly hair (Mrs Suddery is also slightly taller than Ms. Leach).



*Ms. Leach
(Headteacher)*



*Mrs Suddery
(Welfare Officer)*

KINGS AND QUEENS

We will be celebrating our Kings and Queens at the end of our next half term.



ONLINE SAFETY

On Monday, 7th February, we enjoyed celebrating Safer Internet Day, a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology for young people, parents, carers and teachers to join together in helping to create a better internet. Thank you to those parents/carers that attended Miss Wright’s parent workshop.



Miss Wright carried out some whole school monitoring to help identify next steps in the teaching and learning of online safety at school. Our pupil surveys showed that:

- 65% of children have access to a tablet at home
- 65% of children can use their parent’s mobile phone at home to access apps, the internet and games
- 85% of children said that they would talk to their mum/dad at home, 10% to a teacher and 5% to an adult n school if they were worried about something online

Children could confidently talk about how they can keep themselves safe online and how they should behave online. Some children did share that they know their parent’s passwords to devices at home, which differed to what parents shared during the workshop with Miss Wright. Therefore, you may want to consider regularly updating your passwords at home. If you need help doing this on your settings then please speak to Miss Wright. Some parents shared concerns that their child may be accessing devices too much at home, especially before bedtime. This is something that we will be looking at in school in April as part of our Mental Health Awareness Week. Thank you so much for your feedback—it really does help us to develop our curriculum in school.

HALF TERM FUN AT NORMANTON LIBRARY

Please can we remind you that Normanton Library is hosting lots of FREE events for local families during the half term. The library is a SUPERB community resource and service and we encourage you to try and visit with your children. We have shared a link on Class Dojo with all of the event details on. Here is their website:

[Normanton Library | Libraries in Derby | In Derby](#)

Normanton Library

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

HOME READING

At St Chad’s, teaching our children to become confident and fluent readers is of paramount importance to us. This year, we are moving over to a new phonics programme called *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*. As part of this work, we are making some changes to our approach to home reading, as shared with you all in a letter a few weeks ago.



I am thrilled to let you know that we have managed to secure a grant through the Department of Education to help us buy new reading books to accompany our revised phonics programme. This means that we will be able to start phasing out the weekly phonics worksheets that we have been sending out on a Friday. Instead, we will be able to provide your child with a high-quality practice reading book, well-matched to their current phonics stage, for them to take home every week to help consolidate their reading skills. We are also making some improvements to our school library so that we can also provide your child with a sharing book to take home and enjoy with you at home. Although your child will be taught to read daily at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home. This is why we are organising a very important **parent workshop on Wednesday, 9th March at 9am**. The workshop will be delivered by Ms. Leach and Mrs Sohanpal. A letter with more information will be sent out soon. For now, please ‘save the date’. Thank you SO much for submitting your weekly videos of your child’s reading at home—please keep them coming.

PARENT SURVEY

Please remember to answer this very quick survey to help us to organise a special event in school next half term to support with reading....

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zsbtS2tRkq0e8i1Kg1-u1L8Kl-xU5BDsyu_XUH2g7BUN05BSDRKSjNEQ0IPUjczTIJaUVIXVFBENS4u



SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN’S WELLBEING: Bridge the Gap

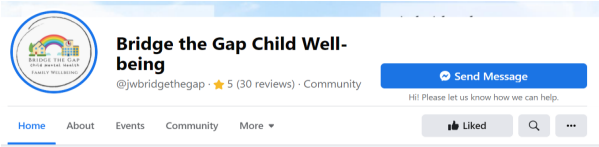


This year, we are working closely with the children’s wellbeing charity, *Bridge the Gap*. With the support of Bridge the Gap, we have been able to run a weekly Creative Art session with some of our children, run by their student practitioner, Miss Emma. The group has been very successful, with Mrs Suddery also attending. We are thrilled to let you know that Bridge the Gap will be allocating us another student practitioner so that we can continue to offer some additional support to our children next term. Supporting our children’s wellbeing is of paramount importance to us. If you feel that your child could benefit from some additional support in school then please speak with Mrs Suddery. Some examples could be to help develop your child’s:

- confidence and self-esteem
- language and communication
- ability to better manage their feelings and emotions

Maybe you are going through some changes at home e.g. welcoming a new baby, entering a new relationship and your child would benefit from some additional support in school.

Bridge the Gap will be visiting school on the morning of Wednesday, 30th March. This will be an opportunity for you to meet some of their team and to find out more about the wealth of support and services that they provide for parents/ carers in Derby. Bridge the Gap have a superb Facebook page, do check them out.



We are working very hard to set up a special room in school where we can run some Nurture groups. This room will be called our Rainbow Room and will be a safe space for our children to come and relax, talk and play. As soon as this room is ‘makeover ready’ we will of course share some photos with you!

BOARD GAMES

Since September 2021, we have been working very hard to increase the amount of board games that our children have access to in school. Board games are a wonderful resource and support in so many areas of our children's development and learning: language and communication, turn taking, making friends, following rules, learning a new skill, confidence and self-esteem...the possibilities are endless!

With the help of our fundraising event last term, we now have a fantastic library of board games in school. Mrs Kausar has been running some lunchtime games clubs that are proving to be very popular. She has also devised a board game progression map in school: a list of board games in each year group that we would like our children to know how to play inside out and back to front by the time they finish at St Chad’s.

We are at the beginning of this unusual but exciting project.... We will start advertising these board games on Class Dojo and in our half termly newsletters. If you have any of these games at home then please join in the fun! Ms. Leach would love to see photos and videos of your board games sessions at home.

Reception					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
The Fishing Game	Hungry Hippos	Buckaroo	Crocodile Dentist	Mr Funny Face	Doggie Doo
					

Year 1					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Doh-Nutters	Windy Knickers	Don't Buzz the Wire	Pig Goes Pop	Operation	Jenga
					

Year 2					
Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Twister	Uno	Connect 4	2 in 1 Bingo	Dobble	Junior Scrabble
					