

Newsletter July 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a long and busy half-term, filled with sunshine, growth, and many special memories. As we come to the end of the school year, we prepare to say a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 2 children. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and know they will continue to shine in their new schools. We look forward to seeing Year 2 parents and families at the Leavers' Celebration on Monday, 21st July, where we will mark this special milestone together.

Across school, the children have taken part in 'Meet the Teacher' sessions and three days of transition to help them settle and feel excited about the year ahead. These opportunities are so valuable in building confidence and nurturing those all-important relationships.

We've had a joyful final few weeks, with trips (Twycross Zoo was AMAZING!), performances, and our end-of-year celebrations filling the calendar. Thank you for joining us along the way—it means so much to the children and to us. A quick reminder: if your child is in Singing Club, please do pop along to their performance on Tuesday 22nd July at 2:30pm. We know they'd love to see you there!

School reopens on **Monday 8th September**, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back with full hearts and fresh starts. Thank you, as always, for your continued support throughout the year. We wish you a peaceful, sunny, and relaxing summer break. Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

STAFFING UPDATES As we reach the end of the school year, we bid a fond farewell to several members of staff. We would like to thank Mrs Martinez, Mrs Ghai, Miss Servina and Mrs Bull for their hard work, care, and dedication to our children. Each of them has made a difference during their time at St Chad's, and we wish them all the very best in their new adventures.

Goodbye!
& THANK YOU

Looking ahead to September, we are pleased to have appointed new members of staff, including a HLTA for SEND and a new classroom teaching assistant. We will share more details with you in the new school year, once all the necessary checks have been completed. We are also delighted that Mrs Bibi will be supporting with parent classes from September. These sessions are becoming increasingly popular, and we look forward to sharing more information with you in due course.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 22nd July

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Wednesday 23rd July

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

Thursday 24th July

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

Thursday 4th September

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

Friday 5th September

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

Monday 8th September

BACK TO SCHOOL

Thursday 2nd October

Happy Hooves Mobile Farm* (Bears and Crocodiles in school)

Wednesday 8th October

Bluebells Farm Trip* (Flamingos and Elephants)

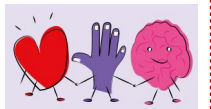
Friday 24th October

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

You can find more information about all of the wonderful things happening in school, on our **school website**. *Please note: Further details will follow for these events. For now, please 'save the date'.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The first value for the new school year will be **perseverance**. We will explore this through the biblical story *The Shepherd Who Persevered* (Luke 15), which teaches us about never giving up, even when things get difficult. Children will be encouraged to set themselves a personal challenge to stick with throughout the term, helping them develop resilience and determination. We will also begin to think about important learning behaviours in school, beginning with as paying close attention.



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

It's lovely to see our Forest School and *Nurture through Nature* programme featured in DDAT's latest newsletter. This year, alongside regular sessions for all our children, we've also welcomed children from St James Juniors and Hardwick Primary. Grab a cuppa and have a read—there's so much to celebrate across our DDAT family! You can find the newsletter [here](#).



SCHOOL PODCAST Ms. Leach was recently invited to record a podcast supporting Derby City's Inclusion Charter, where she discussed and shared our school's relational approach to children's wellbeing and behaviour as part of their *"Because School Means More"* campaign. It's wonderful to see the successful work of our school being recognised and shared far and wide. The podcast is available to listen to on Spotify and [here](#). Thank you to all the parents who recently attended Mrs Gilsenan's workshop to find out more about how we support children in safely managing big feelings to stay safe and happy.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF DDAT We were delighted to welcome the 'DDAT Quilt' to our school as part of the celebrations for DDAT's 10-year anniversary. Each school in the trust was invited to design and create a patch to represent their community, and our children loved spotting our contribution and exploring the different designs from schools across the DDAT family. A group of our Year 2 children did a wonderful job leading a thoughtful prayer to say thank you—well done to them! After visiting all schools, the quilt will be blessed at a special service in Derby Cathedral.



KINGS AND QUEENS

We are thrilled to announce that this half-term's Kings and Queens are:

Bears: M.Ali and Aiza
Crocodiles: Mikaeel and Fatima
Flamingos: Harry and Khadijah
Elephants: Drahomir and Ameera

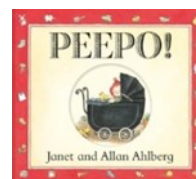
A huge well done to these children, and thank you to all the parents who came to join the celebration.



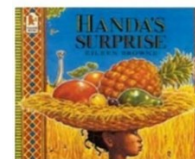
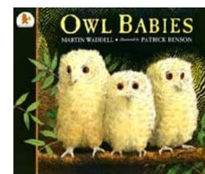
LOVE TO READ

Here are the key texts for each class for next half-term:

Nursery



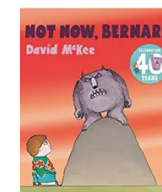
Reception



Year 1



Year 2



You may consider purchasing your child's year group book from Amazon/book stores so that you can enjoy it together at home or you could visit Normanton Library to loan a copy....completely free of charge!

Normanton Library

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

DDAT WRITING COMPETITION

We are thrilled to announce that Ameera Hussain was invited to the DDAT Writing Celebration and won first place in the KS1 category out of all the DDAT schools. Ameera proudly and confidently read out her work during the celebration. Well done, Ameera. We are so very proud of you! You can read Ameera's amazing writing [here](#).



BISHOP'S BADGE AWARD WINNER!

We are incredibly proud of Anya, who has been awarded this year's prestigious Bishop's Badge.

Anya is one of just 36 children across Derby and Derbyshire to receive this special award, which recognises generous faith, courageous hope, and life-giving love. Anya and her family were invited to a special service at Derby Cathedral, where Bishop Malcolm presented the awards. Well done Anya!



INCLUSIVE ATTENDANCE



As we come to the end of the school year, we want to thank all our families for their continued support with attendance. The results of our recent attendance survey show that families really value the inclusive and supportive approach we take, and we are so proud of this. We will continue to prioritise attendance, because we want every child to feel safe, loved, and able to achieve their very best.

You can find all our attendance information and support on the school website. Please remember, we are always here to help and offer support in improving your child's attendance and punctuality. There will be no changes to our approach to leave of absence requests, and the local authority's fine system remains in place. School reopens for children on Monday 8th September—we can't wait to welcome everyone back!

LION LEARNERS

Nursery, Bears and Crocodiles had a wonderful day when Lion Learners came to visit, supporting our exciting theme: *Rumble in the Jungle – Would you keep a lion as a pet?* The children showed incredible bravery and kindness as they carefully held and observed the animals. It was a fantastic experience that sparked lots of curiosity and discussion.



NURSERY SPACES AVAILABLE

Please remember to keep spreading the word far and wide about our wonderful Nursery. Spaces for 2-year-olds from September are now full, but our waiting list is open. We still have some places available for 3-year-olds. Thank you for your continued support.



TERM DATES 2025-2026



Term dates and INSET days for 2025–2026 can be found on our website [here](#).

SCHOOL TERM, HOLIDAY AND INSET DATES 2025-2026



Dear Parent / Carer,

Please find below Derby City school term and holiday dates for next academic year. Please also find our planned INSET days in the red box below.

Kind regards,

Ms. K Leach and Mrs. K Morley
Co-Headteachers

INSET Days (school closed)

- Thursday 4th September 2025
- Friday 5th September 2025
- Friday 13th February 2026
- Wednesday 22nd July 2026
- Thursday 23rd July 2026



School Term and Holiday Dates 2025-2026

School Holiday	Bank Holiday	
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term

September 2025 (19 days)	October 2025 (18 days)	November 2025 (20 days)
M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5	1 2
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
29 30	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30

December 2025 (15 days)	January 2026 (20 days)	February 2026 (15 days)
M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28

March 2026 (20 days)	April 2026 (14 days)	May 2026 (15 days)
M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S
30 31 1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31

June 2026 (22 days)	July 2026 (17 days)	August 2026
M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S	M T W T F S S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5	31 1 2
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
29 30	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30

If you have any safeguarding concerns during the holiday period, these can be reported via our safeguarding email: safeguarding@stchads.derby.sch.uk This email will be monitored periodically throughout the holiday. For additional guidance, including how to report a serious safeguarding concern, please visit the safeguarding section of our [website](#).

