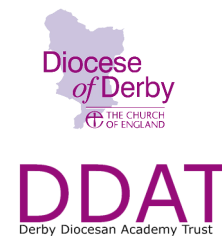
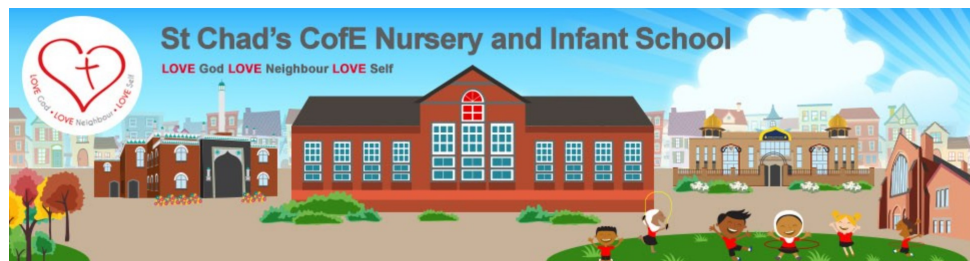


December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

WOW! What a term it has been....I would like to start off by thanking you all for the ongoing kindness and support that you shown during some of the hardest months that we have ever experienced.

Undoubtedly, the past couple of weeks have been extra hard for us following our first 'bubble' closures in school. Although I am sad that we did not get to finish this year together in school, I have never ever felt so pride.

I am proud of the remarkable resilience that our children have shown every single day in school.

I am proud of how my team had adapted to working from home, delivering creative and innovative lessons from their own dining tables.

Above all though I am proud of the endless love and compassion that we continue to give to one another.

Never ever has our sense of school family and community spirit felt so strong. This pandemic has been forced on us, but through our care for each others AND for each other, we are seeing the best of human endeavour as we continue to ensure that we offer the very best provision for every child and family in our care. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

I would like to take the time to say a huge thank you to my amazing staff, governors and academy trust for the remarkable work that they have done in helping to keep St Chad's running. It is an absolute honour to work with such dedicated and hardworking 'warriors'. In the year when Covid tried to keep us apart, love for our school, our children and each other continues to unite us.

I wish you all peace, health, rest and love over the holidays. For those of you celebrating, Merry Christmas! I look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday, 4th January.**

Love Ms. Leach x

Love
CONQUERS
all

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 18th December

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 4th January

SCHOOL RE-OPENS

Thursday 11th February

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Friday 12th February

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

WELCOME MRS HAINES

As shared in our previous letters, Ms. Leach will be working as Acting Executive Headteacher at St Chad's and Holbrook CofE Primary School from January 2021. We welcome to our school family Mrs Haines as our new Acting Head of School (Mrs Haines is currently our SENDCo and will continue working in this role, as well as part-time Acting Head of School.) Mrs Haines will be in school on Monday, 4th January and is looking forward to saying hello to you all.



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

friendship

and

compassion



GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE OVER CHRISTMAS

The government is bringing in some new guidelines over the Christmas period which are:

Between 23rd and 27th December 2020:

- You can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than three households.
- You can only be in one Christmas bubble.
- You cannot change your Christmas bubble.
- You can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble.
- You can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces.
- You can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to the rules in the tier you are meeting in.
- If you form a Christmas bubble, you should not meet socially with friends and family that you do not live with in your home or garden unless they are part of your Christmas bubble.

From 28th December 2020, the Christmas rules will end, and we will return to current restrictions. Further details are available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>

However, the message is simple: COVID-19 has not gone away. The local infection rate has not gone away and it is important that we continue to limit our social contact and take other practical steps (hands—face—space) to protect our loved ones, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Please continue to look out for COVID-19 symptoms in your children, but also in other family members. If anyone in your household, or Christmas bubble, shows any of the 3 main COVID symptoms, they and their household should self-isolate immediately and book a COVID test:

*fever *new, continuous cough *loss of, or change in sense of taste or smell

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

If your child tests positive to COVID during the holidays, you will still need to inform school. We are still required to inform the Department for Education and there may be further actions for the school depending on the timings of the onset of symptoms.

As our school office will be closed, in the event of your child testing positive during the holidays, you will need to message [Ms. Leach](#) via Class Dojo.

In the event that you are not able to access Class Dojo, we have also made our emergency school mobile available:

Telephone: 07486 516471

Miss Gilsenan will be looking after the emergency phone from Saturday, 19th December until Thursday, 24th December between 4pm and 5pm. **Please only use this number to inform us that your child has tested positive.**

Should an individual who has been in school within 48 hours of developing symptoms of COVID-19 receive a positive test result, the school will need to communicate to all close contacts that they must self-isolate for the mandatory 10 days.

If you or your child is identified as a close contact, the school will contact you by text to confirm this and a letter will be sent to confirm what you need to do and any actions you must take via Class Dojo.

Further details have been shared on Class Dojo.

CLASS DOJO All class teachers will be taking a well deserved rest and spending the Christmas period with their own family.

Therefore, class teachers will not be responding to messages via

Class Dojo until they are back in school on Monday, 4th January. Ms. Leach and Miss Gilsenan will be checking messages over the holidays in the event of parent/carer informing school that their child has tested positive for COVID-19. Like teachers, Ms. Leach and Miss Gilsenan will not be responding to any other messages until school resumes again in January. We thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.



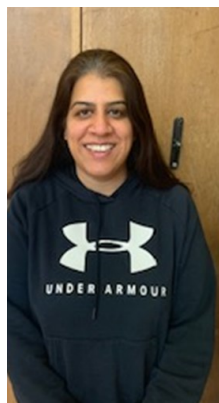
DEFERRED CELEBRATIONS FOR MRS THOMAS

On Thursday, 17th December, we bid a (temporary) fond farewell to Mrs Thomas. As we were not able to say a proper goodbye to Mrs Thomas, we have deferred her leaving ceremony (hopefully to the New Year). Mrs Thomas holds a special place in all of our hearts and will ensure that we can all be involved in saying thank you and goodbye. For now, we wish Mrs Thomas a happy and healthy retirement. We will see you soon!



STAFFING UPDATES

We are excited to announce that Mrs Sohanpal has been appointed as our new Safeguarding, Family Engagement and Pastoral Support HLTA. From January, Mrs Sohanpal will be working as our Deputy Safeguarding Lead in school. She will be responsible for working closely with our families and children to offer support and advice e.g. emotional support, attendance support, home learning support. Mrs Sohanpal will also be taking over the organisation and running of our parent classes and workshops. Mrs Sohanpal has lots of new and exciting plans in the pipeline....watch this space!....



CHANGES TO THE ORGANISATION OF OUR SCHOOL OFFICE



From January 2021, we have made some changes to the organisation of our school office. Mrs Lambert will be reverting back to her role as Attendance Officer. She will be based in our downstairs office from 8am-11am. After 11am, she will be based in our upstairs office to support with personnel administration. Miss Richardson will be based in our downstairs office from 11am-4pm to support with general office administration. Mr Clarke will be continuing as our School Business Leader.

KINGS AND QUEENS

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

Yara and Zafer (Bears)

Ayat and Abhinoor (Crocodiles)

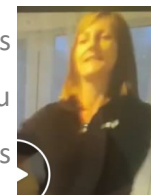
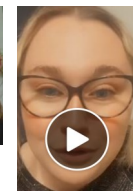
Adam A and Azaan (Flamingos)

Hayyan and Talia (Elephants)



WELL DONE BEARS AND CROCODILES

I wanted to say a special and HUGE well done to Bears and Crocodiles who have shown such remarkable resilience following their bubble closures two weeks ago. I have been blown away by the amazing home learning that has been shared daily via Class Dojo—wow, wow, wow! Thank you parents and carers for supporting your child's learning during this period of school closure. Delivering remote learning is not an easy task and I would like to say a HUGE thank you to the amazing staff team in Bears and Crocodiles. Checking in with the daily videos and posts has honestly been the highlight of my evenings over the past fortnight. Thank you Miss Gilsenan, Miss Wright, Miss Holland, Mrs Iqbal and Mrs Kausar for your hard-work, commitment, creativity and care. Team Bears and Crocs—you are awesome!



Please can you collect junk mail, magazines, wrapping paper (all shades of blue) for a special art project that Mrs Harley is organising in the New Year. Thank you!