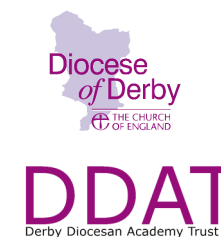
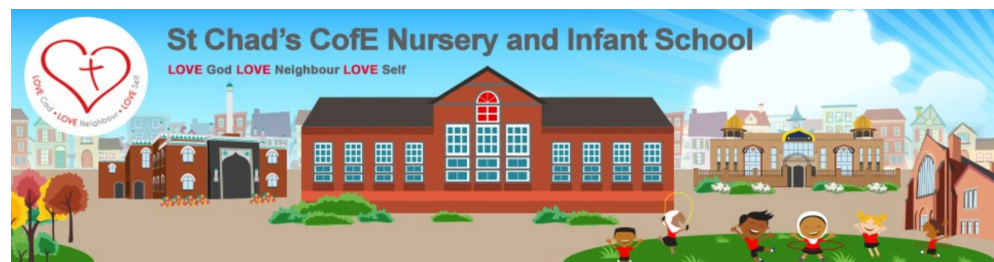


May 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it has been another busy but very happy and successful half-term here at St Chad's. I am sure you will agree that it is almost impossible to believe that we are approaching the final half-term of the year—and what a year it has been!

Despite the easing of restrictions in the outside world, in terms of school, things remain fairly unchanged: we thank you so, so much for your understanding and for doing your bit by following the rules so that we can keep our whole school family as safe as possible. Although we are starting to see a slow return to 'normal' after lockdown, Public Health England are still advising caution, particularly with the new Indian variant. The safety measures that we have in place will continue after half term and we kindly ask that you continue to 'do your bit' by following our school's Covid safety measures. Please, if you are able to, continue wearing a face covering when dropping off/picking up your child. Thank you so much for your support and understanding. School staff are continuing to do their Covid Lateral Flow Testing twice weekly at home and we encourage you as parents in our community to do the same. Information on how to obtain tests can be found [here](#). Please remember that these tests are only for people without symptoms in order to identify anyone who is asymptomatic. If anybody in your household is displaying Covid symptoms then you still need to isolate and book a [Covid PCR test](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you for supporting our Wear Something Green Day as we celebrated nature as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. I am delighted to let you know that we raised over £90 which will go towards buying some new bits for our school field—including a new bird table.

I hope that you manage to have a relaxing half-term break with your loved ones. After a VERY wet few weeks, let's hope that the sun does begin to shine once again.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday, 7th June**.

Love Ms. Leach x



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 28th May

Monday 7th June

Friday 25th June

Wednesday 21st July

Thursday 22nd July

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

SCHOOL RE-OPENS

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

LAST DAY OF TERM

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

Term dates and INSET days for next academic year (2021-22) have now been shared via Class Dojo and are also available to view on our school [website](#).

Term	Start Date	End Date	Inset Days
Autumn Term	29th August	27th November	Thursday 27th September, Friday 28th September
Spring Term	27th February	27th May	Monday 1st November, Wednesday 27th January
Summer Term	27th May	27th July	Friday 29th July

PE DAY REMINDER

To support with our COVID-19 safety measures, please ensure that **your child wears their PE kit to school on their PE day.**

Tuesday—Crocodiles

Wednesday—Elephants

Thursday—Bears

Friday—Flamingos



COVID-19 ABSENCE

Once again, please can we remind you all of the symptoms of Covid:

If your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms then please telephone school urgently on 01332 345997. Your child and the household will need to isolate. You will need to book your child a Covid test. Please contact us if you need help with booking a test.



Please remember that if your child has a cold e.g. a runny nose but is not displaying Covid symptoms then they are fine to attend school.

If you have not yet done so, we encourage all parents to purchase a digital thermometer to help check your child's temperature at home. A high temperature is 38C or above.

ATTENDANCE

Although our school attendance is improving week by week, it is still below our school target of 96%. Regrettably, we still have a number of parents applying for a Leave of Absence to travel abroad. After an incredibly disruptive year to learning, prioritising regular school attendance is now even more important than it has been before. The government have made it clear that school attendance is now mandatory. We do understand that families may be desperate to see loved ones living abroad but we request that travel does not take place during term time.

We continue to fully understand, expect and need children to stay at home if they or anyone in the household is showing Covid symptoms. If this is not the case and children are well enough, they are expected to be in school. You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken without authorisation.

Please can I also remind you of the importance of the children arriving on time (no later than 9am). Learning does start straight way and the children cannot afford to miss what is happening at the beginning of the day. Please continue to support us with this.



PARENTS EVENING

It was wonderful catching up with you all and celebrating everything about your child at our latest parent's evening (via telephone). A copy of your child's Spring Term Parent's Evening report was sent out via Class Dojo. If you have any issues loading/viewing your child's report then please telephone Miss Richardson in the main school office.

CORRECT UNIFORM: PE KITS

Despite regular reminders, we still have a number of children not wearing the correct PE kit in school. Please ensure that your child is dressed in the correct PE uniform. Items of clothing e.g. t-shirts should be plain and not feature brand names. Earrings must be removed at home on your child's allocated PE day.

plain white t-shirt NO collar	black shorts OR black leggings OR black joggers		plain black tracksuit top with front zip	plain black pumps OR plain black/white trainers
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

STAFFING UPDATES

After half term, Mrs Suddery will be joining our school family as our new Welfare Officer. Towards the end of June, we welcome back Mrs Habib from maternity leave.

NEW PARENT GOVERNOR

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Kawsar (Benyamin's mummy) has successfully been appointed to our board as our new parent governor.



LOVE BEARS

We have all had the most joyful half-term helping to settle the children back into 'school life' with the help of our newest St Chad's members—the Love Bears. It has been truly wonderful seeing the children care for and love their bears, first in school, and then at home. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Harley who helped to plan our 'Love Bears' theme as part of our wider 'Covid Recovery Action Plan'. We have been blown away by the home learning engagement and are now considering whether investing in a Love Bear for every child at the beginning of their Reception year would be worthwhile. It has been incredible seeing the children go on so many different adventures with their Love Bears: reading a bedtime story, eating dinner together, playing outside...the list has been endless. We would love to get your feedback on the Love Bears over the coming weeks ahead.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Supporting our children's mental health and wellbeing continues to be of paramount importance to us as a school. Thank you so much for supporting Mental Health Awareness Week and encouraging your child to take part in our 'Great Outdoors Adventures'. Despite the very wet May weather, it was great to see the children exploring the feeling of 'calm' that being outside brings. Once again, we had some AMAZING photographs of the children completing their home learning—thank you!



TRANSITION WEEK

We will not be able to confirm whether we will be able to take part in our usual Transition Week until the government confirm the next stages of their Covid Roadmap next month. This includes our current Year 2 children visiting their new school and our current Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children meeting their new teacher. As soon as we are able to confirm arrangements, we will let you know.

KINGS AND QUEENS

As I type this newsletter, our end of half term Kings and Queens are still being decided. We will share this news via Class dojo this Friday.....

BRINGING PEACE AND JOY TO OUR SCHOOL FIELD

This half-term, we are exploring the values 'peace' and 'joy' in our Collective Worships. To support with our whole school focus on mental health and wellbeing, we are hoping to make some improvements over the coming year to our school field. As a school, we are very passionate about learning through play and we would like our outdoor environment to foster a stronger sense of peace and joy. We are keen to go down a 'sensory garden' route with lots of 'mini areas' so that the children can play, explore and unwind. Our older children in Key Stage 1 have been asked to help come up with some design ideas as part of their Collective Worship. If any parents are keen gardeners or talented carpenters and would like to be involved in this exciting project then please contact the main school office. Here are some ideas so far.....

