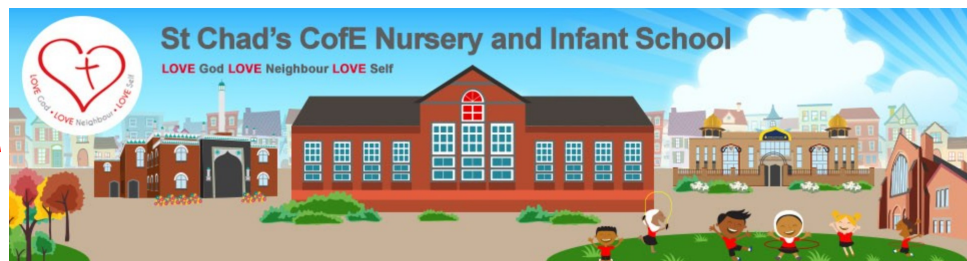


Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we say goodbye to another busy half term, we are already gearing up for our final term of the school year. Although the weather has not quite felt like spring yet, we are hopeful that some warmer days are just around the corner!

Our last half term is always a busy one, as we begin planning and preparing for transitions, including supporting our Year 2 children as they get ready for their move to their new school, alongside end-of-year assessments. We are also looking forward to making the most of the exciting opportunities and events ahead for all of the children.

Please remember to keep an eye on Class Dojo, which remains our main channel of communication with families. We know evenings can be hectic, but taking a quick moment to check messages whilst relaxing on the sofa can help you stay up to date with important reminders, news and celebrations from school.

We wish you a safe and happy half-term break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 1st June**. Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

RELATIONAL PRACTICE: SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR OUR SCHOOL

We are delighted to share that our Attachment Research Community (ARC) nomination has progressed further and we have now been shortlisted for the East Midlands regional category. This recognises our relational approach, the way we place children's wellbeing at the heart of everything we do, and the strong relationships across our school community. As part of the next stage, we will be creating a short video for the judging panel to showcase our nurturing school environment. After the holiday, we will be asking families to provide filming consent and would really appreciate your support. You can find out more about ARC and our nomination [here](#):



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP Next half term:

In Key Stage 1, we will be focusing on the values of compassion and generosity. Children will learn about Dolly Parton and her work supporting disadvantaged families through reading, alongside exploring the important role volunteers play in our community and how we can show our appreciation.

In EYFS, we will be focusing on the school value of compassion through exploring Acts of Kindness at home and in school. Children will learn how small acts of kindness can make a big difference to others, inspired by the message to 'spread kindness around like confetti'.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 22nd May

Monday 1st June

W/B 8th June

Wednesday 17th June

W/B 29th June

W/B 29th June

7th July—9th July

Friday 17th July

Monday 20th July

Wednesday 22nd July

Thursday 23rd July

Friday 24th July

Friday 4th September

Monday 7th September

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

BACK TO SCHOOL

Year 1 Phonics Screening (*and Year 2 re-sits*)

Derby Cathedral Music Celebration

DDAT Art Exhibition

Meet the Teacher*

City-Wide Transition*

End of Year Reports

Year 2 Leaver's Performance (9:15am)*

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET)

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET)

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET)

BACK TO SCHOOL



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'.

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

Hedgehogs have now started their Forest School sessions and we would like to say a big thank you to the parents who have attended and joined in with their child's learning. We are sorry that some sessions have had to be cancelled due to staffing. Forest School requires strict adult-to-child ratios in order to run safely and effectively, and the safety of our children will always remain our priority. Miss Gilsean will continue to update future sessions via Dojo.



HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH!

We had a wonderful time celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday with a special whole school Collective Worship. Sir David teaches us about the importance of nature and caring for our world, and we wanted to say thank you and celebrate this special milestone. We planted an apple tree and sang Happy Birthday together to mark this special occasion on our school field.



DERBY DREAMFEST

Members of our school choir recently took part in Derby Promise's Dream Fest. After taking part in workshops in school, the children spent the day at the theatre rehearsing and performing "When I Grow Up" from Matilda alongside West End performers. Parents then had the opportunity to watch the final performance. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Bibi and Mrs Butler for supporting the choir throughout this amazing opportunity. It was a fantastic day and a memorable experience for everyone involved.



AUTHOR VISIT: KATH WHEATLEY

We enjoyed a visit from author Katherine Wheatley as part of our current theme, *Wildlife Superheroes*. Katherine is the author of *Rhema the Wildlife Superhero*, and the children loved hearing about her inspiration and creative process. It was a fantastic enrichment day, enjoyed by all, which inspired the children's love of reading, writing and the natural world.



'STOP THE DROP' CAMPAIGN

We are incredibly proud of what our children and community have achieved through the Stop the Drop campaign this month. What began as a Key Stage 1 Collective Worship project to tackle fly-tipping outside our school gates and 'stand up' for justice has grown into something truly special.

The children have shown courage, determination and pride in speaking up for their community. We were honoured to be visited by Baggy Shanker and local councillor Cecile Wright, followed by coverage from BBC Radio Derby and BBC East Midlands Today. We have also received letters from Baggy Shanker praising the children's work, along with a message on his social media recognising their impact in raising awareness. A huge thank you to our families who attended the placard-making workshop and joined the peaceful march, even in challenging weather.



EYFS LIBRARY VISIT

Crocodiles and Bears both enjoyed a trip to the local library. They had a wonderful time exploring the books and listening to stories. Look out for information about our next visit to the library!



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS Knowledge organisers for our new theme, *Wildlife Superheroes*, can be found here. Paper copies have also been sent home to support learning and discussion at home.

We are delighted that our School Councillors have now been invited to the House of Parliament — a wonderful recognition of the children's voices and efforts. Our work continues as we plan an outdoor performance to keep raising awareness, including singing songs to Derek and the trees, which have become a symbol of the project. We would love families to join us and will share details soon.



We are SO proud of our school community!

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We really appreciate the efforts families are making to improve punctuality across the school. Arriving on time helps children feel calm, settled and ready to start their day positively alongside their friends. Thank you for your continued support and partnership with us. Please remember that our gates close at 9am. If your child arrives between 9:00am and 9:05am, Mrs Kay will be on the gate and we will need a reason for lateness. If your child arrives after 9:05am, they must be brought to the school reception to be signed in and registered. If children arrive late without being signed in, this becomes a safeguarding concern, as we may not be aware they are on site. Thank you for helping us to keep all children safe.



We would like to remind all parents that any unauthorised leave of absence taken during term time may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority. Fines are issued per parent, per child, and increase for repeated offences. More information can be found in our Attendance Policy [here](#). Please be mindful of this when booking holidays or visits during term time. If you require any further information, please contact the school office.

NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE

We have spaces available in both our morning and afternoon Nursery sessions for 2- and 3-year-olds this September.

We provide a calm, nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued and confident to explore, play and learn. Our provision supports families with funded places where eligible. To join our waiting list, please visit [here](#). To find out more about funding for 2- and 3-year-olds, including the different ways to access funded childcare, please call the school office on 01332 245997. We are always happy to help and offer regular tours of our Nursery setting. These can be arranged by calling the school office or by popping into reception.



KINGS AND QUEENS

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

Bears: Abdullah and Inaaya

Crocodiles: Rachel and Zain

Flamingos: Wasee and Selina

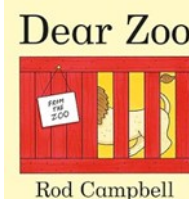
Elephants: Ashley and Abdul Rehman

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

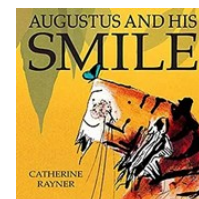


LOVE TO READ Here are the key texts for each class for next half-term:

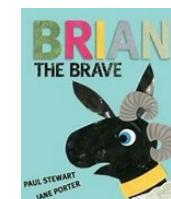
Nursery



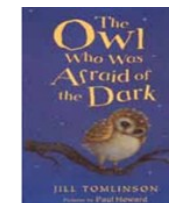
Reception



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



HOME READING REMINDER Please remember to post your child's weekly home reading to Class Dojo every Thursday. All children have the opportunity to watch the videos together and celebrate success every Friday morning. Please keep them short (approximately 1 minute) and **post them to your child's portfolio — not via messenger**. If you need any sup-

WARM WEATHER SCHOOL UNIFORM As we approach the warmer months (even if it doesn't feel like it yet!), please ensure your child brings a named sunhat to school. We also recommend applying sun cream before school and sending a clearly named water bottle each day. Please ensure bottles are practical in size and not too large or expensive, as they are easily misplaced.



A copy of DDAT's latest newsletter can be found [here](#).

DDAT
Derby Diocesan Academy Trust



Any safeguarding concerns over the half-term break can be shared via safeguarding@stchads.derby.sch.uk. Please note that this inbox is monitored, but on reduced hours, so urgent concerns should be reported directly to Derby City Council's First Response Team on 01332 641172 or to the police.

