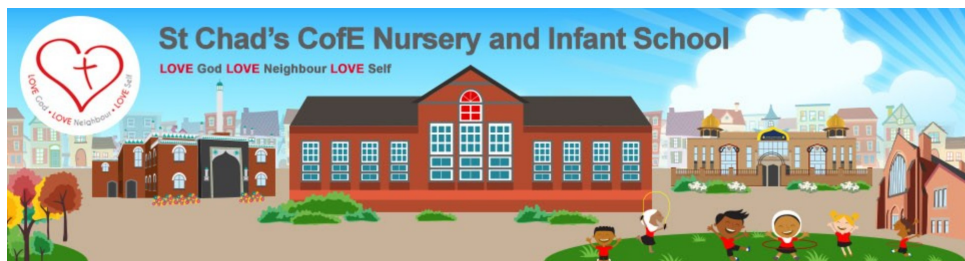


Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, it's hard to believe how quickly the new year has begun. Dark mornings, winter bugs and even a snow day have all brought their own challenges. Thank you for working with us and supporting your children to keep going with their routines and learning — that steady perseverance makes a real difference. In this newsletter, we've gathered some of the highlights from the past half term. We hope you are able to find a little time to settle down, relax, get caught up — and celebrate these moments with your child. Please can we send a reminder to regularly keep checking Class Dojo for updates, messages and information about events taking place in class and across the school, as this is our main communication channel with families.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday, 23rd February**. We wish you all a restful half term break. Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley xx

RELATIONAL PRACTICE: SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICE Our relational practice continues to grow from strength to strength and is increasingly being recognised beyond our school. Ms Leach continues to work with other schools across DDAT, and this half term we hosted a visit to share our approach, as well as welcoming colleagues from a Derby City school. We have recently introduced a formal soft start each morning to help children settle and regulate after arrival. During this time, children in Flamingos and Elephants have been taking part in guided meditation sessions, using doodling with music and visual prompts. Reverend Andy joined a session and writes: *"In Tranquil Tuesday we spent quiet time reflecting on how when we feel sad, shedding tears helps us find peace. We listened to calming music as we drew a picture of something that helps us feel peaceful. What a great way to start the day!"*



STAFFING UPDATES A couple of weeks ago, we said a fond farewell to Miss Ismail. Mrs Iqbal is now supporting Mrs Harley in Crocodiles, and Mrs Bibi is supporting Miss Frisby in Flamingos. At the end of this half term, we will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Bloxham-Williams in her role as School Business Manager. We are grateful for all she has given to the school and wish her every success in her next chapter. We are currently in the process of appointing a new member of staff and will share an update with you as soon as this is confirmed.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 12th February

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Friday 13th February

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

Monday 23rd February

BACK TO SCHOOL

Tuesday 24th February &
Wednesday 25th February

Parent's Evening

Wednesday 4th March

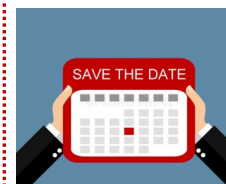
World Book Day (Bears, Crocs, Flamingos, Elephants: bring in a hat)

Friday 27th March

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

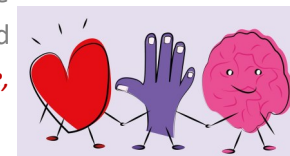
Monday 13th April

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'.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP Next half term, we are continuing our focus on *justice*. In Key Stage 1, children will explore this through a local community project. thinking about standing up for what is right, even when it is hard. In EYFS, Values for Life learning will continue to be embedded through our main school values (*love, friendship, compassion, respect*).



FOREST SCHOOL

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

Forest School sessions will continue after half term for Crocodiles and Flamingos. Please make sure your child has their Forest School clothing on their session day (every Tuesday) so they can enjoy all the activities comfortably and safely.

Wellington boots / walking boots*	Puddle Suit**	Jogging bottoms	Long sleeve top (base layer and jumper)	Waterproof coat (with hood)	Hat, scarf and gloves (during the colder months)
					

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 support, please speak to your child's class teacher.



READING BUDDIES

This half term, our Year 2 children have taken on the important role of Reading Buddies. They have been learning how to support younger children with their phonics skills, including how to listen carefully, encourage their buddies, and celebrate their successes. Their first sessions with Reception children from Bears were a huge success, with Year 2s showing patience, care, and kindness, and Reception children confidently sharing their reading and enjoying the experience. This exciting partnership will continue after the half term, helping to develop early reading skills and a love of reading across the school.



DERBY CITY SMILES: RECEPTION

After the half-term holidays, our Reception children will begin the **Smile 4 Life Programme**, promoting good oral hygiene through daily teeth brushing sessions at school. This programme helps children develop healthy habits and supports their overall dental care.

If you would like your child to take part, please ensure you have returned the **permission slip**. We are excited to get started and help our youngest children build healthy routines for life!



OUR LEARNING: WASTE BUSTERS!

This half term, Bears, Crocodiles, Flamingos and Elephants have started their new theme, *Waste Busters*, where they are exploring how we can look after our world.

The children have enjoyed learning all about materials in science, taking part in material hunts around the school and carrying out experiments, including investigating which materials would keep us dry in the rain. They have also been inspired by the artist Henri Matisse, creating their own colourful masterpieces. We will be continuing with this theme next half term and are looking forward to learning more about Wangari Maathai, as well as welcoming visits from Derby City Council to help us learn all about the wonderful world of recycling. Teachers share lots of photographs of the children's learning on Class Dojo, so please check your child's class page regularly to see what they have been up to.



EYFS COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Thank you to all parents who attended our EYFS workshop – we hope you found it useful! If you missed it, the presentation is now available on Class Dojo so you can catch up at any time. This half term, our EYFS children have been exploring our core school value of *love*. We began by focusing on how we can love ourselves, helping the children understand the importance of kindness, self-care, and recognising their own strengths. Alongside this, the children have been exploring the Bible story, *The Brave Lady*, which has supported their understanding of love, care, and courage. We will continue exploring *The Brave Lady* after the half term, using the story to help children think more deeply about how we show love to our friends and family. Please keep an eye out for home learning activities, as the children love sharing their photographs and celebrating their learning at home. Through this work, we continue to embed our school values of love, friendship, compassion, and respect, while supporting children to develop emotional literacy and self-regulation.



ATTENDANCE

Reporting Absences: If your child is unwell, please call the school office on 01332 345997 to let us know. It's really important we know why your child is not in school. If we can't get in touch, we may need to carry out a home visit as part of our safeguarding duties.

Pharmacy: For minor illnesses, Pharmacy First is a helpful option. Your local pharmacist can give advice and treatment without needing a hospital visit, while making sure your child gets the support they need.

More information can be found [here](#).

Thank you for helping your child attend school every day and arrive on time. Being at school from the start of the day is really important for your child's wellbeing – it helps them feel settled, safe, and ready to learn. We have noticed more children arriving after 9am. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school on time, please speak to the office or Mrs Sohanpal – we are here to help and support you.

NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE We currently have spaces available in our afternoon Nursery sessions for 2- and 3-year-olds. Our Nursery is a real home away from home, offering a calm, nurturing environment where children feel safe, valued, and confident to explore, play, and learn at their own pace. Our waiting list for September is now open, so if you have a child turning 2 or 3 and would like them to start Nursery, please complete an application form [here](#). Information about Nursery funding can be found [here](#), including how to check if you are eligible for 15 or 30 free hours. We are always happy to offer tours of our Nursery, so please contact the school office if you would like to come and see our wonderful setting in action.



KINGS AND QUEENS

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

Bears: Sumaiyah and Erik B

Crocodiles: Hashir and Fariya

Flamingos: Jotham and Sarah

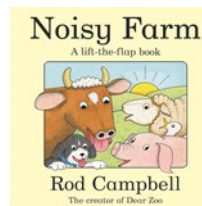
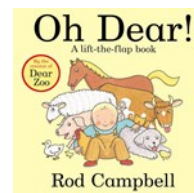
Elephants: M.Aahil and Zahra

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

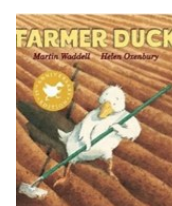


LOVE TO READ Here are the key texts for each class for next half-term:

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

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026 This week, our school joined others across the UK to celebrate Safer Internet Day, with the theme "Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI." The children learned how technology can help us and how to make safe choices when using it. We will be planning a parent workshop after half term to share simple tips for keeping children safe online at home. More information will be shared soon.

ECO CLUB Our Eco Club School Councillors have been working on a secret project with Brendan, which will form the basis of our Key Stage 1 collective workshop next half term. We don't want to reveal too much yet... but here's a little sneak peek! Can you guess the community issue we are hoping to explore and tackle?....



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.

