

Newsletter October 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic start to the new academic year! We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled in, especially our youngest in Nursery and Reception. Our amazing children, together with our dedicated and caring staff, make St Chad's such a special place to be. We hope you enjoy reflecting on some of our highlights from this past half-term, as well as staying informed with key updates about life at St Chad's. We would like to thank all parents and carers who attended Parent's Evening. These one-to-one conversations are invaluable in strengthening our home-school partnership. Wishing you all a safe and restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday, 3rd November.

Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

STAFFING UPDATES As we come to the end of this half term, we bid a fond farewell to Ms Kaur, who has been covering Miss Frisby's maternity leave. We would like to thank Ms Kaur for all her hard work and dedication during her time with us and wish her every happiness in her next adventure. We are delighted to welcome back Miss Frisby. It is lovely to have her in school again, and the children have enjoyed spending time with her in Flamingos class. She is looking forward to seeing parents on the gate after half term.

Last year we shared that we had appointed a HLTA for SEND, and we are thrilled to announce that Mrs Gilson was successful in securing this role. This half term we have also welcomed Mrs Matthews, our new Outdoor Learning Teaching Assistant. Looking ahead to next half term, we are excited to welcome Miss Ismail, who will be joining Crocodiles as their new Teaching Assistant, and Miss Lowe, who will be working in Hedgehogs.



FAMILY SUPPORT It has been wonderful having Mrs Bibi join our family support team. She has already started running parent classes for phonics, which are so important in supporting your child's progress. If there are any classes or workshops you would find helpful, please be sure to let Mrs Bibi know. She is available every day on the school gate.



THANK you We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all of the harvest donations that went to our food bank. Our food bank relies on the immense kindness of donations, and your support is incredibly appreciated.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 24th October

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 3rd November

BACK TO SCHOOL

Tuesday 4th November

HAF Parent Workshop

Monday 10th November

Flamingos and Elephants: Ow, Wow, Now Parent Session

Wednesday 19th November

School Photographs

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Friday 19th December

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 5th January

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, our value will be courage. We'll explore this through the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) and celebrate with our 'St Chad's Has Courage' Show. In Key Stage 1, children will also take part in our first parent-child meeting, sharing an "Ow, Wow!" moment from their learning. We'll continue embedding our emotional literacy work and nurturing learning behaviours—always grounded in our core values of love, friendship, compassion, and respect.



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

This half term, Bears and Elephants have loved their weekly Forest School sessions with Brendan—exploring nature, building skills, and learning through play. We're also thrilled to welcome St James Juniors, our local school, who now join us weekly for outdoor learning in a nurturing environment. These classes will keep enjoying sessions right through to Christmas.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF DDAT: Blessing of the DDAT Quilt

We had a fantastic time celebrating the DDAT 10-Year Anniversary at Derby Cathedral. For the first time, all schools across our MAT came together for this special occasion. Bishop Malcolm led a beautiful ceremony, and children from each school shared a heartfelt prayer inspired by DDAT's core values. The DDAT quilt was also blessed during the service. Our School Councillors proudly represented us, and several of our children were selected by the Cathedral Music Partnership programme to perform in the DDAT Choir. They were absolutely superb. It was a truly memorable celebration of unity and community.



KINGS AND QUEENS



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

Bears: Erick and Olivia
Crocodiles: Subhan and Amyrah
Flamingos: Michael and Hajira
Elephants: Abdul Basit and Karin

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

SCHOOL COUNCIL

A big well done to our Year 2 children serving on this year's School Council! They'll be working closely with senior leaders to help make St Chad's the best it can be, while living out our school values. They're already excited for their first visit to meet the residents at Middleton Lodge.



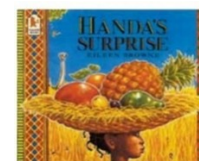
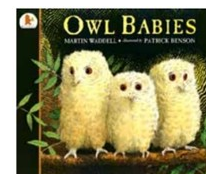
LOVE TO READ

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

Nursery



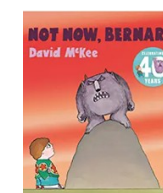
Reception



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

Our Learning: At the Farm

We have started our autumn term with an exciting topic, At the Farm. The children have been busy exploring all aspects of farm life through stories, role play and hands-on experiences. Children in Hedgehogs, Bears and Crocodiles were thrilled to meet some very special visitors, including a group of fluffy chicks and a mobile farm that came to school. Flamingos and Elephants enjoyed a wonderful trip to Bluebells Farm in Derby, where they saw farm animals up close and learned how they are cared for. These enrichment activities have really helped to bring the learning to life for our children, who have been able to apply their new knowledge back in the classroom through writing, art and imaginative play. We are looking forward to continuing our learning about life on the farm next half term.



ATTENDANCE

As we start a new school year, and welcome new families to St Chad’s, we wanted to begin the year with a few important attendance reminders. Good attendance is essential for your child’s learning, friendships, and wellbeing. At St Chad’s, we work closely with families to support every child in attending school regularly and on time.



St Chad’s CofE Nursery and Infant School



Key Information for Families: Attendance and the School Day



The school gate opens at **08:45am** for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two.



Please report any absences (including lateness) to the school office, on **01332 345997**, by 09:00am.



Absences are not reported on Class Dojo.



The school gate closes at **09:00am** for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two. *All children need to be in school by 09:00am.*



We ask that when possible medical appointments are made out of school hours, however if this is not possible please let the office know and share evidence of this appointment e.g. text, letter, appointment card.



The school gate opens at **3:15pm** for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two to be collected from school.



It is important that we have 2 emergency contacts for all children in school. Please ensure you share these with the school office.



Leave during term time: Holidays or other leave in term time **cannot be authorised**. Any unauthorised leave may result in a **Penalty Notice**, which could lead to a fine for each parent, per child. Our aim is to avoid this wherever possible.

We understand that sometimes families need a little extra help to get children to school regularly. We value home-school partnership here at St Chad’s. Our first goal is to always work with you to improve your child/ren attendance. We ask that you are open and honest with us about any challenges you may be experiencing so that we can support you or refer on so that you receive the support you need, when you need it.

NURSERY

We still have spaces available for 2 and 3 year olds in our wonderful Nursery. If you have a little one at home, we would love to invite you to come and take a look around. Our Nursery is truly a home away from home, providing an ocean of calm where children can learn, play, and grow with our skilled and caring staff.

Please spread the word to friends and family who may be looking for a nurturing and inspiring start to their child’s early education.



St Chad’s CofE Nursery and Infant School

FREE NURSERY PLACES FOR 2-4 YEAR OLDS*

*15 and 30hrs funding

TEACHER LED NURSERY

FOREST SCHOOL ON-SITE



Gordon Road, DE23 6WR
admin@stchads.derby.sch.uk





01332 345997



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](#).

