

Newsletter July 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a long and busy half-term, filled with sunshine, growth, special memories... and a few heatwaves! Across school, the children have taken part in 'Meet the Teacher' sessions and three days of transition to help them feel settled, confident and excited about the year ahead. These opportunities are invaluable in building relationships and ensuring every child feels ready for September.

We've enjoyed a wonderful end to the school year, with trips, performances and celebrations creating lasting memories for our children. Thank you for joining us at these events and for your continued support throughout the year—it means so much to both the children and our staff. As always, we would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful staff team for their dedication, care and commitment throughout the year. They have worked tirelessly to provide our children with so many opportunities to learn, grow and flourish, and we are incredibly grateful for everything they do each and every day.

School reopens on **Monday 7th September**, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting year of learning. Until then, we wish all of our families a happy, restful and sunny summer break. Thank you for your continued support.

Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 21st July

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Wednesday 22nd July

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET)

Thursday 23rd July

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET)

Friday 4th September

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET)

Monday 7th September

BACK TO SCHOOL

W/B 19th October

Parent's Evening

Friday 23rd October

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

*You can find more information about all of the wonderful things happening in school, on our **school website**.*

FOND FAREWELLS As we come to the end of another academic year, we say goodbye to three valued members of the St Chad's family. Mrs Butler leaves us after making a wonderful difference to our children and families in Reception. We are grateful for her dedication and kindness, and wish her every happiness and success. We also say goodbye to Codie in Nursery and Mr Cooper in the school office, who have both successfully completed their apprenticeships during their time at St Chad's. We congratulate them on this fantastic achievement and wish them every success in their future careers. They will be greatly missed, and we know their new schools are very fortunate to have them. We are delighted to share that we have appointed a new full-time School Business Manager and look forward to introducing them soon.

Goodbye!
& THANK YOU



in confidence, independence and resilience. It has been a privilege to be part of their journey. Thank you to our Year 2 families for your support over the years. We wish all of our Year 2 children every success in the future and know they will go on to achieve amazing things. Please do pop in and let us know how they are getting on—we always love to hear their news.

FAREWELL YEAR 2 As we write this newsletter, our Year 2 children are busy preparing for their Leavers' Celebration. While we are excited for the adventures that await them in September, they will be greatly missed. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved during their time at St Chad's, growing

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION (DfE) SCHOOL VISIT

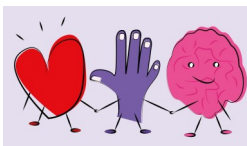
Last week, we were delighted to welcome two colleagues from the Department for Education, alongside the Deputy CEO of DDAT, as part of a visit exploring provision in small schools. They spent time visiting several DDAT schools throughout the day, and we were incredibly proud that St Chad's was recognised for the quality of its provision and practice. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the fantastic work taking place across our school and a reminder that, while we may be small, we are certainly mighty!



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

 Next half term:

In Key Stage 1, we will be focusing on the value 'community'. We will explore the Bible story of the Good Samaritan and think about the role we can play in helping others and living in harmony with one another. We will also continue to develop our understanding of the British Value of mutual respect. In EYFS, we will be focusing on our *Values for Life*, giving children opportunities to explore and deepen their understanding of their own emotions through Bible stories, carefully chosen storybooks and a range of engaging activities. These experiences will help children reflect on how they can show love, compassion and respect towards themselves and others.



DDAT ART EXHIBITION Mrs Harley and Mrs Iqbal enjoyed taking some children from Crocodiles to Derby University to take part in DDAT's Art Exhibition. This year's theme was 'Mini Masterpieces', with each school contributing a piece of artwork created on a post-it note. Mrs Harley chose the theme of minibeasts, and the children did a superb job talking to visitors about their artwork and sharing their ideas with confidence. The exhibition was open for the public to visit, and we are delighted that the artwork will now be permanently displayed at the university, creating a wonderful legacy for the project..



SPORTING SUCCESS

Our Year 1 children enjoyed taking part in a KS1 multi-sports competition at Bishop Lonsdale with other DDAT schools. They showed fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm and sportsmanship while proudly representing St Chad's. We have also enjoyed our annual whole-school Sports Day, celebrating participation, teamwork and determination. A big thank you to Miss Wright for organising both successful events and creating these wonderful opportunities for our children.



RELATIONAL PRACTICE: SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR OUR SCHOOL

We are delighted to share that St Chad's has been awarded the *Alex Timpson Attachment and Research Community (ARC) Award* for the East Midlands. This prestigious award recognises our whole-school commitment to creating an inclusive, relational and attachment-aware environment where every child feels safe, valued and supported to thrive.

Ms Leach attended the Inclusion Conference at Pride Park earlier this term, where she accepted the award on behalf of the school. We are incredibly proud of this achievement, which reflects the dedication, care and commitment of our entire staff team. As regional winners, we will now go forward to the national awards, and we look forward to sharing more about this exciting next stage in the new school year. A copy of the full award statement can be found on the back of this newsletter.



ETWALL ALPACAS TRIP Last week, Miss Gilsenan and our Year 2 Hedgehogs enjoyed a magical end-of-year trip to Etwall Alpacas to celebrate the end of their time at St Chad's. The children had a fantastic time feeding the alpacas, goats and donkeys, creating memories they will cherish for years to come. We would like to say a big thank you to our parents for joining us on the trip. We were also delighted to welcome a small group of children and staff from St James' Juniors. It was wonderful to see our partnership with the school continue to grow beyond our weekly Forest School sessions. We would also like to say a special thank you to Hardwick for helping to transport the children and staff.



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

This academic year, we introduced Knowledge Organisers to support children's learning both at school and at home. We will continue to use these next year, so we would really value your feedback. Please take a few moments to complete our short survey [here](#).

INCLUSIVE ATTENDANCE—BRONZE KITEMARK

We are delighted to share that St Chad's has achieved the *Inclusive Attendance Bronze Kitemark*. This year, we have continued to strengthen our approach to attendance, working closely with children, families and staff to ensure that every child is supported to attend regularly and thrive at school. We are proud of the progress we have made and the way our approach reflects our belief that relationships are at the heart of everything we do.

The Inclusive Attendance Kitemark celebrates our commitment to understanding barriers, listening to families and providing support where it is needed.

We will continue to build on this important work next year as we strive for further success.

Thank you to our children, families and staff for their continued support and partnership.



BISHOP'S BADGE AWARD WINNER!

We are incredibly proud of Seerat, who has been awarded this year's prestigious Bishop's Badge. Seerat is one of just 36 children across Derby and Derbyshire to receive this special award, which recognises generous faith, courageous hope and life-giving love. Seerat and her family were invited to a special service at Derby Cathedral, where Bishop Malcolm presented the awards. This is a wonderful achievement and a reflection of the kindness, compassion and values that Seerat shows each day. Well done, Seerat!



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we would like to remind families that every day counts. School reopens on **Monday 7th September**, and as outlined in our [Attendance Policy](#), any leave of absence taken on or after this date will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Our school gates open at **8:45am** and close at **9:00am**. Arriving after this time will result in your child receiving a late mark.

We understand that there can sometimes be challenges around attendance, and Mrs Sohanpal is always available to offer support, answer any questions or discuss any concerns you may have. Please do get in touch — we are here to work alongside families to support every child's attendance and success.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) sessions will begin again in September, supporting families who would like to develop their English skills. If you would like to join these sessions, please speak to Mrs Sohanpal or Mrs Bibi. We will also be continuing our partnership with the Pakistani Community Centre and Family Hub, including our walking bus (watch this space!). We are grateful for the opportunities this partnership provides for our families and wider community. We are always keen to hear from families about any sessions, workshops or support that you feel would be helpful to offer in school. Please do let us know — we are always happy to listen and work alongside you.

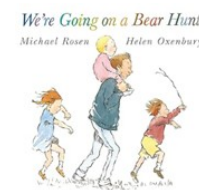


LOVE TO READ

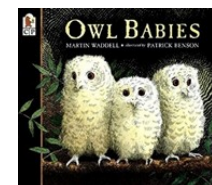
A huge thank you to Mrs Harley, who has worked incredibly hard this year to revamp our Reading Spine. We are excited that our collection now includes an even wider variety of wonderful books, including poetry and non-fiction, alongside our much-loved stories. We are looking forward to sharing these new additions with the children and continuing to develop a love of reading across our school.

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

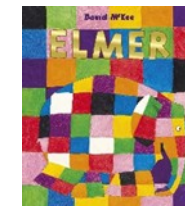
Nursery



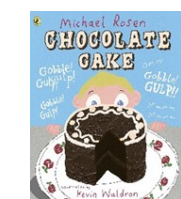
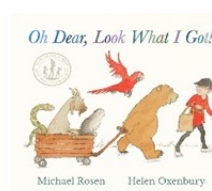
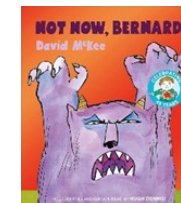
Reception



Year 1



Year 2



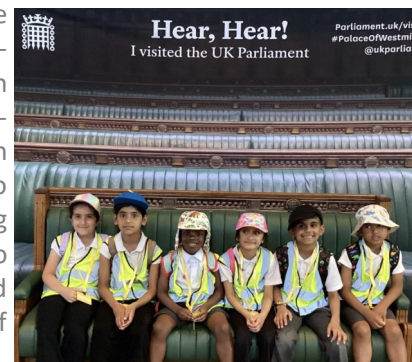
You may consider purchasing your child's year group book from Amazon/book stores so that you can enjoy it together at home or you could visit Normanton Library to loan a copy....completely free of charge!

Normanton Library

Address

St Augustine's Community Centre
Almond St
Derby
DE23 6LX

SCHOOL COUNCIL VISIT TO LONDON Following on from their very successful 'Stop the Drop' campaign, our school councillors enjoyed a memorable visit to London, where they toured the Houses of Parliament and learnt more about democracy. The children had the exciting opportunity to sit in the House of Commons, observe a live debate and share an update on their campaign work with MP Baggy Shanker. They also visited Buckingham Palace and Downing Street, bringing their learning about democracy and the constitution to life. The children represented St Chad's brilliantly and returned with wonderful memories and a stronger belief that their voices can make a difference.



KINGS AND QUEENS

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

- Bears:** Matias and Jasmine
- Crocodiles:** Michael and Fariya
- Flamingos:** Carla and Yusuf
- Elephants:** Elena and Martin

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



VOLUNTEER WITH US

We always welcome conversations with members of our school community who would like to find out more about volunteering and how they can get involved. There are many ways to support our children, including helping with reading, joining our Forest School sessions, supporting school trips or becoming part of our Local Trust Committee as a Parent Governor.

If this is something you are interested in, please speak to Mrs Sohanpal. We would love to hear from you!



ICE CREAM TREAT!

A huge thank you to Mrs Bibi for organising our end-of-year ice cream treat. The children thoroughly enjoyed their ice creams together on the field, making the most of some lovely moments with their friends as we celebrate the end of another school year.



TERM DATES 2026- 2027

Term dates and INSET days for 2026- 2027 can be found on our website [here](#).

SCHOOL TERM, HOLIDAY AND INSET DATES 2026-2027



Dear Parent / Carer,

Please find below Derby City school term and holiday dates for next academic year. Please also find our planned INSET days in the red box below.

Kind regards,

K Morley

Ms. K Leach and Mrs. K Morley
Co-Headteachers

INSET Days (school closed)

- Friday 4th September 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Friday 27th November 2026
- Monday 22nd February 2027
- Monday 26th July 2027



School Term and Holiday Dates 2026-2027

School Holiday
 Autumn Term
 Bank Holiday
 Spring Term
 Summer Term

September 2026 (19 days)							October 2026 (17 days)							November 2026 (21 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	30						1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
December 2026 (14 days)							January 2027 (20 days)							February 2027 (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
March 2027 (19 days)							April 2027 (15 days)							May 2027 (19 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	31					1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
June 2027 (18 days)							July 2027 (18 days)							August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	30	31					1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

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.



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

DDAT
Derby Diocesan Academy Trust



Any safeguarding concerns over the summer holidays 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.



Here is the full version of the statement that was shared at the Inclusion Conference at Derby Pride Park, where St Chad's was announced as the East Midlands regional winner of the Alex Timpson Attachment and Research Community (ARC) Award.

Today, we are celebrating a Derby setting for its highly inclusive culture. This school is a shining example of attachment-aware and trauma-informed practice in action. At its heart is a deeply embedded culture of nurture, belonging, and unconditional positive regard. Every single child here is known, valued, and understood as an individual, with relationships forming the absolute foundation for all learning.

Serving a richly diverse inner-city community, this school recognises that many children face significant social, emotional, and economic challenges. But they don't respond with deficit thinking. Instead, they respond with deep compassion, high expectations, and carefully structured support.

Staff are highly attuned to the children's emotional needs, using consistent routines and restorative conversations to help pupils feel safe and regulated. Their classrooms are calm, welcoming environments where children learn that their feelings matter, and that trusted adults will always help them make sense of difficult experiences.

What makes this setting truly remarkable is how their pastoral care is woven through daily practice, extending right out into the community to build trust with families. Their commitment to mental health means that vulnerable pupils aren't just supported—they are empowered to thrive.

This school lives out the principles of attachment and trauma-informed education with total authenticity and integrity. In fact, the Derby Virtual School Head Teacher noted that this school's relationship-based behaviour policy is quite simply the best example they have ever seen.

The impact of that dedication is written all over the pupils' confidence, resilience, and genuine joy in learning. They truly exemplify the spirit of the Alex Timpson Awards: transforming lives through relational practice, unwavering care, and a belief in every child's potential.

It is therefore my great pleasure to announce the Primary Winner for the Midlands Region... please welcome on stage representatives from St Chad's Nursery and Infant School!

As a regional winner, St Chad's is now officially shortlisted for the national awards, which will be presented at the ARC Annual Conference in Birmingham on November 16th. They are also invited to become an ARC Learning Hub. If they go on to win the national award, they will receive a development grant to further their incredible work and will be invited back to run a workshop at next year's conference.

