

Newsletter December 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy half-term, we want to thank you for your support throughout this special season. As a Church of England school, the celebration of Christmas is an important part of our year. It brings joy, togetherness, and many opportunities for the children to shine. It has been wonderful to share so many joyful events with the children and our wider school community over the last few weeks. We are very grateful to our staff for all their hard work in making these moments so memorable. Thank you also to you for your continued support.

We hope you enjoy browsing through this final newsletter of the term with a warm cuppa — and maybe a festive biscuit! We wish you all a peaceful and safe half-term, and for those celebrating, a Happy Christmas. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday, 5th January. Love Ms. Leach and Mrs. Morley x

ST CHAD'S HAS COURAGE We have been exploring the value of courage in Collective Worship. Using the Bible story of David and Goliath, we have been thinking about overcoming fears and finding our inner strength. Children in Elephants and Flamingos took part in the St Chad's Has Courage Talent Show, showcasing their talents and passions to their peers. Even Ms Leach, with the help of her mum, overcame her 40-year fear of bananas and showed great courage by eating a small piece. The children were fantastic in cheering her on with lots of "You can do it!"



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Our oldest children in Key Stage 1 took part in a special Remembrance service. Elephants and Flamingos made a poppy wreath, which we placed in our spirituality area on the field. We also took part in a minute's silence to remember the soldiers who died, and to give thanks for those who serve today to keep us safe. Some children wrote and shared their own prayers. The children showed respect and maturity throughout, and we are very proud of them.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 19th December

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 5th January

BACK TO SCHOOL

Friday 13th February

SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)

Friday 13th February

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 23rd February

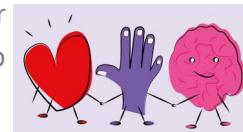
BACK TO SCHOOL

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'.



PLEASE NOTE: Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 24th February and Wednesday 25th February. More information will be shared soon, but for now please save the date.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP Next half term, our value will be **justice**. We will explore the Bible story of the *Unjust King* and think about standing up for what is right, even when it is hard. The children will also look at ways to make a positive difference in our local community. We will continue to embed our school values of *love, friendship, compassion, and respect*, while developing our regulation skills and learning behaviours to help us be happy, safe, confident and resilient.



FOREST SCHOOL

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

This half term, Bears and Elephants have continued their weekly Forest School sessions with Brendan. These sessions have now finished for these classes. Next half term, it will be the turn of Flamingos and Crocodiles, and teachers will share more details via Class Dojo. Forest School takes place in all weathers, so please make sure your child has the correct clothing to stay warm during the colder months.



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)

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF DDAT Our school councillors thoroughly enjoyed attending the DDAT 10th anniversary service at Derby Cathedral last half term and wanted to show their appreciation to those involved. Each councillor chose someone to thank and designed a special thank-you card. With the help of their parent, they visited the post office to send their cards, hoping to bring a little joy to the recipients. Here is a photo of Mrs Martin, headteacher of Firs Primary, with her card from Elena, thanking her for her hard work with the DDAT quilt. Mrs Martin said the card made her day!



PARENT:CHILD CELEBRATION We would like to say a big thank you to Elephants and Flamingos parents for joining our latest parent-child celebration. This time, the children shared an "ow" and "wow" moment from their Theme learning this term. Through the "ow, now, wow" framework, these sessions not only put children in the driving seat of their learning, giving them a chance to explore their feelings and reflect on their experiences with a parent, but also support our school improvement work on spirituality, helping them to slow down, pause, and think more deeply.



YEAR 2 EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS We would like to say a big thank you to Reverend Andy and his team at St Augustine's Church for hosting another successful Christmas Experience. Year 2 children enjoyed visiting the church, learning about the Christmas story, and exploring the importance of Christmas to Christians through a range of experiential and creative activities.



FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS

On Wednesday, children and staff sat down together to enjoy our annual Christmas Dinner. A special thank you goes to Mrs Lambert and our catering team for making the lunch so enjoyable. We were also treated to a surprise visit from none other



SCHOOL CHOIR VISIT MIDDLETON LODGE Our school choir had a wonderful time visiting Middleton Lodge. They performed to residents around the piano, with the help of Miss Linkens, our very talented pianist! The children spread festive joy by singing well-known Christmas songs, as well as other songs from their ever-growing repertoire. Residents joined in at the end, making it a truly special occasion. We are very grateful for our thriving partnership with Middleton Lodge and look forward to our next visit at Easter. A

huge thank you to Mrs Bibi and Miss Linkens for all their hard work with the singing club, which runs every Tuesday from 3-3:30pm.



St Nicholas Day: Parent: Child Craft Workshop As you know, home-school partnership is incredibly important to us. Following parent feedback, we were delighted to bring back our craft workshops this half term, starting with our St Nicholas Day Craft Afternoon. It was a real joy to see children and adults crafting, laughing, and singing together. It was wonderful to see families enjoying time together in such a creative and festive atmosphere.

As a Church of England school, we celebrate our Christian values and also value and celebrate all faiths, which we look forward to continuing to further celebrate through our craft sessions. A huge thank you to Mrs Bibi and Mrs Sohanpal for organising the event, to Rhian's parents for their support. We are excited to continue bringing back these craft workshops throughout the year and have already started planning our Eid al-Fitr Craft Workshop. We hope these sessions will continue to bring our school community together and give children and families the opportunity to enjoy celebrations throughout the year.



EYFS Collective Worship This term, our EYFS Collective Worship has focused on emotional literacy, inspired by the book *The Colour Monster*. The children have been learning to recognise, name, and understand their feelings. They have loved sharing their learning at home through our Class Dojo activities, which we celebrate together in collective worship. Next term, we will focus on the school value of **Love**. The children will explore how to show love to themselves and share this love with others. We will continue to embed our school values of love, friendship, compassion, and respect, while developing emotional literacy and regulation techniques. Look out for parent workshops to find out more about our *Colour Monster* work!



KINGS AND QUEENS



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

Bears: Musa and Lusi

Crocodiles: Hajira and Ayaz

Flamingos: Usman and Ariana

Elephants: Izaias and Betlihem

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

EYFS Nativity We were treated to a truly wonderful EYFS nativity this week. The children and staff have worked incredibly hard, and it was a beautiful and joyful morning for everyone involved. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to come and watch – your support means the world to your children.

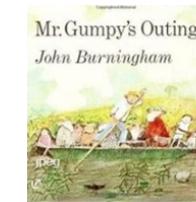


LOVE TO READ Here are the key texts for each class for next half-term:

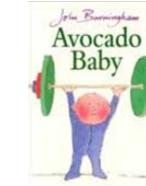
Nursery



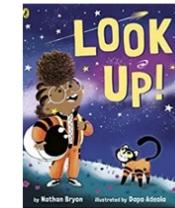
Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Normanton Library

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

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!

PARENT WORKSHOPS This year we are using "Knowledge Organisers." These are one-page guides that show what your child will learn across each theme in the foundation subjects, including key facts and important vocabulary. We will be hosting parent workshops to explain more at 9am Monday 12th January (Elephants and Flamingos) and Tuesday 13th January (Bears and Crocs). More details will follow.

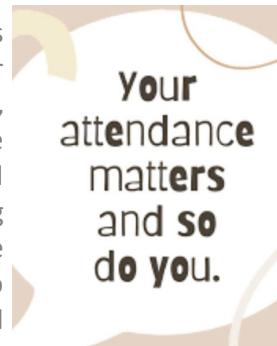
A copy of DDAT's latest newsletter can be found [here](#).



EYFS PARENT SURVEY We are delighted to share the results of our recent parent survey. 100% of parents agreed that their child has settled into school well, that the whole family has been made to feel welcome, and that children enjoy coming to school and feel happy and safe. In addition, 92% of parents said they know what their child is learning. The introduction of our knowledge organisers will support this, helping families to engage even more with their child's learning. We will continue to work closely with families to ensure every child feels supported, safe, and ready to learn as part of the St Chad's family.

ATTENDANCE

We are delighted to share that whole school attendance is improving compared to last year! This is thanks to all your hard work in bringing your children to school on time, whenever they are well enough to do so. While attendance is getting better, we know it is still not as high as we would like, and we appreciate your continued support in helping every child attend as regularly as possible. We truly value our home-school partnership and are always listening to your feedback so that we can continue to support you and your family.



As you know, Mrs Bibi has taken on a new role this year as Family Support Worker, working as a member of our Pastoral Team. She is here to support you in ensuring your child attends school regularly, and to provide guidance and help where needed. Mrs Bibi is available every morning on the school gate.

Leave of Absence

Please remember that leave of absence during term time should be avoided wherever possible and will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised leave may result in a penalty notice issued by the Local Authority.

The Derby City Penalty Notice Code of Conduct has recently changed: extended absences of more than 20 school days are now likely to result in prosecution rather than a penalty notice. We always take a supportive and inclusive approach with families, but we are required to report leave of absences to the Local Authority as part of our statutory duty.



Derby City Council

Seasonal Illness

We are now in the season of colds, coughs, and winter bugs. Please send your child to school whenever they are well enough and no longer have a temperature. For example, if they have been prescribed antibiotics, they can return once they are feeling better and well enough to take part in lessons — there is no need to wait until the course is finished. Attending school as soon as they are able helps your child keep up with their learning and be back with their friends.

NURSERY

Our nursery children have had a wonderful Autumn term full of learning and fun. Thank you to all our families for your generous donations towards our Harvest Festival. The children enjoyed celebrating it while learning about sharing, kindness and the meaning of harvest. The children explored the Autumn season through activities such as investigating pumpkins, painting in autumnal colours and observing the changing weather. We are very proud of all they have achieved. We also enjoyed a rhyme time session with Barbara from Normanton Library and a special visit from St John Ambulance, where the children learned about people who help us. Thank you for helping to make our Winter Wonderland so magical. Here are some precious memories from this term.



We are excited to share that we currently have spaces for 2- and 3-year-olds starting in January. We would love to welcome you and your child to come and visit us, see our wonderful setting, and find out more about all the fun and learning we have planned!

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.

