

Newsletter October 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a lovely first half-term we have had at St Chad's! It has been wonderful to see the children settling into their new classes. We are especially proud of our youngest children in Nursery and Reception, who have made such a positive start. For those of you who are new to our St Chad's family, our end-of-half-term newsletters are a chance to share a little snapshot of life at school, celebrate the children's learning and achievements, and reflect on some of the special moments that have made the past few weeks so memorable. We hope you enjoy reading about what we have been up to! As we head into the half-term break, we wish all our families a happy, safe and restful week. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, 2nd November. Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

STAFFING UPDATES As shared with you several weeks ago, Ms. Leach will be finishing her role as Co-headteacher at the end of next half-term. From January Mrs Morley will take on the role of Acting Headteacher and will be in school full-time. We are grateful for the continued support of our staff, governor and DDAT as we move onto this next chapter for St Chad's.

Our Senior Leadership team from January will be as follows:

- Mrs Morley: Headteacher and Key Stage 1 Lead
- Miss Gilsenan: SENDCo (Mon-Wed)
- Mrs Maciejewska: EYFS Lead
- Mr Jeffrey: School Business Manager

Mrs Claire Lightfoot will continue as our Chair of Governors, and we thank her for her ongoing support and commitment to our school community.

We are also delighted to share that Mrs Woolley will be joining our St Chad's family as our morning Nursery teacher. We look forward to welcoming her to the team and know that our children and families will help her feel at home!

SCHOOL COUNCIL Our School Council gives children a voice in school life, allowing them to share ideas, take on special responsibilities and contribute to our wider community. Each year, six children from Year 2 are elected as School Councillors, with a Year 1 child also having the opportunity to shadow the council and learn more about the role. As part of our learning about British Values, children in Elephants and Flamingos, alongside staff, have taken part in a school election to vote for this year's councillors. We are currently finalising the votes and look forward to sharing the results with you after the half-term break. Our new councillors will also receive their badges during a special collective worship!



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 22nd October	SCHOOL BREAKS-UP
Friday 23rd October	SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)
Monday 2nd November	<u>BACK TO SCHOOL</u>
Wednesday 18th November	School Photographs
Friday 27th November	SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)
Friday 18th December	SCHOOL BREAKS-UP
Monday 4th January	<u>BACK TO SCHOOL</u>

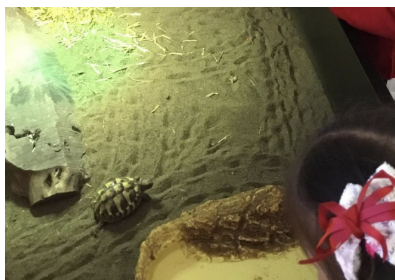
*You can find more information about all of the wonderful things happening in school, on our [school website](#). *Please note: Further details will follow for these events. For now, please 'save the date'.*

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

EYFS: Next half term, EYFS will continue learning about feelings and emotions through the Bible story of *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat*. We will develop children's understanding of self-regulation, exploring ways to manage big feelings and respond to others with kindness, care and understanding.

Key Stage 1: Next half term, we will continue our learning on the British Values. Our value will be thankfulness. Through Bible stories, including *The Jealous Brothers* (Genesis 37:1–35) and *The Man Who Tells the Truth* (John 9), we will explore what it means to be thankful and how our words and actions can show appreciation for others.

MEET FRANKLIN! We are thrilled to share that we have welcomed a very special new member to our St Chad's family this half-term... Franklin the tortoise! Franklin has settled beautifully into his new home in Cats, under the loving care of his owner, Mrs Maciejewska, and has already captured the hearts of everyone in EYFS. He is certainly proving to be a very popular little character! Next week, Franklin will be heading off on his first holiday, staying with Miss Gilsenan and her family. We look forward to hearing all about his adventures!



OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2026-27 We want every child to achieve their very best. Each year, we look carefully at what we do well and where we can make things even better. This year, as part of our school improvement work, we are focusing on three key areas:

- **Teaching and Learning:** Helping children build knowledge, develop their vocabulary and feel confident talking about what they have learnt.
- **Attendance and Inclusion:** Helping every child feel they belong, overcome barriers to learning and enjoy being part of school life. This includes developing *The Nest*, a dedicated space to support children's wellbeing and emotional regulation.
- **Achievement:** Building strong foundations in phonics, reading and maths, providing extra support where needed and working with families to encourage a love of reading at home.

Working together with our families, we want every child to feel valued, make progress and achieve their very best. We look forward to sharing our progress and celebrating the positive impact of this work with you throughout the academic year.

KINGS AND QUEENS

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

Bears: Mohamed B and Mahreen
Crocodiles: Musa and Miral
Flamingos: Hashir and Rajana
Elephants: Jotham and Aiesha

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



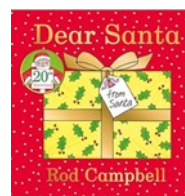
HARVEST FOOD BANK We would like to say a heartfelt thank you for supporting this year's Harvest food bank appeal. Your generous contributions will help us stock our school food bank, ensuring support is available for any families who may need it. If your family would benefit from support, please speak to Mrs Sohanpal. Food hampers can be provided discreetly and privately, with care and understanding. We are here for our families whenever support is needed.



LOVE TO READ

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

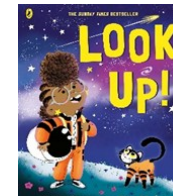
Nursery



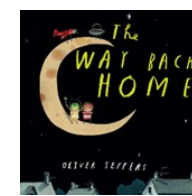
Reception



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

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS Next half term, we will continue our exciting theme, *Love Derby!*, Knowledge organisers have been sent home with all children. These can also be found on the [school website](#).

TOOTH FAIRY VISIT

Our EYFS children had a very special visit from the Tooth Fairy! She talked to the children about the importance of looking after their teeth and why brushing twice a day helps to keep their teeth healthy and strong. We learnt about the importance of good oral hygiene and how little habits can make a big difference to our smiles! If your child does not currently have access to a local dentist, please speak to Mrs Sohanpal on the school gate, who will be happy to help sign-post you to support.



WINTER UNIFORM As we head into the colder months, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm, hooded coat each day. Please also make sure that all coats, hats and gloves are clearly labelled with your child's name.



ATTENDANCE

We have seen some fantastic improvements in attendance across many of our children this half term, and we want to say a huge well done to all our families who are making sure their children are in school regularly! Every day in school matters, helping children to learn, build friendships and feel part of our St Chad's family. Thank you for your continued support.



Reporting absences: Please remember that all absences must be reported directly to the school office. If we have not heard from you, we have a responsibility to contact you to establish why your child is absent. This is an important part of our safeguarding procedures, as we need to know that every child is safe and well.

Punctuality: Although we have seen improvements in punctuality, we have noticed that a few more families have been arriving late over the last few weeks. Arrivals after 9:00am will receive a late mark. Starting the day on time helps children settle into their classroom routines and ensures they don't miss valuable learning.



Attendance Recognition Rewards: We have been delighted with the response to Mrs Sohanpal's new Attendance Recognition Rewards! The children have loved celebrating their achievements, and it has been wonderful to recognise the effort children and families are making to improve attendance. We look forward to celebrating even more children next half term!

As always, we know that every family's circumstances are different. If you are experiencing difficulties getting your child to school, please speak to the school office or catch Mrs Sohanpal on the gate on a Thursday or Friday. We are here to listen, work alongside you and help wherever we can, no matter how big or small the challenge may feel. Please don't hesitate to reach out – we are always happy to help!

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



NURSERY

We still have spaces available for 2 and 3 year olds in our morning sessions. 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](#).

