

Newsletter July 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well here we are at the end of the academic year—and what a wonderful one it has been! As always, the children continue to make our job incredibly rewarding. We are so proud of the milestones that they have achieved over the past year.

Following parent feedback, we have decided to keep our newsletter introductions short and sweet with more detail included within the sub-sections for you to scan and read at your leisure.

Please have a safe and relaxing summer break with your children and loved ones. For those of you returning in September 2024, we look forward to welcoming you back on **Thursday, 5th September**.

Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x



## FAREWELL YEAR 2

As we write this newsletter, our Year 2 children are working very hard to prepare for their Leaver's Celebration. This time of year is always bittersweet for us: we are excited for the new school adventures that our children will be starting in September but will miss them very much. Year 2 parents—we have loved sharing your child's educational journey with you. Please continue to pop in and say hello—we are always keen to hear about your child's achievements as they get older.



**END OF YEAR REPORTS** End of year reports have now been shared with all parents. If you have any questions about your child's report then please speak to your child's class teacher. We hope that you enjoy celebrating all of your child's wonderful achievements from this past year.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 19th July

**SCHOOL BREAKS-UP**

Monday 22nd July

**SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)**

Tuesday 23rd July

**SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)**

Wednesday 4th September

**SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)**

Thursday 5th September

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

Term dates for the new academic year (2024-2025), including *INSET* days, can be found [here](#).

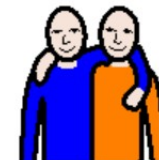
You can find more information about all of the wonderful things happening in school, on our *school website*.

Next year, in **Collective Worship**, we will be exploring the following values:

friendship

hope

respect



## TRANSITION WEEK

Thank you for helping to make the Derby City-wide transition days so successful. We hope that your child enjoyed spending time with their new class teacher and familiarising themselves with their new classroom environment (or school, as was the case for our Year 2 children). Hopefully, your child feels better prepared and excited for the new academic year.

## YEAR 2 CLEETHORPES

Year 2 had a wonderful time visiting Cleethorpes on Wednesday, 10th July to enhance their learning about beaches and the seaside. Our lovely coach driver, Colin, was very impressed with our children's excellent behaviour (especially when we got stuck in some annoying roadworks on the way back). The children enjoyed a yummy picnic on the park and then spending time on the beach playing on the sand. They hunted for beautiful shells to bring home—and Bianca found a tiny crab! The weather was very up and down in the run-up to the trip but the sun managed to come out when we had our ice-creams on the beach, which helped to make the trip 'extra special'. We would like to say thank you to all staff involved in planning and organising the trip and for helping to make it a huge success.



## STAFFING UPDATES

We bid Miss Amrat a fond farewell at the end of this academic year. Miss Amrat has been a long-serving member of our school and we wish her the very best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life. We also say goodbye to our Chair of Governors, Jason Coupland. We are so grateful for Jason's hard work and wish him well. In the new school year, Mr Cooper will be joining Mrs Lambert in the office and Miss McDougall will be joining the EYFS team. We also welcome Mr Parker to our SEND support team.

## SEASIDE EXTRAVAGANZA

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 had a fantastic time in school on Friday, 12th July taking part in our Seaside Extravaganza. Although it was a very rainy Friday, the weather did not stop us from having seaside fun! The children enjoyed a delicious ice cream; watched an 'Under the Sea' puppet show; played in the sand; and enjoyed some beach games. Unfortunately, it was too cold for paddling pools but we made up for this on Friday, 19th July (in the sunshine!). We all ended up very wet but the morning was full of laughter and fun. We would like to say thank you to all staff involved in planning the day and making it such a huge success. A special thank you to \_\_\_ (the ice cream van man) and Amy (puppet show extraordinaire).



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

It has been magical watching our youngest children in Cubs take part in our weekly Forest School sessions with Brendan this term. Our field has flourished so much under Brendan's care and expertise and we are delighted to share with you all that he will be continuing sessions with us next year (wahoo!). Miss Frisby has nearly finished her Forest School training and will work alongside Brendan to further enhance our outdoor learning. To support with the wellbeing work that we have been doing in school, we are hoping to develop an area on our field where children can have a moment of stillness and calm with nature (if they wish to do so). Children in Elephants and Flamingos have been sharing ideas to help design the space. We are already excited for the new school year ahead!





## SCHOOL CHOIR

This week, some residents and staff from Middleton Lodge Care Home visited school to watch our Singing Club perform. This was the first time that Singing Club have sang to an audience other than staff and children in school and they were MAGNIFICENT! There was not a dry eye in the building. Mrs Bibi and Miss Linkens continue to work so hard work in helping to raise the profile of singing in school. We all love Wednesdays so much as the entire building is filled with the beautiful sounds of children singing and Miss Linkens playing the piano. We loved welcoming Middleton Lodge resident into school and we are looking forward to hosting more joint events with them next year. We would also like to say a special thank you to our parent governor, Rachel Schmidt, for the delicious brownies that the residents enjoyed.



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## KINGS AND QUEENS

*Congratulations*



We are thrilled to announce that our Kings and Queens for this half-term are:

**Bears:** Anastasia and Abdul Rehman

**Crocodiles:** Khadijah and Samuel

**Flamingos:** Winter and Daniel

**Elephants:** Kristina and Frantisek

Thank you to all of the parents who attended to watch their children be crowned king or queen.



## ATTENDANCE: IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR 2024-2025

We have released information via Class Dojo regarding the Department for Education's attendance updates. Please take time to read this information as there have been substantial changes to penalty notices. We will be continuing to monitor attendance daily and communicating regularly with parents regarding your child's attendance. We are here to support you in ensuring your child has good attendance and punctuality. Mrs Morley and Mrs Sohanpal will be holding a parent workshop for attendance in September. More information can be found on our school [website](#).

## FOOD BANK UPDATE

We are making a some changes to the running of our food bank from September 2024. If you would like to access the food bank please complete a referral form (available form the school office) with a member of staff. All referral forms must be completed by a Thursday, ready to be processed on a Friday morning. Food will be distributed on a Friday Afternoon.

## NURSERY UPDATES 2 YEAR OLDS

We are delighted to finally share with you that the Department for Education have approved our Nursery expansion to include 2-year-olds. We will begin inductions for 2-year-olds on the waiting list when we return to school in September 2024.

In order to received a 'free' nursery place you require funding from the government. You may be eligible for this funding if your child is 2-years-old. If you are eligible you will receive a code. We can only accept children who have a funding code.

Check if you are eligible, and apply for a code here: [Help paying for childcare: Free education and childcare for 2-year-olds if you claim certain benefits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If you would like to join our St Chad's CofE Nursery, please complete this [form](#) to join our waiting list.



**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**



**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

As we begin to prepare for the new academic year, please can we remind you all of our school uniform policy.

**RECEPTION, YEAR 1, YEAR 2:**

**Day to day uniform:**

- Red formal school cardigan / jumper (school logo is optional)
  - White polo t-shirt / shirt / blouse
  - Grey / black formal school trousers / dress / skirt
  - Plain black formal school shoes
  - Plain white / black / grey socks
  - St Chad's book bag\*\*
- \*Logo jumpers/cardigans can be purchased from Uniform Direct (Babington Lane)
- \*\*Book bags can be purchased from Mrs Lambert in the school office

**Summer school uniform options:**

- red and white gingham summer dress / skirt
- grey/black formal school shorts

**Winter school uniform options:**

- plain back flat school ankle boots (knee high boots are not permitted)
- red or grey or black tights



**PE Uniform**

PE kits are to be worn to school on your child's allocated PE days. Allocated PE days will be shared with parents/carer via Class Dojo.

- Plain black hoodie with zip (no sport logo)
- Plain white crew-neck t-shirt (no sport logo)
- Plain black jogging bottoms or leggings (no sport logo)
- Black PE pumps OR plain black / white trainers (no sport logo)
- Plain white / black / grey socks (not multi-coloured)

**Summer PE kit option:**

- Plain black shorts (no sport logo)



- Children require a coat with a hood.
- Children are permitted to wear one pair of small stud earrings or huggie earrings (hoops and dangly earrings are not permitted). Jewelry must be removed at home on your child's allocated PE day.
- Hair accessories are to be kept to a minimum e.g. one hair band and one scrunchie. All hair accessories must be in the school colours.
- We encourage Velcro fastenings on all footwear. We request that children only wear footwear with laces and buckles if they can independently do up/undo.
- **Please ensure that you label every item of your child's clothing.**

**NURSERY UPDATES**

In order to support the increase to pupil numbers in our nursery, we have made several operational changes to the running of our Early Years Foundation Stage. A detailed letter has been sent to all children currently attending our Nursery.

**Start and End Times.**

- Morning session: 09:00am—12:00pm
- Afternoon session: 12:30pm—3:30pm
- 30-hour session (all day): 09:00am—3:30pm

**Dropping off your child.**

We kindly ask that;

- You wait at the Nursery sign on Gordon Road until the session starts
- A member of staff will come out to greet you
- You enter the main gate and escort your child to the classroom door to say goodbye

**Collecting your child.**

We kindly ask that;

- You wait at the Nursery sign on Gordon Road until the main gate opens
- A member of staff will come out to greet you
- You enter the main gate and collect your child from the classroom door
- If your child is in our afternoon session, and has a sibling in school they will all be dismissed at 3:30pm

**UPDATED UNIFORM**—All children must also bring a spare pair of clothes in their rucksack.



Black hoody



red/white plain t-shirt



black jogging bottoms/ leggings



plain trainers



small rucksack and water bottle

**PARENT SURVEYS** As a school, your opinions and feedback matter to us greatly. Thank you to those parents/carers that completed our latest questionnaire. Here are the results:

	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree
My child enjoys coming to school	67%	29%	4%	0%
My child feels safe at school	62%	29%	9%	0%
I feel welcomed by school staff	67%	33%	0%	0%
If I have a concern about my child, I know who I can talk to in school	62%	38%	0%	0%
When I have raised concerns with school they have been dealt with effectively	86%	14%- no concerns raised		
	yes	unsure	no	
The school creates a safe and welcoming environment for my child	95%	5%	0%	
The school supports my child’s emotional wellbeing	95%	5%	0%	
The school promotes positive behaviour	95%	5%	0%	
Communication between school and home is effective	86%	14%	0%	
I would recommend St Chad’s to other parents	95%	0%	5%	

Next year, we would love to gather more feedback on how we can further improve communication between school and home.

**PUPIL SURVEYS** We have also been gathering feedback from our children on how they feel about school, as well as gathering their views on some of the school improvement work that we have been focussing on this past year. Here are the results:

I enjoy school	95% agree
I feel safe in school	100% agree
I have friends in school	100% agree
Staff are kind to me	100% agree
I have time to play in school	100% agree
The Colour Monsters help me to talk about my feelings	95% agree
The Zones of Regulation help me to understand how I am feeling	100% agree
I know who to talk to in school if I am feeling worried	95% agree
I have time and space to ‘check in’ with my feelings	95% agree

We were delighted to see that 95% of children said that they have enjoyed Forest School (with many sharing that they loved toasting marshmallows on the fire). Next year, we would like to further support our children’s wellbeing through regulation resources throughout school.