

Newsletter February 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we end a busy half-term, we are so proud of our children and all they have achieved. Their enthusiasm and kindness make our school a special place. We would like to thank all parents and carers who attended Parent's Evening. These 1:1 conversations are invaluable in strengthening our home-school partnership. We truly appreciate your support. We wish you a safe and enjoyable half-term. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Monday, 24th February**.

Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 13th February

**SCHOOL BREAKS-UP**

Friday 14th February

**SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)**

Monday 24th February

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

Friday 4th April

**SCHOOL BREAKS-UP**

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

#### A NEW ARRIVAL FOR MISS FRISBY

We are overjoyed to share the wonderful news that Miss Frisby and her partner, Josh, have welcomed their beautiful baby girl, Rosie! We are sending all our love to their new family of three.



**NURSERY** We still have spaces available in our **3-year-old provision**. If you are interested in a place for your child, please speak to a member of staff—we'd love to welcome you to our nursery!

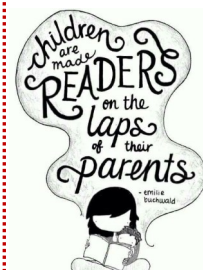
Our **2-year-old provision** is currently full, but we do have a waiting list. If you would like to add your child's name, please let us know.

Alternatively, you can complete the forms [here](#).

**HOME READING** As you know, reading at home is incredibly important. It helps to develop fluency, comprehension, and a love of books. Regular reading strengthens vocabulary, builds confidence, and supports your child's progress in all areas of learning. We ask that children read at home every day and **share a short video (no longer than one minute) on Class Dojo each Thursday**. A



huge thank you to those parents who are already doing this—we have seen some truly wonderful reading and thoughtful questioning! Please re-



member to upload your child's reading video each week. Your support makes a real difference and nurtures a love of reading that will benefit them for years to come.

In **Collective Worship** after half-term, we will be exploring the value *hope*.

Through the story of Noah's Ark (Genesis 16), we will reflect on how hope can guide us through challenges and bring new beginnings. We will also learn about Captain Tom Moore, whose incredible determination and kindness inspired hope in so many during the pandemic.



We are also deepening our focus on spirituality, creating more opportunities for children to reflect using the Ow, Now, Wow concepts:

- **WOWs** – Awe and wonder moments, to pause and cherish
- **OWs** – Life's challenges that test us.
- **NOWs** – Everyday moments, being present

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

This half-term, Bears and Flamingos have loved their weekly Forest School sessions with Brendan—exploring, working together, and learning new skills. Bears have now finished for the year, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they embraced new challenges and enjoyed time in nature. Flamingos will continue their Forest School journey after the break.



After half-term, some children from our Snug provision will begin their sessions, giving them new opportunities to explore, play, and build confidence in a natural setting. We're also excited to welcome St James Juniors to our Forest School site as part of our commitment to supporting the wider community.



**ONLINE SAFETY** This half-term, we celebrated Safer Internet Day 2025 with the theme *'Too Good to Be True? Protecting Yourself and Others from Scams Online.'* Children have been learning how to stay safe online and the importance of *'Stop, Close, and Report'* when encountering anything suspicious on their devices. We encourage you to stay vigilant about what your child is accessing at home and to have regular conversations about the dangers of pop-ups and online scams. If you need any support, please speak to Miss Wright, our Computing Lead.

## LONDON'S BURNING

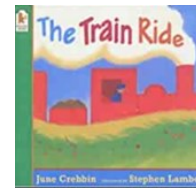
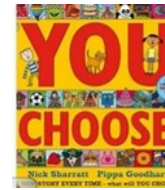
This half term, we have launched our theme 'London's Burning' across the school. In History, Key Stage 1 is focusing on the Great Fire of London, while EYFS is exploring 'People Who Help Us'. The children are thoroughly enjoying their learning and engaging in a range of exciting activities. As part of their creative work, they have explored the art of William Morris, drawing inspiration to create their own masterpieces. In Science, we are becoming keen gardeners and learning all about plants and how to care for them. We look forward to another busy half term filled with rich learning experiences!



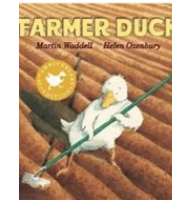
## LOVE TO READ

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

## EYFS LIBRARY VIST—BUILDING A LOVE OF READING!

We are proud that every child who starts with us in the Early Years has the opportunity to open a library card, giving them access to a world of wonderful books. This half term, Mrs. Sohanpal has organised two fantastic trips to the library. Bears class enjoyed a whole-class visit, where they listened to a story and explored the brilliant selection of books available. Some children from Bears and Crocodiles classes walked to the library with their parents to choose and borrow a new book. Mrs. Sohanpal will be running these trips throughout the year, so look out for upcoming dates. We'd love to see even more parents joining us—it's a great way to support your child's reading journey!



**SCHOOL COUNCIL** Our School Council has led a school vote this half-term to name a new reflective space on our field—a calm and safe area for children to pause and enjoy a ‘now’ moment. This space will be marked by a large Stickman, which children will build in future Forest School sessions. As part of our learning about democracy and truthfulness in Collective Worship, we have explored fairness and honesty in decision-making. We’re delighted to share that the winning name, chosen by children in Flamingos and Elephants, staff, and some parents during Parent’s Evening, is Woody!



### KINGS AND QUEENS

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



**Bears:** Ariana and Nasser

**Crocodiles:** Sarah and Filip

**Flamingos:** Melissa and M.Aahil

**Elephants:** Nikola and Ismail

### FOOD BANK CHANGES

After half term, we are making changes to how families access our food bank. Instead of distributing weekly food parcels, we will now provide half-termly parcels, which will be given out during the first week back after each half term. These parcels will include a range of essential items.



**If you would like to receive a half-termly food parcel, please contact Mrs Sohanpal to make the necessary arrangements.**

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure that every item of school uniform is clearly labelled with your child's full name, including book bags and water bottles. This helps us return any lost items quickly. Permanent marker pens work well, as they do not wash off easily.



All children must have a **St Chad's book bag**, which can be purchased from the school office for £6. Please bring the correct amount, as we are not always able to give change. **Book bags are important because children bring home their reading books every day.** Please do not put water bottles inside book bags, as they can leak and damage the books.

### ATTENDANCE

*Further information can be found on our school [website](#).*



Please remember to report any absences via the school office on 01332 345997. Teachers are busy preparing for the day in the morning and may not see messages sent via Class Dojo.

Whenever possible, please arrange medical appointments—such as dentist visits—outside of school hours or at the start or end of the school day to minimise disruption to your child’s school day.



We are noticing an increasing number of children arriving late to school. Arriving on time is really important as it allows your child to calmly settle into the day’s routine, take part in morning activities, and build strong relationships with their peers. If you require any support with punctuality, please do let us know.

Just a reminder that Mrs Sohanpal’s working days are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. If you need to speak to her and it is not urgent, please leave a message with the school office. Alternatively, any member of the pastoral team will be happy to help.



*If you have any safeguarding concerns during the holiday period, these can be reported via our safeguarding email: [safeguarding@stchads.derby.sch.uk](mailto: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](#).*