

Newsletter February 2024



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Wow, what a short but bustling half-term we have had! Spring term is where we start to see our children grow so much in confidence, both inside and outside of the classroom. We are particularly proud of our 'Forever St Chad's' children who continue to be excellent role models to our younger children, as well as to new children joining our school family outside of the normal admissions window. Our updated school rules, *Safe, Ready, Love*, are now very well embedded in school and visitors continue to comment on our welcoming, calm and homely school environment.

We do hope that you enjoyed spending time with your child's class teacher this week to discuss and celebrate your child's learning during our second parent's evening of the year. With the Wednesday meeting falling on Valentine's Day (a first at the 'little love school!'), we would like to say an extra special thank you for attending and for your ongoing support.

We always try and share as much with you all on Class Dojo and we are adding more events to our main school calendar on our [website](#) so please do continue to regularly 'check in' on both platforms. We will be giving our website some TLC over the coming months ahead so if there is anything under the '[parent tab](#)' that you would like us to add then please do let us know.

With the early signs of Spring starting to show, we begin to look forward to brighter days ahead (wahoo!). We wish you a relaxing half-term with your loved ones and we look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Monday, 26th February**.

With love,

Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 16th February

SCHOOL CLOSED- INSET DAY

Monday 26th February

BACK TO SCHOOL- SCHOOL REOPENS

Wednesday 28th February

Flamingos and Elephants Forest School starts

Monday 18th March

Year 2 Easter Experience

Thursday 28th March

SCHOOL BREAKS UP

You can find more information about all of the wonderful things happening in school, on our [school website](#).

GATE PROCEDURES

Thank you for your support with our gate procedures, both at the start and end of the school day. It is really important that parents say goodbye to their child at the metal signs, and do not walk up to or, through the gate. This allows us to keep the gate clear for all children to walk through. At the end of the day please remember to stand against the railings/ wall, so that children do not need to walk near the road to reach their parent/carer.



STAFFING UPDATES

welcome
TO THE FAMILY

We are thrilled to welcome Miss Martinez and Mrs Saleem to our school family. Miss Martinez will be based in our Nursery, and welcoming some of our new starters very soon! Mrs Saleem has joined our lunchtime team, as a Lunchtime Supervisor.

Next half-term, in **Collective Worship**, we will be exploring the value:



service

We are looking forward to launching our 'Friends with Middleton Lodge' project. More details are to come....



KINGS AND QUEENS



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

- **Bears:** Seerat and Musa
- **Crocodiles:** Fatima and Fabricio
- **Flamingos:** Sara and Hasnain
- **Elephants:** Hela and Benjamin

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

EMOTIONAL LITERACY WORK

Our school improvement work to better support our children's emotional health is starting to become really well embedded in school. Mrs Gilsean and Mrs Kay have been working so hard to make improvements to our Rainbow Room to help provide a safe and nurturing place in school for our Nurture work. Miss Gilsean and Ms Leach have LOVED trialling their parent workshops on understanding children's and are looking forward to rolling these out to more families in the near future. Thank you to Lexi's mum, Arielle and Solomon's mum, Luka, Anya and Maja's mum, Maryam and Aisha's mum and Winter's mum for taking part in the sessions. Our younger children in Cubs, Bears and Crocodiles have been starting to get to know the colour monsters really well. Research tells us that if children can label their emotions then they can better manage them. Here are our Colour Monster friends:



KEEPING FIT!

This half term children have enjoyed Ball Games on a Thursday with Mr Mace, and Street Dance on a Friday with Mr Watson. The children have loved learning new moves and working together as a team.



Our After-School Sports Clubs are incredibly popular. Next half term, Thursday after-school club will be Team Games and Friday after-school club will be Dodgeball. If your child would like to join, please speak to Miss Wright on the gate.



NURSERY UPDATES

NURSERY



We have limited spaces for 3-year-olds to join us from April 2024. If you, or somebody you know, would like their child to join our growing Nursery please contact 01332 345997.

We are awaiting approval for our 2-year-olds to start from the Department for Education. If your child is 2, and you would like them to start with us you require a funding code from the Local Authority. More information about this, and whether you are eligible, can be found **here**. If you require support with this please let the school office know, and we will be happy to help.

Our waiting list is open all year round so if you would like to secure a space for your child from September, please do let us know.

Mrs Morley would be happy to give any parent/carer considering our Nursery a tour.

E-SAFETY WORKSHOP



Safer Internet Day 2024 was all about:

Inspiring Change; Making a Difference; Managing Influence; and Navigating Change Online.

Thank you to all of the parents who participated in our Safer Internet Day workshop! Your engagement made it a great success. Together, we explored essential strategies for promoting online safety and ensuring a secure digital environment for our children.

If you have any questions regarding internet safety, please do speak to Miss Wright or your child's teacher.

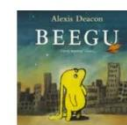
Key Texts: Here are the key texts for each class for next half term. You can buy these books from Amazon, but they are also available at the local library.



Nursery



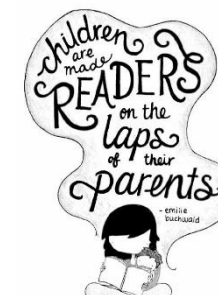
Reception



Year One



Year Two



Rule Britannia!

This half term we have started our new theme 'Rule Britannia'. We started the theme with a wonderful dress-up day. It was wonderful to see the children come into school dressed up in character. We were blown away by the effort families made.

The children have enjoyed learning all about life inside a castle; the role of a knight; and who may live in the castle gardens. Our EYFS have cared for their new stick insects, and we already seen some eggs hatch!

The 'History Van' spent the day in school to help immerse Flamingos and Elephants into the past. They were able to hold so many incredible artefacts and take part in workshops to help 'bring to life' their learning on castles.



'Nurture through Nature' Updates

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

Children (and staff!) in Bears and Crocodiles have had another superb half-term accessing Forest School. They have really enjoyed helping Brendan with some of our field development work, including the creation of our willow arches. Our Forest School is now sectioned off fully with the installation of our fencing and we have a brand-new path that helps 'lead the way' towards Forest School adventure and magic. The seated area to help accommodate our firepit is also coming along nicely. Mrs Morley has had some planning meetings with Down to Earth on the development of our EYFS playground to better support our outdoor learning curriculum. What an exciting time in school for us all!



BART GEE- ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!

It was an absolute honour for us to meet the motivational speaker, Bart Gee. Bart was born with a rare physical disability called Arthrogryposis. His family were told by doctors that he may never be able to sit up or walk and that he would have a bleak outlook on life. Bart went on to prove everybody wrong and he continues to lead an extraordinary life, including learning to play the piano and taking part in open swim races and triathlons! His message to Flamingos and Elephants was truly inspirational: sometimes things are hard but anything is possible!



ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE UPDATES



LEAVE OF ABSENCE

We have noticed an increasing number of families requesting a Leave of Absence from school. Requests for leave will not be granted for holidays, or if a pupil's authorised absence record is already above 10% for any reason. We have to report any Leave of Absence to the Local Authority, who issue fines to all relatives that live in the child's home.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least 2 weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the school office. The school may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

For more information, our attendance police can be found [here](#).

UNIFORM REMINDERS

All children participate in PE lessons and **must wear their PE kit to school on their allocated PE days.**

Thursday: Bears and Flamingos
Friday: Crocodiles and Elephants



If your child has their ears pierced, please ensure that earrings are removed at home on their allocated PE day.

DON'T FORGET!