

Newsletter December 2023



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Well we have finally made it to the end of a very long – but magical – half term. After seven weeks (!) of play, adventure and learning, the children are certainly ready for some well-deserved rest. As a Church of England school, the run-up to Christmas is always a busy but very important time of year, with lots of whole school events taking place, in addition to our normal teaching and learning. As always, none of this would be possible without our hard-working staff, volunteers, governors and wider members of our DDAT family. We are so grateful to each and every one of them. 😊

It has been another action-packed calendar with even more parent workshops, classes and sessions taking place in school, and Mrs Bibi's after-school clubs are proving to be a 'big hit' with our children. With so much going on, it is no longer possible for staff to recall dates/timings on the gate so please remember to 'check-in as much as possible on Class Dojo. Our school calendar on our website is also a great place to stay 'up-to-date.

Teachers have just completed Assessment Fortnight and we are so proud of the progress that the children are making. We look forward to sharing with you your child's progress at our next Parent's Evening on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February.

We wish you a safe and relaxing half term and we sincerely hope that you get to enjoy treasured family time with your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.**

For those of you celebrating.... Merry Christmas!  
We wish you a healthy and happy New Year.

With love,

Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x



#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

#### SCHOOL BREAKS UP

#### BACK TO SCHOOL- SCHOOL REOPENS

Bears and Crocodiles Forest School re-starts

EYFS Home Reading Parent Workshop

'Rule Britannia' Dress-Up Day

Elephants and Flamingos: 'The History Van'

#### SCHOOL BREAKS UP

#### SCHOOL CLOSED- INSET DAY

#### ESOL CLASSES

Our ESOL classes are every Wednesday morning from 09:00am until 11:00am. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn English. We are very excited to announce that this term we are able to run a creche for the duration of the class, in school. We hope this allows even more parents to attend. If this is something you would be interested in, please speak to Mrs Sohanpal.

#### STAFFING UPDATES

In addition to saying goodbye to Miss Khilat (which we did a few weeks ago), at the end of this week we also bid a fond farewell to our wonderful cleaner, Sue. Although Sue is not employed directly through us, she has been an integral member of our school family and we will miss her very much.

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



trust



service

## KINGS AND QUEENS



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

- **Bears:** Dominik and Zahra
- **Crocodiles:** Agata and Santiago
- **Flamingos:** Umar and Nikola
- **Elephants:** Adrian and Abeera

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

## EYFS CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

### 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel'

Thank you SO much to all of the parents who attended our EYFS nativity this year. We are all so very proud of our children's performances.

We would also like to thank our Early Years staff for working tirelessly to prepare for the show, and supporting our children with their lines, songs and acting. Well done to everybody involved in putting on such a heart-warming performance.

Brother Alasdair (one of our school governors) also came to watch the nativity. He was VERY impressed and said it was an amazing performance!



## RHYME TIME SESSION

Thank you to all of Bears and Crocodiles parents who attended our 'Rhyme Time Session' with Normanton Library. It was truly amazing to see all of our children open library cards, and engage in the wonderful world of books and stories.

Remember you need to return your library book to a local library. Now your child has a library card you are able to take TEN more home to borrow! An amazing free resource. Look out for dates in the new year for parents and children to visit the library with Mrs Sohanpal 😊



## YEAR 2 CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

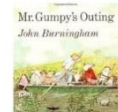
Year 2 children had a wonderful trip to St Augustine's for Experience Christmas with Brother Alasdair. They were shown each part of the Christmas story and taught about why Christmas is important to Christian people. Our children had the chance to act out parts of the story, write special cards to give peace and learn about Advent.



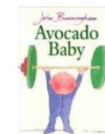
**Key Texts:** Here are the key texts for each class for next half term. You can buy these books from Amazon, but they are also available at the local library.



Nursery



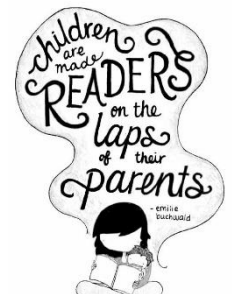
Reception



Year One



Year Two



## NURSERY UPDATES

We are so proud of our Nursery here at St Chad's, and so excited to be able to welcome 2-year-olds into our school in 2024.

At the time of writing this we are putting plans in place to prepare our 2-year-old provision. We will be beginning to induct the children on our waiting list when we return to school in January.

If your child is on our waiting list we would like to thank you for your patience, and we will be in touch very soon 😊

If you have a 2-year-old or 3-year-old and are looking for a Nursery place for them, please contact our school office for more information.





## LOVE DERBY!

This half term we have completed our theme, Love Derby! Across school there have been many trips out into the local community, and we couldn't do this without the support of parent volunteers so thank you. This half term our Elephants and Flamingos have visited the statue of Florence Nightingale and St Peter's Church. Our Bears and Crocodiles have signed up for their library cards. Crocodiles visited the supermarket, bought the ingredients for pizzas and then came back to school to make (and eat) them! It has been a wonderful theme with SO much learning about the local area taking place. Next half term we will begin our new theme, 'Rule Britannia!'.



## FOREST SCHOOL

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

It has been an incredible first half term of Forest School sessions here at St Chad's. Bears and Crocodiles have had a wonderful time this half term taking part in weekly Forest School sessions with Brendan. They have learnt so many new skills and adore their Wednesday mornings outside. Next half term, Bears and Crocodiles will be continuing their Forest School journey. Thank you so much to all parents who have provided the correct clothing for these sessions. Children will need to continue to wear the correct items every Wednesday.



## WINTER CRAFT SESSIONS

Our 'Winter Craft Sessions' were once again a huge success. Thank you SO much to all those who attended. The children love spending this special time with you, and the feedback we have received has been great.



Look out for our Spring Craft Sessions at the end of next term 😊

## PROGRESSIVE SPORTS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

This half term we have had two after school clubs running with Progressive Sports:

- Multi Sports with Mr Mace
- Gymnastics with Mr Watson

All children taking part have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Next half term we have two new clubs: 'Street Dance' and 'Ball Games'.



## UNIFORM REMINDERS

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 require a St Chad's book bag. **Please ensure that these are brought into school every single day.** You can purchase these from the school office or Uniform Direct on Babington Lane.



Without a book bag child are not able to bring home a reading book. Keeping the book inside the book bag to and from school ensures it stays safe and well looked after. **If a book is lost or damaged it is £8 to replace.**

**FIELD DEVELOPMENT**  
**Nurture through Nature**

Now that we have finalised our plans, we hope that the next stage of our field development work will commence next term. With the ongoing support of *Down to Earth* and Brendan, we look forward to sectioning off our Forest School area and further enhancing it with the addition of a seated firepit area, a pond and a canopy. You may have already noticed some new structures beginning to take shape using willow, that the children in Bears and Crocodiles have been involved in. We also have some exciting plans in the pipeline to help improve our EYFS playground, which in turn will help to improve our outdoor learning curriculum. We look forward to sharing more details with you as they develop in 2024!

**EMOTIONAL LITERACY WORK**

Our school improvement work to better support our children’s mental health and wellbeing is well underway and you may have heard your child mention some new ‘friends’ that they have recently made: the *Colour Monsters*. Emotional literacy is the ability to understand, express and cope with emotions. The Colour Monsters are used throughout school to help us to teach, label and understand basic emotions from a young age: *happy, sad, angry, afraid, calm, loved*.



If your child is in Elephants and Flamingos, you may have heard them talk about *Gary the Guard Dog* and *Olive the Owl*. These characters are being used to help teach children about how our brains work and how the brain relates to our emotions. We have started to explore healthy ways to help us ‘regulate’ our emotions, for example, deep-breathing, movement and listening to music to restore calm. Our older children have been ‘coaching’ their brain over the Christmas period, spending time each day to practise positive self-talk. In the New Year, Ms. Leach and Miss Gilsenan will be launching a series of parent workshops on understanding children’s behaviour.



**Attendance: Every Day Counts**

Mrs Morley, Mrs Sohanpal and Mrs Lambert monitor punctuality the same way we monitor attendance.

Please be aware that lateness impacts your child’s attendance. As you know our school target is 96%. If your child is late this does make their percentage go down, even if they complete part of the school day. **Punctuality is extremely important.**

The school gate opens **at 08:45am.**



The school gate stays open **until 09:00am.**



If your child arrives at school **after 09:00am** they are recorded as late. We have to record how many minutes late.

**Being late impacts your child’s learning.** For example, if they are 5 minutes late on 4 occasions they have missed 20 minutes of school. This is equivalent to a phonics lesson. Learning starts in school every day at 09:00am.



**Warm Welcome Hubs in Derby**

You can find more information about local warm welcome hubs [here](#), or call 01332 346266 to speak to somebody from Derby City Council.

**Warm Welcome Hubs will:**

- Provide a warm welcome to those in need of a warm space
- Provide a hot drink and a meal
- Distribute energy vouchers
- Assist with online applications
- Assist with support – signposting to other organisations
- Provide health and well-being support

