

Newsletter March 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well here we find ourselves again at the end of another half-term. With how Easter has fallen this year, it has been a very short half-term, but as always, we have managed to plan in lots of wonderful learning opportunities for our children. We have recently completed assessment fortnight and we are so proud of the progress that the children are continuing to make, both academically and in their personal development.

With the summer term on the horizon, we are now gearing up for busy assessment period. Year 2 SATs will be taking place in May and the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check in June. Although the SATs are now optional, like all schools in our MAT, we will be carrying out the assessments as we have always done in previous years (though we will no longer be sharing results with the Department for Education, nor will we have results published). As we begin to enter the warmer months, please can we remind all families to plan holidays around school breaks: we will not authorise any Leave of Absence for a holiday during term time. We know that traveling during non-term time is a lot less expensive but every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. If you have any attendance questions or concerns then please speak to Mrs Lambert (our schools Attendance Officer) or Mrs Morley (our school's designated leader for Attendance).

We would like to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing break with your loved ones. Hopefully the sun will soon be here for us all to enjoy! For those celebrating: Happy Easter! We also send our best wishes to those families taking part in Ramadan.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday, 15th April**. Please can we remind you all that school is closed on Thursday, 2nd May, for polling day and Monday, 6th May, for Bank Holiday.

Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 28th March	<u>SCHOOL BREAKS-UP</u>
Monday 15th April	<u>SCHOOL RE-OPENS</u>
Thursday 2nd May	<u>SCHOOL CLOSED (Polling Day)</u>
Monday 6th May	<u>SCHOOL CLOSED (Bank Holiday)</u>
Friday 24th May	<u>SCHOOL BREAKS-UP</u>
Monday 3rd June	<u>SCHOOL RE-OPENS</u>

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

FOOD BANK

We are delighted that we have been able to set up our own food bank thanks to a very kind donation. If you wish to access our food bank, please contact Mrs Sohanpal via ClassDojo or on the school gate to arrange a convenient time for collection.



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



PARKING

Please can we remind parents /carers that drive to/from school that there is restricted parking in operation outside of school in the morning (8:15am-9:15am) and in the afternoon (3pm-4pm). Please ensure that the ENTIRE yellow 'zig-zag' area is free from parking.

Please can we also remind parents not to stop their car in the middle of the road (by the railings) and wait inside the car whilst their child gets out as this is very dangerous. We kindly ask that all parents/carers safely park up in a safe space and escort their child to the main gate.

Like most schools up and down the country, unfortunately, parking outside of school is a challenge. This is why we open our gate for 15 minutes to help with a staggered drop off system. We encourage families to walk to/from school wherever possible. More parking is available alongside Provident Street and Howard Street (with a short walk up to Gordon Road). We thank everybody for helping to keep put entire school community, as well as local residents, safe.



YEAR 2: EASTER EXPERIENCE AT ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

Our Year 2 children had a wonderful time visiting St Augustine's Church for our annual 'Easter Experience'. They had the opportunity to explore the significance of Easter for Christian people through storytelling and observing Christian traditions. Staff, children and trip volunteers all had an amazing time learning all about Easter. We would like to thank Brother Ali and all the volunteers for welcoming us into the church



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

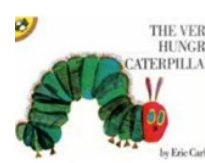
This half term has seen Elephants and Flamingos start their Forest School sessions. So much fun and learning has taken place already (as well as field development work)! As the children are older, they have had more time with Brendan to begin developing their tools skills, including safe handling. They did a fantastic job sawing wood from a trunk and turning their piece into a medallion.



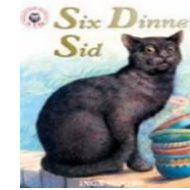
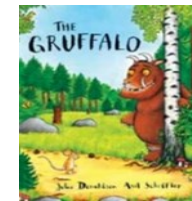
LOVE TO READ

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

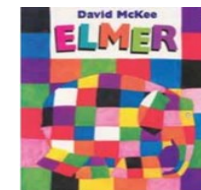
Nursery



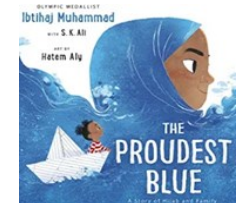
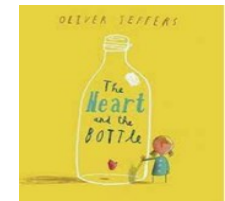
Reception



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

FRIENDS OF MIDDLETON LODGE We have been delighted to launch our 'Friends of Middleton Lodge' partnership. Middleton Lodge is a residential care home for the elderly located in Littleover Village. Our partnership work with the care home will



help our children to 'live out' our school values of love, friendship, compassion and respect and become an active member of our local community. We also hope that this project will help older residents by providing mental stimulation and combatting loneliness. Our 'Friends of Middleton Lodge' did a superb job visiting the care home a couple of weeks ago. They made 'All About Me' scrapbooks to help introduce themselves to the residents so that they can start to get to know each other. We are SO proud of the children.

PLACES OF WORSHIP VISIT

We have enjoyed visiting several places of worship in Derby City community to further develop our knowledge and understanding of Religious Education (RE). Although we are a Church of England school, we are very proud of our diverse community and it was wonderful seeing the children show respect towards different cultures. We would a special thank you to the Open Centre for helping to arrange the visits and to the parent helpers that volunteered.

Bears: New Life Church (*Christianity*)

Crocodiles: Gurdwara (*Sikhism*)

Flamingos: Hindu Temple (*Hinduism*)

Elephants: Mosque (*Islam*)



KINGS AND QUEENS



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

Bears: Martin and Tise

Crocodiles: Sami and Aisha

Flamingos: Michael and Japneet

Elephants: Momin and Nma

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

PACKED LUNCHES

As a school, we encourage all families to take up the offer of a FREE school dinner but we understand that some children may prefer to bring in a packed lunch. We are noticing an increasing number of packed lunches coming into school that not meet the [School Food Standards](#). We encourage parents to follow the principles of the [Eatwell Guide](#) to ensure that their child's lunchbox contains:

- a starchy food, e.g. potatoes, bread, rice, pasta
- plenty of fruit and vegetables, e.g. carrot sticks, an apple, sliced cucumber
- a source of protein, e.g. beans, pulses, egg, fish, meat
- a healthy drink, e.g. water

Food items containing high amounts of fat, salt and sugars must be kept to a minimum e.g. one small packet of crisps. Fizzy drinks/energy drinks are not permitted in school. For Health and Safety reasons, we cannot accept packed lunches that have been warmed at home prior to lunch and then dropped off into the school office. Advice and ideas to help create a healthy and nutritious lunchbox can be found [here](#).



WE HAVE A NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOL WHO ARE ALLERGIC TO NUTS AND KINDLY REQUEST THAT PARENTS ELIMINATE NUT PRODUCTS INSIDE PACKED LUNCHES.



PARENT CRAFT MORNINGS

This week we have had our 'Rule Britannia!' parent craft mornings. Thank you SO much to all of the parent/carers that attended. Every session was incredibly well attended. It was so wonderful to see the hall full of chatter, laughter and crafting. The children adored spending this special time with you. Look out for future craft events coming soon!



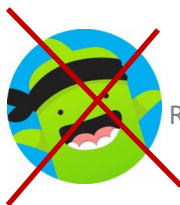
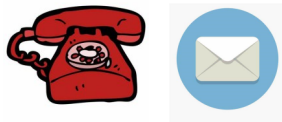
ATTENDANCE

Reporting an absence.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you of our reporting an absence procedures. This is for all children in school, including our Cubs. The child's parent/carer must notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 09:15am, or as soon as possible.

This can be done through:

- contacting the school office on 01332 345997
- via the school's email address admin@stchads.derby.sch.uk



Reporting an absence cannot be done via Class Dojo.

If contact is not made by parent/carers before 09:30am, then we will attempt to contact you on the first day of absence, and on subsequent days. If no contact is made, a home visit may be carried out to get a reason for absence. Thank you for your support with this.

RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS!

Thank you so much to everybody who bought a raffle ticket for our Easter Raffle. We raised £107 for school, which is just fantastic!

The winners of the hampers were:

- Khadijah (Crocodiles)
- Mrs Nannua (Reading Volunteer)
- Rutaba (Flamingos)
- Philip (Bears)
- Sebastian (Flamignos)



52 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 5! Cubs and Bears are working their way through the '52 Things To Do Before You're 5!' booklet. This is a booklet full of fun activities that are low-cost, that parents and children can do together. We LOVE seeing your photographs and videos on Class Dojo. It is a joy to see how many of our families are joining in!



Please keep a look-out for the next activity shared on Class Dojo, and join in with your child. If you are having difficulties using the Class Dojo app, please let a member of staff know on the gate.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES!



MYCOSIA + FIRS
ESTATE ALLOTMENTS

Foundation
Derbyshire



SPRING

Free Nature Sessions

CHECK OUR EVENTBRITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO BOOK ON
BIT.LY/FIRS-MYCOSIA-EVENTS



CHILDRENS OUTDOOR
LEARNING SESSIONS
INCLUDING ARTS AND
CRAFTS, TOOL USE, CAMP
FIRE SKILLS, AND MORE!



ADULT AND FAMILY
SESSIONS INCLUDING
NATURE SURVEYS, POND
SURVEYS, FORAGING,
COMPOSTING, MUSHROOM
GROWING, AND MORE!

DATES

Home Ed: 13:00 - 14:30
4th March, 1st April, 6th May

After School: 16:00 - 17:30
1st April, 7th April, 6th May

DATES

13:00 - 15:00

March: 16th, 17th, 30th
April: 6th, 13th, 20th
May: 4th, 11th, 18th



FIRS ESTATE ALLOTMENTS,
DEAN STREET, DERBY, DE22 3PU

Please click on the link below to access a digital booklet created by the local authority, that showcases activities that are available for families in and around Derby City.

<https://issuu.com/derbylive/docs/familyguide2023-issuu>

