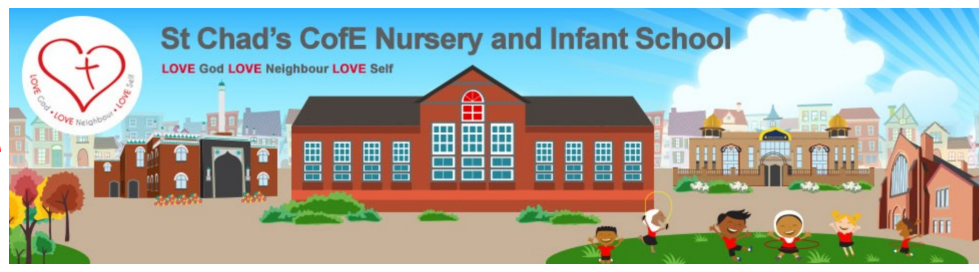


Newsletter December 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a busy half-term term, we are filled with pride at the incredible progress our children have made. We hope you enjoy reflecting on some of our highlights from the past seven weeks, alongside important updates as we approach the festive season. We thank you for your continued support. Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the new year, ready to embrace the opportunities ahead. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Monday, 6th January**. Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x



**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- Friday 20th December **SCHOOL BREAKS-UP**
- Monday 6th January **BACK TO SCHOOL**
- Tuesday 4th February and Wednesday 5th February **Parent's Evening**
- Thursday 13th February **SCHOOL BREAKS-UP**
- Friday 14th February **SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET Day)**

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

**EYFS NATIVITY**

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those of you that came to watch our EYFS performance of the *Twinkly Nativity*. The children in Bears and Crocodiles truly shone, with their singing, acting, and storytelling, helping to bring the Christmas story to life. A huge thank you also goes to our EYFS staff for their hard work and creativity in preparing this wonderful show. From costumes to rehearsals, their efforts ensured the performance was a magical experience for everyone. We are so proud of the children and grateful to our school community for making it such a memorable occasion.



**PANTOMINE**

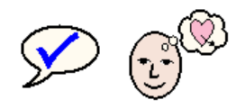
We would like to extend a special thank you to our Angel Sponsor, whose generous support made it possible for us to fund a wonderful pantomime performance for all the children in school.



**STAFFING UPDATES**

In preparation for Miss Frisby, who will soon be starting her maternity leave, we are pleased to announce that Mrs. Kaur will be joining the Crocodiles class in the New Year. Baby permitting, Miss Frisby is due to return after the holiday for a hand-over with Mrs. Kaur.

In **Collective Worship** after half-term, we will be exploring the values: *truth* and *hope*



We will be using the following Bible stories to help bring these values to life.

- **Spring 1: Truth** – The story of *Zacchaeus* (Luke 19:1-10) teaches the importance of honesty, forgiveness, and transformation.
- **Spring 2: Hope** – The story of *The Man Lowered Through the Roof* (Luke 5:17-26) highlights the power of perseverance and faith.

These stories will be introduced during worship, class discussions, and activities, inviting children to reflect on how these themes can inspire their own actions and choices.

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

This half term, our Forest School sessions have continued to be a fantastic opportunity for children to connect with nature, develop new skills, and learn through outdoor play. Elephants have enjoyed their weekly sessions with Brendan, while Crocodiles have continued to explore and discover with Miss Frisby. We also offered a special Forest School session for some of our children who benefit from additional support, providing them with a nurturing environment to engage in outdoor learning. We would like to say a huge thank you to Lydia, our wonderful parent volunteer, for her ongoing support at our weekly sessions.



Looking ahead to next term, Flamingos will be starting their Forest School journey, and Bears will be resuming their sessions, giving even more children the chance to explore and grow in the natural world.



## YEAR 2 EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS AT ST AUGUSTINES CHURCH

Our Year Two children had a wonderful morning at St Augustine's church, immersing themselves in the story of Christmas. Through engaging activities and storytelling, they explored the Nativity and its meaning. A big thank you to Brother Ali and the church team for making this such a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone!



## CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

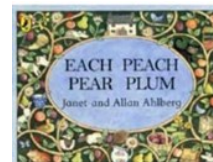
Bears and Crocodiles spent the afternoon with PCSO Mia Lawson decorating Christmas tree baubles. These beautiful decorations have been used to adorn trees around Normanton. The children thoroughly enjoyed spending time with PCSO Mia, and their wonderful creations are now helping to make our local community feel very festive.



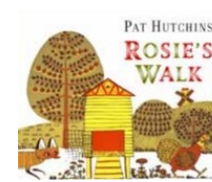
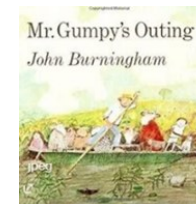
## LOVE TO READ

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

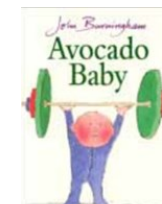
### Nursery



### 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

Our partnership with Middleton Lodge Care Home continues to thrive. This term, our School Council visited again, helping residents create Christmas cards. Our wonderful School Choir, joined by their parents, also performed for the residents and care home staff in school. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs. Bibi and Miss Linkens for all their hard work and dedication with the School Choir.



These special moments strengthen our community ties, and we are grateful for the continued collaboration with Middleton Lodge.

## TOYS! This half term, we completed our theme: Toys!

This half term has been packed with exciting learning experiences across the school! In science, children explored materials through fun experiments. In geography, the children took an imaginary journey to Rovaniemi, the home of Santa Claus, and compared life there to life in Derby. . In design and technology, the children focused on sliders and levers. After learning new skills, they used them to create some fabulous final pieces. It has been a theme full of learning, fun, knowledge, and skill-building, and the children have loved every moment!



## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS!

Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas raffle. Thank you to everybody who did buy tickets, we raised £85 for school resources.

The winners were....

Jotham, Meron, Omer and Rhianna

**Huge congratulations to you all!**



## KINGS AND QUEENS

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

**Bears:** Aaminah and Faizaan

**Crocodiles:** Martin and Zulaikha

**Flamingos:** Sami and Hafsa

**Elephants:** Japneet and Fabricio



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

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving without the correct PE kit this half-term. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform items, including their PE kit uniform on their allocated PE days.

- Thursday: Bears and Flamingos PE
- Friday: Crocodiles and Elephants PE



Only small stud or huggie earrings are permitted in school. On allocated PE days, these must be removed at home by parents/carers for safety reasons.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

This half-term, our School Council had a memorable visit to the Council House to explore how decisions are made in our city. Inspired by the experience, they are now hard at work on their first school improvement project: designing a special area on the field to nurture spirituality. Linked to our wellbeing work in school, their goal is to create a calm, reflective area where everyone can practise recognising and managing their emotions while enjoying a peaceful moment outdoors. We look forward to sharing their ideas with you next term.



## ESOL CLASSES

We still have spaces in our ESOL classes. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn English. Parents are invited to attend school every Wednesday morning from 9am until 11am. If you would like to attend please speak to Mrs Sohanpal.

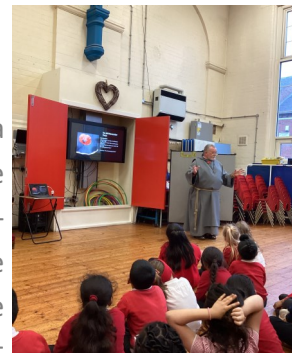


**ESOL Classes**  
English for Speakers of Other Languages

## REMEMBRANCE

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Brother Ali led a thoughtful collective worship for KS1, focusing on the importance of remembrance. The children learned about the significance of honouring those who have served and sacrificed and they took part in a moment of silence.



## ATTENDANCE

Our attendance policy is rooted in a whole-school ethos that values good attendance, emphasising strong relationships with families, early intervention, and an inclusive environment that supports pupils' social, emotional, and academic development. Regular attendance is vital for building routines, fostering positive teacher-pupil relationships, preventing knowledge gaps, and ensuring access to education and enrichment opportunities.

We are excited to share our new graphics explaining our attendance policy and the support available to families.



## St Chad's CofE Nursery and Infant School



### Key Information for Families: Attendance and the School Day



The school gate opens at **08:45am** for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two.



Please report any absences (including lateness) to the school office, on **01332 345997**, by 09:00am.



Absences are not reported on Class Dojo.



The school gate closes at **09:00am** for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two. *All children need to be in school by 09:00am.*



We ask that when possible medical appointments are made out of school hours, however if this is not possible please let the office know and share evidence of this appointment e.g. text, letter, appointment card.



The school gate opens at **3:15pm** for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two to be collected from school.



It is important that we have 2 emergency contacts for all children in school. Please ensure you share these with the school office.



For further details and all of the graphics, visit the attendance page on our school [website](#).

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](#).

## NURSERY

Welcome to our Nursery, a nurturing, inclusive, and warm home-from-home environment where our youngest learners, the **Doves (2-year-olds)**, and the **Hummingbirds (3-year-olds)** can thrive and grow.

We currently have spaces available for 2-year-olds in our afternoon session and 3-year-olds in both our morning and afternoon sessions. If you have a child who is 3, or turning 3 this year, please get in touch with the school office at 01332 345 997. Our waiting list is also open for January and April starters. Please note: If your child is 2 years old and you would like to receive 15 free hours, you must have a valid eligibility code. You can check your eligibility for a code [here](#).



Our sessions times are:

- Morning: 09:00am—12:00pm
- Afternoon: 12:30pm—3:30pm
- 30 hours: 09:00am—3:30pm



Our Nursery is a truly special place where children thrive in a warm, loving environment. Our Doves and Hummingbirds have settled wonderfully into our school family, and we would love for even more children to join them. Mrs. Maciejewska would be pleased to offer tours for families interested in our Nursery.

