

Newsletter April 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we embrace the arrival of spring, we celebrate the season of new life and fresh beginnings. Our children continue to flourish, bringing energy and joy to our school community. We would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support—it makes such a difference. We wish you a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Tuesday, 22nd April**.

Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

#### RAFFLE WINNERS

We are delighted to announce the winners of our Easter raffle prizes!

**Ronnie, Zeynep, Jotham, Ali, Ayaz, Summayah, Rhianna**

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the raffle—we raised £97, which will go towards purchasing new resources for our school. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**MRS BIBI'S AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** We are so pleased that Mrs Bibi's after-school clubs have started this term and are proving to be extremely popular! This term, we have Crafting Club and Lego Club for children in Elephants and Flamingos, as well as Playdough Club and Story Club for Bears and Crocodiles. Due to high demand, all clubs currently have a waiting list. If your child would like to join, please let Mrs Bibi know so they can be added.

#### WORLD BOOK DAY

**We had a fantastic day in school celebrating World Book Day!** Our celebrations were inspired by *If I Were Prime Minister* by Trygve Skaug and Ella Okstad, one of the Derby Book Festival books. Children were invited to come to school dressed as what they would wear if they were Prime Minister.

It was a day filled with imagination, creativity, and, of course, a love of reading!



#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 4th April

**SCHOOL BREAKS-UP**

Monday 21st April

**SCHOOL CLOSED (Bank Holiday)**

Tuesday 22nd April

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

Monday 5th May

**SCHOOL CLOSED (Bank Holiday)**

Week beginning 5th May

**Year 2 SATs start**

Friday 23rd May

**SCHOOL BREAKS-UP**

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

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

We will use the Bible story *Jesus and the Children* (Matthew 19) to help bring this value to life. This story reminds us of the importance of recognising everyone's worth and treating others with kindness and care.



Through worship, class discussions, and activities, children will be encouraged to reflect on how they can show respect in their daily lives—towards themselves, others, and the world around them. We continue to deepening our focus on spirituality, using the *Ow, Now, Wow* concepts:

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

This half-term, Flamingos have enjoyed their Forest School sessions with Brendan, exploring, problem-solving, and working together. Our new large sandpit has also been a big hit with both children and staff! Flamingos have now finished their sessions for the year.



We strengthened our community links by welcoming children and staff from St James Juniors to our Forest School and hope to continue offering these opportunities to more children.

We have also hosted small parent sessions to help families connect. Our School Councillors, with parents, began developing the spirituality area on our field, with 'Woody' starting to take shape as a peaceful space for reflection and nature. We would like to say a big thank you to parents that attended our 'Dads and Lads' session—we hope to do more in the near future.

**BROTHER ALI COLLECTIVE WORSHIP VISITS** This half term, we were delighted to welcome Brother Ali for his regular Collective Worship sessions. He shared the story of *Noah and the Ark*, in KS1 helping the children explore the theme of hope and how we can trust in difficult times. Brother Ali came to read bible stories with our Foundation Stage children who thoroughly enjoyed learning more about Easter. Brother Ali also led a special Easter performance, where Year 2 sang some beautiful Easter songs with the support from Derby Cathedral School. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to share the Easter message through music.



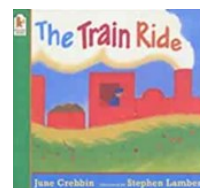
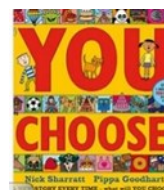
**YEAR 2 EXPERIENCE EASTER** Year 2 had a fantastic visit to St Augustine's Church for a special Easter Experience. The children listened to the Easter story and took part in role play to help them understand each part. We would like to say a big thank you to St Augustine's Church for welcoming us and making the story come to life!



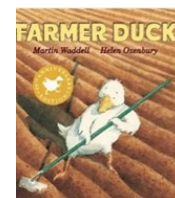
## LOVE TO READ

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

### Nursery



### Reception



### Year 1



### Year 2



### Normanton Library

**Address**  
St Augustine's Community Centre  
Almond St  
Derby  
DE23 6LX

You may consider purchasing your child's year group book from Amazon/book stores so that you can enjoy it together at home

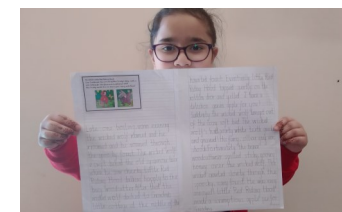
## PLACES OF WORSHIP VISITS



This half term, our visits to places of worship have taken place. Bears visited a local church, Crocodiles visited a local Gurdwara, and Flamingos visited a Hindu temple. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring different faiths and deepening their understanding through their RE learning. They asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated great respect and compassion throughout the visits, reflecting our school values beautifully.

## DDAT WRITING COMPETITION

We are delighted to celebrate that Ameera from Year 2 has been chosen as a finalist in DDAT's 'It's a Celebration' writing competition! Out of around 200 entries, Ameera's work stood out, and she has been selected as one of the fifteen finalists. We look forward to attending a Presentation Afternoon at Derby Cathedral School in July with Ameera and her family. What a wonderful achievement—congratulations, Ameera!



## NURSERY—SPACES AVAILABLE!

We are so proud of the growth of our nursery provision this academic year! Our nursery provides a calm, home-from-home environment with dedicated, skilled staff who nurture and support every child's early learning journey.

We now have a limited number of spaces available for 2- and 3-year-olds in both morning and afternoon sessions. Our waiting list for September is open and filling up fast. If you have or know a child turning 2 or 3 who would like to join our nursery, you can complete a form [here](#) or visit the school office—we'll be happy to help!



## KINGS AND QUEENS

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



**Bears:** Sarlotta and Lukas

**Crocodiles:** Maya and Shawaiz

**Flamingos:** Elena and Abdul Basit

**Elephants:** Aisha and M.Ayaan

## MRS SOHANPAL'S PARENT SESSIONS

It has been wonderful to see how popular Mrs Sohanpal's parent sessions have been this term! We kicked things off with our **Maths Parent Classes**, designed to help parents support their child's maths learning at home. Parents committed to a six-week programme, and we've already seen a positive impact on the children's mathematical understanding. Amazing work from everyone involved! Next half term, Mrs Sohanpal will be teaming up with Mrs Bibi to run **Phonics Parent Classes**. These sessions will focus on how you can best support your child with phonics in the run-up to the Phonics Screening Check.



## PODCAST

We are delighted to share that Ms. Leach was invited to take part in a recorded podcast as part of Derby City's Inclusion Charter work, where she discussed our school's approach to relational practice in supporting children's behaviour and well-being. The podcast was recorded at Pride Park and is part of the 'Because School Means More' series, which highlights inclusive and supportive approaches in schools. We are pleased to see this important work being shared more widely. We will share the release date once it is confirmed.



**CELEBRATIONS** There are many different religious celebrations that are occurring over the break, or have taken place this week. So many members of our wonderful school community will be involved in the celebrations for Eid Mubarak, Easter, The Jewish Passover or Vaisakhi in We wish all faiths and families great joy in their celebrations and joyous times.

## BUILDING A LOVE OF READING

This half term, Bears and Crocodiles classes have visited the local library. We love this event in our school calendar and will continue to visit regularly. Please remember that all children have a library card, and this is a free resource available to everyone.



## ATTENDANCE

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



We have noticed an increasing number of absences being reported via Class Dojo. Please remember that all absences should be reported directly to the school office by calling **01332 345997**. Class Dojo is not checked regularly each morning due to lesson preparations, so it is important that absences are reported through the correct channel.

We completely understand that there are times when absence is unavoidable, and we're here to work with families to overcome any barriers. Please remember, if you require any support with attendance, we are here to help.

Let's keep working together to ensure attendance does not impact learning.

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](#).