

Newsletter October 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic start to the new academic year! We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled in, especially our youngest in Nursery and Reception. We hope you enjoy reflecting on some of our highlights from this past half-term, as well as staying informed with key updates about life at St Chad's. Wishing you all a safe and restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming your child back to school **on Tuesday, 5th November**.



Love Ms. Leach and Mrs Morley x

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 25th October

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 4th November

SCHOOL CLOSED– INSET DAY

Tuesday 5th November

BACK TO SCHOOL

Friday 20th December

SCHOOL BREAKS-UP

Monday 6th January

BACK TO SCHOOL

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

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF DDAT

This week, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Multi-Academy Trust, Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT). To honour this special milestone, our School Choir has been learning a commemorative song. On Tuesday, 22nd November, children from all DDAT schools joined together to form a collective choir. Winter and Nikola did a fantastic job representing St Chad's. We're



excited to share the recording of the final performance with you all soon!



WELL DONE MISS FRISBY!

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Miss Frisby, who has successfully completed her Forest School training! This fantastic achievement means even more opportunities for our children to enjoy outdoor learning and to engage with nature, supporting both their learning and wellbeing.

PARENT SURVEY Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our first Parents' Evening of the year. Your support is invaluable! Please remember to complete our [parent survey](#) – your feedback helps us continue improving our school.

STAFFING UPDATES At the end of the last academic year, we made some exciting new staff appointments. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Maciejewska, Miss McDougall, and Mr. Cooper to our St. Chad's family. Mrs. Maciejewska has joined us as our EYFS Manager, Miss McDougall will be supporting in Nursery, and Mr. Cooper will be working in the school office. We are thrilled to have them as part of our team.

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



friendship

NURSERY

We currently have spaces available for 2- 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 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 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.

CLASS DOJO: Are you connected to your child's class page?

Class Dojo is where we share all of our school news. Connecting to the app allows you to get a glimpse into your child's day at school and ensures you don't miss any important updates. We also expect one home reading video to be posted per week in the portfolio section. If you need support connecting to the app or posting home reading videos, please speak to a member of staff at the school gate.



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

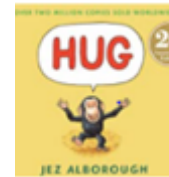
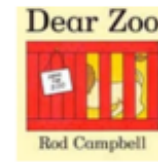
We're happy to share that our first Forest School sessions of the new school year have started, with children in Bears, Elephants, and Crocodiles taking part. Forest School is a wonderful way for children to enjoy the outdoors, build confidence, and learn through play in nature.



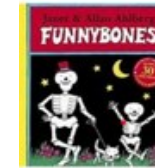
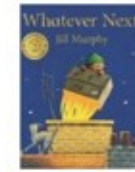
LOVE TO READ

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

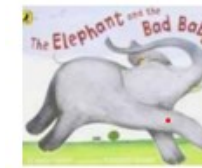
Nursery



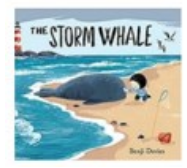
Reception



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 new School Councillors recently made their first visit of the new school year to Middleton Lodge, our local care home. The children worked with residents to decorate a 'friendship pumpkin,' reflecting our school's vision of 'love' through creativity and connection. We are so grateful for our partnership with Middleton Lodge, which allows us to bring joy to both the children and the residents. This ongoing relationship is a wonderful way to build community and spread kindness.



TOYS! This half term, we kicked off our theme: *Toys!* Across the school, children have been busy exploring and learning in exciting ways. A highlight was when our Bears, Crocodiles, Flamingos, and Elephants classes enjoyed a visit from *The History Van*. It was a fantastic day, immersing children in the history of toys and giving them the chance to play with toys from the past. In Reception, our new LOVE Bears have arrived, and the children celebrated with a teddy bear picnic to welcome them! EYFS had a wonderful time with the library's annual visit, where children and families could sign up for library cards and join a rhyme time session. Keep an eye out for upcoming dates when Mrs. Sohanpal will take children and parents to the library to exchange books.



HARVEST HAMPERS

Thank you for your support and generosity in filling our Harvest Hampers with food, drinks, and toiletries. The hampers were collected by the Padley Centre, a local charity providing invaluable support to homeless and vulnerable people in Derby.



KINGS AND QUEENS

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

Bears: Simon and Selina

Crocodiles: Shawaiz and Fatima

Flamingos: Fateh and Japneet

Elephants: Hasnain and Agata



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

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As we enter the winter months, please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof coat with a hood in school. We also advise hats, gloves and scarfs on very cold days. **Please ensure that your child's name is labelled on all items of clothing, as well as water bottles and book bags.**



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.

Please ensure that your child is wearing correct school uniform item (including their PE kit uniform on their allocated PE days).



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



Please ensure any hair accessories worn to school are in our uniform colour of 'red'. We kindly ask hair accessories are kept to a minimum.

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

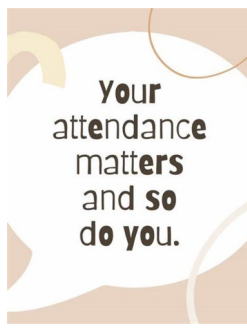
FOOD BANK

Our St Chad's Food Bank continues to support families in our school community. If you would like to access this service, please speak with Mrs Sohanpal and Ms. Kay at the school gate. Food parcels are prepared and handed out every Friday, and we are here to help in confidence, should you need it.



ATTENDANCE

Thank you to all the parents who joined our attendance workshop this half term, where we shared the latest guidance from the Department for Education on school attendance. We're committed to supporting both you and your child, and we keep you informed about your child's attendance as part of our shared commitment to their success.



We value home-school partnership here at St Chad's. Our first goal is to always work with you to improve your child/ren attendance. We ask that you are open and honest with us about any challenges you may be experiencing so that we can support you or refer on so that you receive the support you need, when you need it.

If you have any questions or need further support, please reach out to Mrs. Sohanpal, Mrs. Lambert, or Mrs. Morley—we're here to help.

For those unable to attend, here are some key reminders:

To report your child absent from school please call 01332 345996, or email admin@stchads.derby.sch.uk. Please do not do this via Class Dojo.

Do I need to keep my child off school?



Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		



A fever is a temperature over 38 degrees.

CELEBRATING DIWALI

Mrs. Sohanpal led a whole-school collective worship session to teach the children about Diwali. She shared her own experiences of celebrating this special festival, explaining its significance for Sikhs and Hindus. The children were enthusiastic about learning more about Diwali, and they especially enjoyed the chocolates Mrs. Sohanpal shared with them. We would like to wish a very happy Diwali to everyone celebrating over the holidays!



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES!

DERBY LIBRARIES
Everything begins with reading

Join Derby Libraries for free for a wide range of books and fun activities for children of all ages

- Code Clubs
- FREE Rhymetimes and Storytimes
- Join the Summer Reading Challenge
- Family Themed Events
- Homework Support
- No charges for under 12s

Find your nearest Derby Library and how to join at: inderby.org.uk/libraries

There are free activities on at the local library.

You can find out further information here:

[Normanton Library | Libraries in Derby | In Derby](#)

Normanton Library

St Augustine's Community Centre
Almond St
Derby

