



I give you a new commandment: love one another; you must love one another just as I have loved you.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to school, with a special warm welcome to all our new families. I hope your children are well rested and ready for a fantastic year of caring, learning and believing. This year we want to further develop the concept of growing in God's love, focussing on the Gospel values of love, hope, gentleness, justice, integrity, forgiveness and humility. I know you will continue to work with us, so your child can grow in confidence, with a love of learning, and a determination to be the best person they can be. Your children are your most important gift from God, treasure them, help them, guide them and support them – this time is crucial so do it now. St Chad's staff also begin this new term, by making this commitment.

Mrs Mitchener

This month we will be studying the themes of Domestic Church and Family.

DOMESTIC CHURCH - FAMILY

(INSERT DATES)

Early Years	MYSELF - God knows and loves each one
Year 1	FAMILIES - God's love and care for every family
Year 2	BEGINNINGS - God is present in every beginning
Year 3	HOMES - God's vision for every family
Year 4	PEOPLE - The family of God in Scripture
Year 5	OURSELVES - Created in the image and likeness of God
Year 6	LOVING - God who never stops loving

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles etc. who show God's love. Write underneath it **"We show God's Love to one another."** Include those who have died.

End of year Mass of Togetherness

In July, the Key-worker children were able to join together with many other schools to watch Archbishop John Wilson celebrating a Live-Stream Mass and sharing in beautiful sung blessing. It wasn't our usual end of year Mass, but it was a lovely opportunity to keep Christ at the centre of our school, as we ended the school year.

Unfortunately we have been contacted by The Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, to inform us that for the time being, we will need to continue the deferral of the celebration of Mass within school, including school Masses usually held at St Chad's.

We will however, continue to share celebrations of our faith, through a variety of acts of collective worship, including; year group liturgies, class prayer times and assemblies. During these times we will come together to celebrate God's love for each one of us.



Grow in Love, Live in Peace

Praying Together

Prayer is an important part of Catholic worship as it provides the opportunity to communicate with God and through this communication, our children develop a strong lasting relationship with Him.

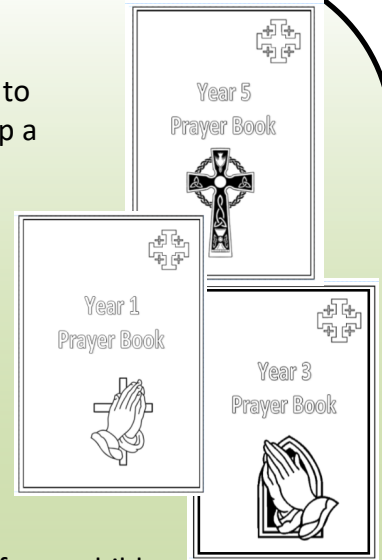
In school we will do all we can to encourage your child to develop a special relationship with God. Even very young children have a sense of God, and in teaching children how to pray, we give them a verbal vocabulary to express what they already experience.

We encourage the children to pray to God in a variety of ways, using both formal and informal prayers, reflection & Adoration. To support us in this, it is really important that our children know some Catholic prayers by heart and are able to recite them clearly.

As parents, you have a very special role to play in developing the prayer life of your child and you can do so much to encourage and lead your child. Your child's teacher will be sending home a Prayer Book for you to support your son/daughter in learning age appropriate Catholic prayers. We will also be learning the prayers in school, both in our dedicated 'Prayer Time' and during the school day or appropriate time of the year.

I hope that as you share these prayers, you enjoy a special closeness with your child and God. These prayers are not to be learnt like a 'test' or to cause anxiety, they are simply an opportunity to share our faith. We hope that we can support you and your child to grow together in faith.

Praying with young children is a privilege and a joy.



Relationship Education (RSE)



RSE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person.

Our school values are embedded in the teachings of the Catholic Faith and we teach through the Three Core Themes of: Love through God - Love of Self and Love of Others.

The staff model these values and teach them to the pupils who are rewarded for displaying them, earning praise and stickers on their 'My Gospel Values' card. The children who demonstrate all 9 Gospel values during the year will receive a special 'A faithful Disciple of Jesus' sticker and award, and attend a special trip.

Our hope is to foster knowledge and understanding of the Gospel values and for the children to share in God's love.

The first value we will be focusing on this year is: Gentleness.