



*My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.*

Dear Parents and Carers

Psalms 62:1

Welcome back to a new school year in faith; where we rejoice in the opportunity to share our faith together, family, school and parish. A warm welcome to our new Nursery and Reception parents, and to all our new families throughout the school. It was wonderful to see so many of you join us for Mass on Education Sunday at St Chad's Church - a truly lovely way to begin our year together.

Unfortunately, September has been a month of great loss for our school community and for the nation as a whole. It is in difficult times as these we remember that those whom we love journey to God, into the fullness God's Light. We keep them and their families in our prayers and ask that they may feel the warmth of God's love in their time of deep sorrow, and the strength of His divine presence.

This month we have had the opportunity to celebrate Religion Education Week. Our focus was on the wonder and beauty of God's creation and how Pope Francis encourages our catholic community to recognise our responsibility to care for and protect both the environment and all people who share our common home. I ask that you support your children at home to understand and live this important message.

*God Bless Mrs Mitchener*

#### DOMESTIC CHURCH - FAMILY

(5th September – 2nd October)

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.

#### Pope Francis Prayer Request for

#### Abolition of the Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country



#### A prayer for the dearly Departed

*In your hands, O Lord,  
we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.  
In this life you embraced them with your tender love;  
deliver them now from every evil  
and bid them eternal rest.*

*The old order has passed away:  
welcome them into paradise,  
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain,  
but fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
forever and ever.  
R/. Amen.*

# Education Sunday



It was fantastic to see so many St Chad's children, families and staff, attend Mass together at St Chad's Church on Education Sunday. Being at the beginning of the new academic year, it was really positive way to strengthen our community and the spiritual foundations, which underpin our school life.

The theme of this year's Education Sunday was 'Enlightening the Mind' and was based on the Gospel acclamation for that day: "May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us" (Ephesians 1:17,18).

At St Chad's school we work hard to enlighten the children's minds, so that they are able to learn to grow and walk in the light of truth and the love of God.

## Mass at St Chad's Church

The children of Year 6, St Therese of Lisieux class attended Mass at St Chad's parish on Wednesday. It was the Feast Day of the Exaltation of the Cross and Fr Ambrose explained to the children the importance of the Feast. It was also an excellent opportunity to talk to the children about why Fr Ambrose and Fr John were wearing red and why the altar cloth was also red.

This year we will be attending Mass weekly on a Wednesday, not a Friday as in previous years. Please try to join us regularly especially when your child/rens class will be there. The children love to see you.



St Therese class, with the statue of St Therese of Lisieux

### Mass Rota at St Chad's Church

#### AUTUMN TERM

14th September	St Therese
21st September	New School Year Mass
28th September	St Brigid
5th October	St Andrew
12th October	St James
19th October	St Catherine
1st November	All Saints - Year 2-6
9th November	St Martha
16th November	St John Paul II
23rd November	St Therese & St Brigid
30th November	St Martin
7th December	St John Bosco



# Queen Elizabeth II

With the rest of the country and Commonwealth, St Chad's School respected a week of mourning for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The children were involved in assemblies and wrote prayers of thanks and gratitude.

Thank you to everyone who brought a flower into school, which made up our tribute to the Queen. Mrs Mooney, Mrs Gant and myself, were privileged to attend Green Park and lay our flowers with all the other tributes from members of the public, wishing to express their gratitude and sorrow. It was a truly moving occasion.

Thank you also to all those parents who attended the school liturgy for the Queen or who signed the book of condolence. Both the book created by the children and the parent book have been added to the National Archive.



We ask that Almighty God, will give King Charles III strength and wisdom, as he takes up his responsibility for service to our nation.



## Rest in Peace with God

We pray to for Nathaniel's family, who are grieving his tremendous loss at this time. We ask Almighty God for the strength and courage they require and for the love and support of all family and friends. We think of all St Chad's families touched by the pain of grief at this time and ask that their burden may be lightened by their trust in the Lord.

We pray for all dearly departed love ones, asking that they are given eternal rest with the Lord and that they share in His unending glory.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Amen





# A Week of Wonder



Our RE week - 'Week of Wonder' was based on the encyclical by Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, which calls on all people on earth to care for the natural environment and all people, as well as broader questions of the relationship between God, humans, and the Earth.

As a Catholic schools we offer a view of the world as the gift of God's creation. We are called to be co-creators of love and joy in the world, thus sharing God's love. We are called to be stewards of the environment, with a responsibility to protect the environment around us for future generations. We have the unique gift of being able to care for ourselves, for others and for the environment around us. We have a relationship with each of these.

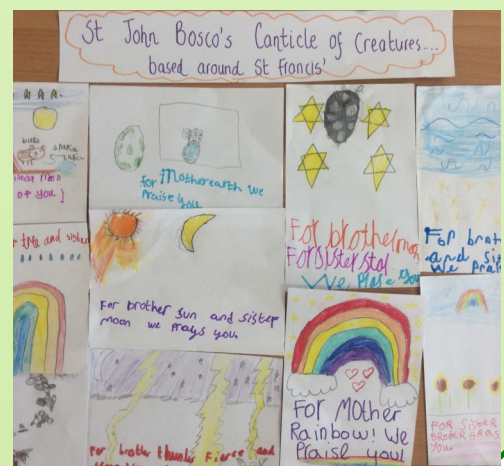
**EYFS** Our children in St Chad's school, even the very youngest, are taught that they should be God's hands and feet on earth and that they should work to do God's will.

**Year 1 and 2** focused on how God loves all people equally and how we can be kind and loving to our friends in school and neighbours around the world.

Year 1 made a beautiful love heart to show love for each other and love for creation.



**Year 3 and 4** focused on St Francis of Assisi's Canticles of the Creatures. They read the prayer and they drew and wrote prayers that thanked God for the wonderful gifts of creation. They then considered how they could help protect these wonderful gifts.





Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. In the Week of Wonder, we celebrated the gifts and talents we have in living out Jesus' teaching. Saint Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians; 'For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ'.

During the week, we celebrate how we are each called to promote peace, unity and harmony in the world, in our words, thoughts and actions and how in caring for others, the environment and ourselves, we learn to live in harmony with God's creation.

**Year 5 and 6** reflected on human relationships with each other and how Jesus taught us the love one another. They read the Prodigal Son to reflect on how forgiveness is essential for love to flourish. They then considered;  
Who is my neighbour? and how I can demonstrate love for them?



Year 5 and 6 all investigated how they can protect the environment. They will be supporting Mrs Gallagher in planting 140 trees in the autumn in the grounds of St Chad's!



# Laudato Si Display

Each year group took a line from Pope Francis' letter and created a display board for the school hall, to remind us all what we should be trying to achieve everyday.



**EYFS** "The earth is God's gift to us, full of beauty and wonder. And it belongs to everyone."

**Year 2** "The earth is God's gift to us, full of beauty and wonder. And it belongs to everyone."

**Year 1** "We have cut down the earth's natural forests, polluted the earth's waters, its land and its air."



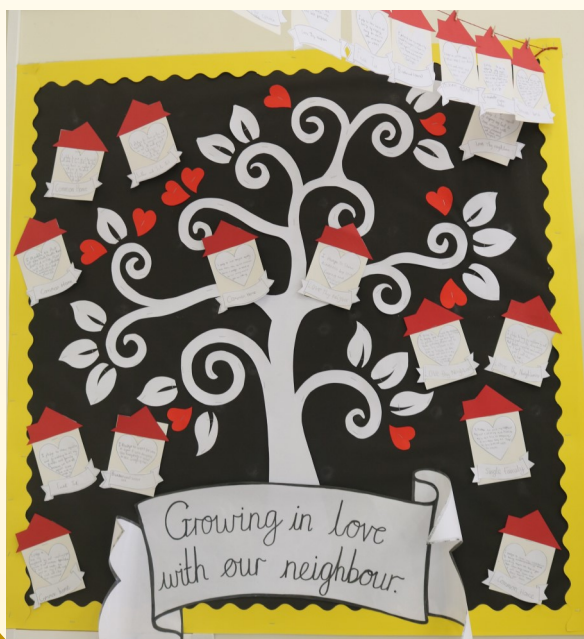
**Year 3** "But what we see today is that our common home has never been so hurt and mistreated."



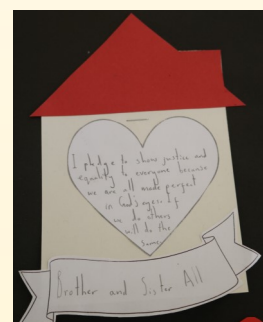
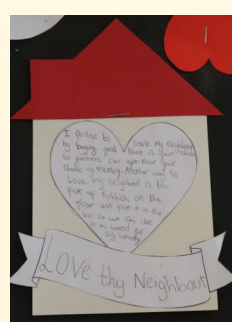
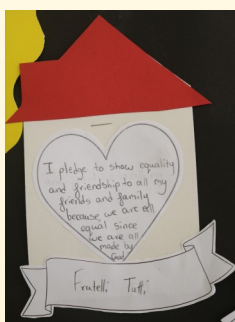
**Year 4** "We have taken more than our fair share from most people on the planet, as well as future generations."



**Year 5** "We are not slowing down on how much we consume and throw away; We can not continue like this."



**Year 6** "So let's put love for the world and love for our neighbours, into action, by living together in harmony, and caring for nature."



## New School Year Mass

Fr Ambrose very kindly joined us at school to celebrate the New School Year Mass. The Gospel of the day, focused on following Jesus (Luke 9:57-62 - I will follow you, wherever you will go) and was a perfect reminder of our desire to be close to God always and to follow in His ways. St Therese and St Brigid Class read beautifully and led us in a joyful celebrate to begin the new school year, as a community of faith.



# Southwark Diocese Catholic Schools

## New School Year Mass



Our new Year 5 and 6 Faith Leaders attended the Annual New School Year Mass at St George's Cathedral. They were a credit to our school and they enjoyed meeting The Most Reverend John Wilson, who celebrated the Mass. It was a lovely opportunity to share our faith with other children from our Catholic schools in the Diocese. After Mass they met and played with children from Margaret Roper Catholic School.



## WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

A big thank you to everyone who supported this years Macmillian Coffee morning at St Chad's. A special thank you to Mrs Davern for organising it and all those who set up and made everyone feel so welcome. It was lovely to see so many mums and dads sharing this opportunity to come together and help those in need.



A big thank you to Mary Jane's mum, for donating so many doughnuts to help raise funds for this worth while charity. So far we have raised about £400.00.

## Parish News

### Signing School Forms

School Forms will be signed in the Guild Room on the following evenings:

#### October

3rd - 6pm-7pm  
13th - 5pm-6pm  
17th - 5pm-7pm  
26th - 5pm-6pm

### First Holy Communion

Forms for First Holy Communion 2023 are available now at the back of the church - on the table with the Mass books (not the porch).

They are to be returned in person on either **12th or 19th November** between **10am and midday**, to the **church hall**. November 19th is the last day for applications. After that names will be added to the 2024 list.

