



# St Chad's Catholic Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents,

What a pleasure this half term has been! Our Nursery and Reception children have settled beautifully and are enjoying being part of the St Chad's family. On Tuesday, we welcomed a group of prospective parents to our first Open Morning where they met the children and viewed our beautiful grounds.

A new initiative for next half term is D.E.A.R. That is, Drop Everything and Read! There is more information on this from Miss Roberts and Mrs Gant below.

Have a wonderful half term and keep safe and well.

Mrs Vassallo and Staff



**WELCOMING    NURTURING    INSPIRING**

St Chad's welcomes pupils of all faiths and nationalities to our secluded, spacious setting in South Norwood.

With excellent academic results, nurturing pastoral care and a full range of extra curricular activities, we welcome prospective parents to attend one of our open days for places in September 2024 (each day starts @ 9:30am).

**TUESDAY  
17th OCTOBER**

**TUESDAY  
31st OCTOBER**

**TUESDAY  
7th NOVEMBER**

**THURSDAY  
16th NOVEMBER**

**TUESDAY  
28th NOVEMBER**

🐦 @StChads\_Croydon  
[www.stchadsprimaryschool.com](http://www.stchadsprimaryschool.com)

## Drop Everything and Read!

Dear Parents and carers,

At St Chad's we love reading and want to ensure every child develops a love of reading that will stay with them as they grow up. This year we are beginning a new initiative to show our children how much we, as adults, value reading.

Every month we are going to open our classroom doors for D.E.A.R. That's, DROP EVERYTHING AND READ!

You are invited on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** to stay with your child in class sharing a book together. You can listen to them read, or read to them. This shows your child that reading is important to you and we are sure they will enjoy spending some extra special reading time together.

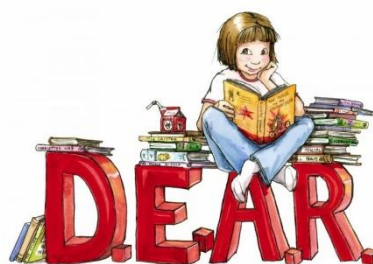
D.E.A.R will run from **8:25-8:50**. All you have to do is follow your child into class and enjoy the books on offer.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gant and Miss Roberts



## Black History Month

Thank you to Mrs Campbell for organising our Black History Month activities and to Geraldine and the kitchen team for providing a delicious African and Caribbean lunch on Wednesday. The children (and staff!) looked great wearing clothes that reflect their heritage; it shows what a rich, diverse community we have here at St Chad's.



## New roofs for St Chad's!

We are delighted to announce that work will start on the flat roof rebuild and refurbishment project at St Chad's after the half term break. The school was successful in our bid for Condition Improvement Funding from the Department for Education coupled with contribution from our school budget.

During construction work, the areas will be fully enclosed, as the safety of the students is paramount, and building work has been scheduled so there will be no impact on the learning of our students. The works programme aims for the project to be completed by mid-March 2024.

The school site will look slightly different when we return on Monday 30 October with fencing and scaffolding in place but the entrance and exit routes will remain the same.

This is a wonderful opportunity for significant improvements and investment in the school building to improve the environment for our school community.

Mrs Christie- School Business Manager

## Winter uniform

The children will return from half term in winter uniform. Full details are available on the website but here is a summary, for your information.

St Chad's reversible black school coat
<b>Or</b> grey duffle coat (available from Bubblegum)
Grey or white socks or grey tights
Plain white school shirt – <b>not blouse</b>
St Chad's grey jumper or cardigan
Grey pinafore/skirt or short trousers
School tie (available from school)
St Chad's black ski hat
Black shoes – shoes need to be flat, robust and with a fastening to keep them on such as Velcro, buckles or laces. <b>Short boots (ankle boots), trainer type shoes, ballet pumps, flashing lights etc are <u>not allowed</u>.</b>
St Chad's book bag
St Chad's rucksack – Yr3 upwards only

***Please note that the uniform policy also states the following:***

Long trousers may be worn by boys Yrs1-6

No jewellery including watches may be worn but girls are permitted to wear small gold stud earrings only.

No religious symbols to be worn (including crucifix on a chain).

Long hair must be tied back (boys and girls).

No overly long hair extensions, beads or head coverings.

Ribbons and hair fastenings must be yellow, grey, black or white only. (No beads or large decorative flowers etc) No gel, tramlines, or other shaved designs including Mohicans are allowed nor is a completely or closely shaved head.

All items of clothing must be clearly marked with the child's name.

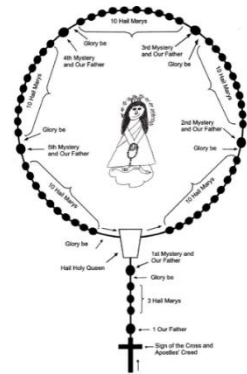
## Nursery News

Nursery enjoyed their autumn walk on Wednesday and managed to dodge the showers. Thank you to everyone who helped.



## Our Faith

October is a month of devotion to Our Lady and across the world, Catholics pray The Rosary in Her honour. To the side, is a simple graphic to guide you and we hope that in these troubled times, you will find peace in this special set of prayers.



## Inclusion

Mrs Cowmey- our SENCo- would like to bring this opportunity to your attention:

### **Autism: Culturally Censored with Venessa Bobb**

*Venessa shares her lived experiences as a Black Autistic parent advocating for her adult Autistic children and others.*

*Venessa Bobb is an Autistic mother of two young adults diagnosed Autistic and ADHD. Venessa battled for years for her middle child. Cultural differences brought isolation, loneliness and a breakdown of communication. Venessa's lived experiences helped to pave the way in providing advice, support and information when supporting different communities. Venessa has spoken nationally and internationally speaking on taboos, myths and stigma within the Black and Brown communities. "Without our voices, one can't be inclusive".*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autism-culturally-censored-with-venessa-bobb-tickets-734715181887?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=wsa&aff=ebdsshwebmobile>



## Safeguarding

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any parent have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform the school's Designated Safeguarding officer: Mrs P Mitchener.

We also have three Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Davern, Mrs Mooney and Mrs Vassallo. In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with one of the Designated Safeguarding Officers to seek further advice.



## Dinosaur workshop

A reminder for all Nursery, Reception and Year 1 families to pay for the forthcoming dinosaur workshop please. We request a contribution of £5.50 via Parent Pay. Thank you.

## Mobile Phones

Please can I kindly remind all parents that you should **not** be on your mobile phone on the school premises. Sadly, phones have crept back in, with a number of parents on them both in the morning and afternoon on the path. To ensure that we are able to fully safeguard your child/ren, please put them away until you leave the premises.



## St Chad's church - Holy Communion Forms

The Holy Communion forms are available from this weekend in the parish. Forms should be completed and returned in person, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December between 10am and 1pm, to the First Holy Communion team in the Guild Room at the Church Hall.

Unfortunately forms received after this date will not be eligible for the Holy Communion programme in 2024.



## Yr2 Black History Month

As part of BHM and our topic, Croydon to Kenya, the children learnt about the djembe drum - where it originated, how to create a bass, tone and slap sound on it - and had an opportunity to use them. The children also made tribal necklaces, using images from traditional Kenyan villagers for inspiration.



## Yr3/4 Stone Age Workshop

Today Ug joined the children of year 3 and 4 to tell them about his life in the Stone Age. The children got to learn about Stone Age language, dance, tools and much more. It was a fantastic opportunity, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.



## Multiplication Check Meeting

There will be an information evening for the parents of children in Year 4 on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 3:15pm, regarding the Multiplication Check. The evening will explain the content and administration of the test the children will undertake in May and give information about how the school is supporting the children and how you can best support them too.

Miss Dench

Maths Coordinator

## Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital so that children can progress in their learning and friendships.

If your child is unwell, please leave a message on the answer phone or email the office by **8am**. The office staff check registers and must follow up on any unexplained absences by 9.15am, so your cooperation with this is appreciated.

Routine medical and dental appointments should be scheduled for outside school time. Holidays in school time cannot be authorised.

*St Mary and St Catherine are our best attenders this week- well done!*

09/10/2023 - 13/10/2023		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	97.9	1.6
St Peter Rec	89.3	0.5
St Anne Rec	89	2
St Elizabeth Y1	97.8	0.4
St Martha Y2	97.7	0.4
St John Paul Y2	95.6	0.8
St John Bosco	96	2.3
St Martin	94.8	0
St Catherine	100	0.7
St Andrew Y5	94.5	0.5
St James Y5	99	0
St Therese Y6	98.2	1.8
St Brigid Y6	97	0
Totals	96.1	0.8

### Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school	100%	Perfect!
Equates to 2 days off school each year	98%	Excellent
Equates to 13 days off school each year	93%	Good
Equates to 22 days off school each year	88%	Concerned
Equates to 32 days off school each year	83%	Very Concerned
Equates to 47+ days off school each year	75% or Below	Extremely Concerned



St Elizabeth	Eliora, Logan
St Martha	Eloise, Hunter
St John Paul	Choyce, Onyx
St John Bosco	Malachi, Jacob
St Catherine	Isabella, Kimberley
St Martin	
St James	Jayrell, Sharon
St Andrew	Julia, Abdul
St Therese	Santi, Caleb
St Brigid	Maya, Fabian

### Hope

Have you been to see hope yet?

She is being proudly displayed in Waterstones Croydon. If you haven't you still have time. Please take a photograph of yourself with Hope and send it into the office. We will be putting some in the upcoming newsletters.



Gospel Value  
Justice



St Elizabeth	Smith, Junior
St Martha	Favour, Rosie
St John Paul	Arabella, Jamal
St John Bosco	Leilah, Moyin
St Catherine	Jacob, Shawn
St Martin	
St James	Alison, Chanelle
St Andrew	Jessica, Ezra
St Therese	Irene, Theresa
St Brigid	Staas, Vware



Well done to all the children who  
have been to see Hope.