



St Chad's Catholic Primary School Weekly Newsletter

13th February 2025

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another half term, I cannot believe that we are already half way through this year. As always, the teachers have ensured that this half term has been full of amazing learning opportunities for the children and it is great to witness them enjoying their learning and making good progress.

Thank you to everyone who attended Parents' Evening, I hope that you found it informative and valuable. If you were not able to make your appointment, please contact the school, when we return to make a mutually convenient time to meet with your child's class teacher.

The children return to school on Monday 24th February at 8:35.

I hope that you have a safe and enjoyable half term, and that you are able to spend quality family time together to create lasting memories.

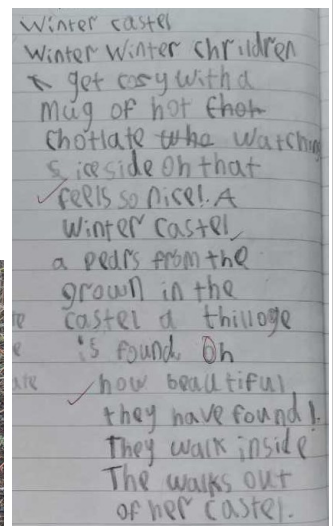
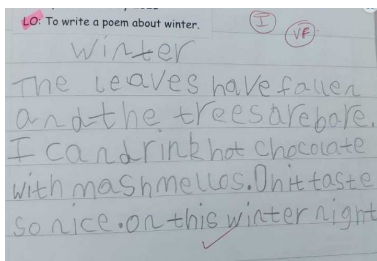
God bless,

Mrs Vassallo, Mrs Mitchener and Mrs Mooney



Yr1 Stewardship

In Science Year 1 have been learning about hibernation and how the change in seasons affects some animals. We have written poems about Winter and this week the children made bird feeders for birds such as blackbirds and robins, because birds do not hibernate and find it difficult to find food during the winter months.



Safer Internet Day 2025

Safer Internet Day took place on Tuesday, and it was a chance to focus on online safety issues which affect all children who have access to the internet. This year's focus was on phishing and scams. All classes joined a live national zoom lesson, hosted by the BBC, where they were given examples of offers which were too good to be true and learnt about ways in which people are tricked into sharing personal information, providing financial information or deceived into buying fake or non-existent products. The children learnt about ways to identify scams and what to do to report them. Please continue to talk to your child about online safety at home.



Making Blood



As part of their Science topic, Yr6 have been learning about the circulatory system. They have learnt about the components within our blood and what the function of each is. They replicated the red and white blood cells, the plasma and the palettes to create their own blood in a bottle.



Yr5 Wetland Centre in Barnes

Yr 5 went to the Wetland Centre in Barnes and took part in the Generation Wild. This project encourages children to think about how to protect our environment and enjoy being outside in nature .

We followed 3 trails which included bird watching, insect finding and crafting nests. Fun was had by all !



St Nicholas'

This week the St Nicholas' intervention group were working on recognising their feelings and understanding how to respond to them positively. They were also working on ideas about how they could fill their kindness buckets.



Big School Bird Watch

Cafod club and Yr5 took part in the Big School Bird watch. They joined thousands of schools across the country to see how well the UK bird population is doing.



Coffee Morning



The next coffee morning will take place in school on Thursday 27th February at 8.40am.

The focus will be to provide parents and carers with an overview of online safety, the issues that children and young people face online and some practical advice on how to support children online. Our online DDSL lead will be available to talk to.





Future Thespians!

Yr6 were writing playscripts this week. To get into character, they acted Scene 1 on the heath, so that they could decide on the dialogue they wanted to use. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and proved that the end of year play is going to be amazing.



Reception African Necklaces

We have been learning about Africa this half term. We have enjoyed making traditional bead necklaces. We tried hard to use lots of bright colours and include different styles of patterns such as zig zags and stripes. Don't we look stunning!



Walking Towards Christ



In Reception we were very excited to go on our first trip out of school to visit St Chad's Church. We visited Mary's grotto and said a special prayer to her before blessing ourselves at the Holy water stoup. Father Fabien was very welcoming and answered all our questions about what we could see inside the Church.



To celebrate the start of the Year of Hope, we thought about how we can be lights of hope by following in Jesus' footsteps. We enjoyed painting our feet. It really tickled! We made a banner and walked around the playground to imitate going on pilgrimage.



Attendance

03/02/2025 - 07/02/2025		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	95	0.9
St Peter Rec	94.4	0
St Ann Rec	96.2	0.4
St Elizabeth Y1	89.5	0.5
St Luke	97	0
St Martha Y2	97.9	0
St John Bosco	91.2	0
St Carlos	95.4	0.4
St Martin	93.4	0
St Catherine	100	0.4
St Andrew Y5	98.3	0
St James Y5	93.1	0
St Therese Y6	100	0
St Brigid Y6	100	0
Totals	95.8	0.2

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.

Well done to St Martha's in the infants and St Catherine, St Brigid and St Therese in the Juniors.



ONLINE PARENT/CARER WEBINARS

Jointly run by Off The Record and Croydon Drop In

Join us online for the following free workshops. Sign up via Eventbrite by scanning the QR code below. Cameras and microphones can be turned off.



Supporting your Child who Struggles to get to School

Wed 26th Feb 1pm

Helping your Child's Behaviour (Primary age)

Wed 5th Mar 1pm

Helping your Child with Anxiety and Worries

Wed 12th Mar 1pm

Introduction to ADHD

Wed 19th Mar 1pm

Supporting your Young Person's Low-mood

Wed 26th Mar 1pm



TALK TO US

OFF THE RECORD



Are you OK Croydon?



You Talk, We Listen
Croydon Drop In

School Coats

Please can you ensure that your child returns to school in the correct school coat.

Unfortunately, a number of families are not adhering to the correct school uniform. It is really important that the children have a shared identity and develop a sense of pride in their school and self. If you are finding it difficult to afford a coat, please speak to Mrs Davern, as we often have a small stock of pre-loved coats and uniform for sale at very reasonable prices.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASE OF ACCESS
The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS
Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be shared to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to someone using 'stalking' to find their child's (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS
As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more exclusive category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE
The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a safe, effective way to meet others. Some even find it difficult to meet people in person due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES
Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (which might not be someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. One when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS
Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can discuss with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

VERIFICATION STAMPS
Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION
Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

REPORT AND BLOCK
Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert
Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseeducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.

WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Source: <http://www.raiseeducation.org.uk>, <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>

A message from Wake Up Wednesday

Through #WakeUpWednesday, we aim to equip every trusted adult with the knowledge and skills they need to keep up with the latest information, implement best practice and heighten their awareness of issues around three core topics; online safety, mental health & wellbeing; and climate change & sustainability.

Relevant to all parents and educators, from early years through to secondary school, our #WakeUpWednesday resources can be accessed both on desktop and via our #WakeUpWednesday app, providing instant and easy access to world-class expertise in the areas they need the most anytime, anywhere.

Sweep

LET'S ALL DANCE PRESENTS
SNOW WHITE & ROSE RED
SUNDAY 23 FEB | 1-1.45PM & 3-3.45PM
£10-£12 | All ages

Snow White & Red Rose

Two sisters, Snow White and Rose Red, live in a pretty cottage in a garden full of white and red roses. Their kind hearts and happy dispositions help a Bear and a Wolf to get along so they can break a magic spell.

Date: Sunday 23 February

Time: 1pm & 3pm

HERITAGE FUND

LED BY DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER SYLVIE BELBOUAB
HALF TERM FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
TUESDAY 18 FEB | 10AM-12PM
Free, booking essential | Ages 5+

Half Term Family Photography workshops

Join photographer Sylvie Belbouab to discover how to take amazing pictures together with your phone and polaroid cameras.

Date: Tuesday 18 February

Time: 10am - 12pm

STANLEY ARTS