



St Chad's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

13th June 2025

Dear Parents,

This week, we were delighted to welcome visitors from the Diocese as well as an external School Improvement Reviewer. Both visits were incredibly positive and productive. We received fantastic feedback, with particular praise for the warm and welcoming atmosphere at St Chad's. Our visitors commented on the excellent behaviour of our pupils in lessons, the engaging learning environments, and the high expectations - especially in reading.

A special mention goes to the group of children who spoke about their experiences at St Chad's. They were outstanding ambassadors for our school and a true credit to our community.

First Holy Communion - Saturday

We will be keeping our Year 3 children in our thoughts and prayers this Saturday as they make their First Holy Communion. There will be two Masses on the day - at **11am** and **3pm**. First Holy Communions are always such special occasions, marking an important step in the children's faith as they receive the sacrament. On behalf of us all at St Chad's, we offer our warmest congratulations to the children on this joyful day.

Important Reminders:

INSET Day - Monday: School will be closed to pupils on Monday as staff will be attending an INSET training day.

Summer Fair: Don't forget our Summer Fair will take place on **Friday, 27th June** - we look forward to seeing you there!

Own Clothes Day: Thank you for your support on our recent own clothes day. Our next one will be on **Friday, 20th June**, along with a collection for the Summer Fair.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mrs T Lawlor



First Holy Communions

This Saturday, a number of our children will be making their First Holy Communion at St Chad's Church - a significant and sacred milestone in their faith journey.

We wish them every blessing as they take this important step and continue to grow in their faith and relationship with God.

We invite you to keep them in your prayers during this special time, as they celebrate with their families and deepen their understanding of God's love.



Yr3 Roman Crofton Villa

On Thursday, Year 3 travelled to Crofton Roman Villa to complete our learning of the Romans. The children saw what an excavated Roman Villa looked like and were able to complete different Roman activities which included; role playing as Romans, creating art work using the rubbing method, making Mosaics using tiles and paper and being archaeologists excavating and examining artefacts. We had a really fun day and the sun made it better! The experts leading the morning said that we were the most inquisitive and well behaved children they have had. They were a credit to our school



Yr5 STEM

Last Friday, a group of enthusiastic Year 5 pupils took part in an exciting STEM Challenge Day at Bishop Thomas Grant Secondary School.

The aim of the day was to inspire pupils by showing how science, technology, engineering, and maths can open doors to a wide range of future careers. Throughout the day, the children tackled six hands-on challenges, developing their teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.





Mask Making Magic

This week, our talented Year 3 and 4 pupils got creative in Art and Craft Club as they designed and made their very own masks!

Using a mix of colours, textures, and materials, the children explored different themes - from animals to superheroes - and expressed their unique ideas through their designs. The results were imaginative, bold, and full of personality!

Yr4 Liturgy

In RE, we are learning about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This week we went outside and held a class liturgy to support our understanding of contrition. We read opening prayers, chose a suitable scripture reading (the parable of the Lost Sheep) and sang a hymn (God's Spirit Is In My Heart). Some children also shared their Acts of Contrition which they wrote in the previous lesson. It was a lovely opportunity to remember that God's mercy and grace fills our hearts with peace.

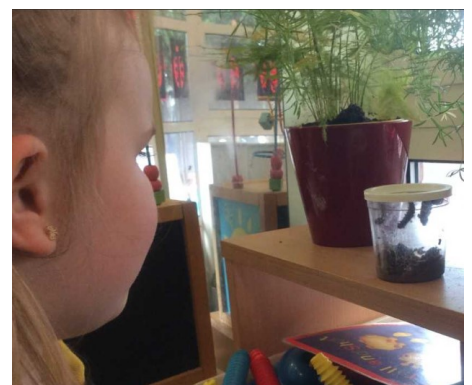
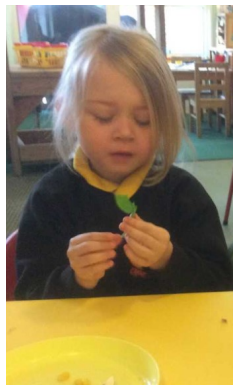


Nursery News

We learnt about caterpillars and butterflies last half term so were very excited when our caterpillars finally arrived.

We can see their life cycle for ourselves now.

This half term is farm and food so we are learning where all our food comes from. This week we have tasted different vegetables. Sweetcorn was the most popular. Then we cut up lots of fruit to make fruit salad. Yum!



Attendance

02/06/2025 - 06/06/2025		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	99.5	2
St Peter Rec	93.8	1.3
St Ann Rec	98.6	3.2
St Elizabeth Y1	92.1	2.1
St Luke	99.1	5.2
St Martha Y2	95.4	1.1
St John Bosco	95.7	2.2
St Carlos	100	0.4
St Martin	99	3.9
St Catherine	97.9	3.2
St Andrew Y5	97.7	1.8
St James Y5	97.5	0
St Therese Y6	96	0
St Brigid Y6	100	0.5
Totals	97.3	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 the 2 classes with 100%- St Carlos and St Brigid and to St Luke for the best attendance in KS1

Fantastic a attendance last week with 97.3% across the school!



St Elizabeth	Naeto, Tofunmi
St Luke	Shana, Nathan
St Martha	Chizi, Logan
St Carlos	Ife, Liora
St John Bosco	Louis, Odera
St Catherine	Mikaere, Noah O
St Martin	Malachi, Carla
St James	Jacob, Anastasia
St Andrew	Ksawery, Arianna
St Therese	Topaz, Michelle
St Brigid	Alison, JR

Gospel Value

St Elizabeth	Isla, Shilo, Naella
St Luke	Nyla, Ephy, Zahra
St Martha	Eliora, Ryeden, Keziah
St Carlos	Micaiah, Jamal, Andre
St John Bosco	Antonelle, Joaquim, Emmanuel K
St Catherine	Danielle, Noah B, Tara
St Martin	Emmanuel, Rhyme, Janelle
St James	Michaela, Marlon, Karis
St Andrew	Ameerah, Erica, Logan
St Therese	Angel, Shayden, Raphael
St Brigid	Amadiwa, Chanelle, Joshua

Are you a parent or carer? Do you want to know more about County Lines and Criminal Exploitation? If so, this webinar is for you.

Who are Catch22

Catch22 is a national organisation with over 10 years of experience delivering specialist support for young people affected by county lines, child criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation. We currently deliver the National County Lines Support and Rescue service- providing 1-2-1 support and a rescue service for young people and their families who are criminally exploited through county lines.

Session overview

This session is aimed at parent/carers (including foster carers/grandparents) to gain a understanding on the important issues surrounding county lines, as well as the impact that it can have on young people and their families, and the support that is available to young people who are impacted/suffering from County Lines and Criminal Exploitation.

Topics will include:

- County Lines, child criminal exploitation (CCE) and financial exploitation,
- Stages of recruitment,
- Push and pull factors,
- The National Referral Mechanism,
- The Psychological impact
- Social media, Debt bondage, plus more

Dates

- Thursday 12th June 2025 (18.30pm) | [Book a place](#)
- Monday 16th June 2025 (12pm) | [Book a place](#)
- Monday 16th June 2025 (18.30pm) | [Book a place](#)
- Tuesday 17th June 2025 (12pm) | [Book a place](#)

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 with School Transitions

Wed 4th June 7pm

Supporting your Child who Struggles to get to School

Wed 11th June 7pm

Helping your Child with Anxiety and Worries

Wed 18th June 7pm

Helping your Child's Behaviour (Primary age)

Wed 25th June 7pm

Introduction to Neurodiversity

Wed 2nd July 7pm

Supporting your Young Person's Low-mood

Wed 9th July 7pm



TALK TO US



Are you OK Croydon?



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence has seen significant development over the recent months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat). One form of AI that has become especially popular has been the AI friend or chatbot. There are now numerous Virtual Friend apps available, with other successful platforms likely to adopt the feature.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be treated out as a result, there is a possibility that children could be exposed to explicit material while conversing with their virtual friends. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could possibly hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, or most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately, AI misinterpreting what is being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour. As many chatbots originate from the USA or UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview. This could lead to children developing biased attitudes and behaviours if they interact with the AI consistently.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, their creativity and their ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about one's behaviour – but many experts warn that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (for instance, the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If a child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, then a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're most of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these apps with children and parents to gain your research to ensure that you think they're suitable. Once you're both happy, you could sit and explore the range of AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If a child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment, ideally in a shared space, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside children to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children still get plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps children can download and interact with. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion, so it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to them. Emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something inaccurate or skewed by bias.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.

The National College