



St Chad's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

4th July 2025

Dear Parents,

Summer Fair Success

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make last Friday's Summer Fair such a success! We were blessed with beautiful weather and a fantastic turnout. The general feedback suggests that holding the event straight after school on a Friday worked well, and we already have a few ideas to make next year's fair even better.

Catholic Sports Events

This week, children from across the school took part in the Junior and Infant Catholic Sports athletics events. Both were wonderful occasions and fantastic opportunities for our pupils to represent St Chad's within our Catholic cluster of schools. Well done to all who took part – you made us proud!

Welcome to Our New Nursery Families

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome our new Nursery cohort for a special introductory morning. It's always a pleasure to meet the newest members of the St Chad's family, and we look forward to working in partnership with their families over the coming years.

EYFS Safari Concert

This morning, I had the privilege of attending the EYFS concert. Our Nursery and Reception children took us on a wonderful safari adventure, complete with the most adorable costumes and plenty of proud smiles. It was a joy to see their excitement and confidence as they performed for their parents and carers.

Looking Ahead

Today, you will have received a letter confirming staffing arrangements for September 2025. We now have just over two weeks to go until the summer holidays, and a number of exciting events

Mrs T Lawlor



Infant Catholic Athletics

On Thursday, children from Reception to Year 2 took part in the Infant Catholic Athletics event at St Thomas Becket. They competed enthusiastically in a range of events and represented our school with great energy and sportsmanship. A special well done to Merrick in Reception, who won his event – a fantastic achievement! Well done to all the children who took part, gave their best effort, and showed such wonderful team spirit. The staff who accompanied the trip were very proud of you all.



EYFS Concert

Today all children in EYFS performed a fantastic concert for our mummies and daddies. All the children sang, dance, spoke and acted brilliantly. Thank you to all the parents and family members who came to watch them. It meant the world to them to see you there! Many thanks also to Mrs Savage who continues to give up her retirement to come and play the piano for us. We couldn't do it without her. The Nursery children were brilliant, all remembering when to sit down and stand up and they sang their hearts out. The Reception children were super duper, remembering what to do and singing with such enthusiasm. A wonderful memory for us all! Miss Roberts' mummy came to watch and was very impressed!



Yr4 Brazilian Carnival Day



Year 4 had a 'Brazilian' time on Thursday celebrating Brazilian Carnival Day! The children got hands-on in the kitchen, making traditional Brazilian snacks such as *Pão de Queijo* (cheese bread) and refreshing Brazilian lemonade. They also showcased their creativity by designing and crafting their very own vibrant carnival masks. In the afternoon, the excitement continued with a Samba dance workshop. After learning some traditional moves, the students worked in groups to choreograph and perform their own routines. It was a joyful and energetic day full of colour, culture, and creativity!



A big thank you to Graham from Thornton Heath Community Action team who made colourful planters for our school. Representatives from our school Cafod/ Green club came out to receive the planters and thank him for his handiwork and kindness. We now can't wait to get planting!

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Kindness Ambassadors

Our Kindness Ambassadors had their end of the year final zoom call with 52 Lives to celebrate all the Kindness that has been happening in St Chad's this year. 52 Lives were delighted to hear about all the ways our children have shown Kindness to each other and to God's world.

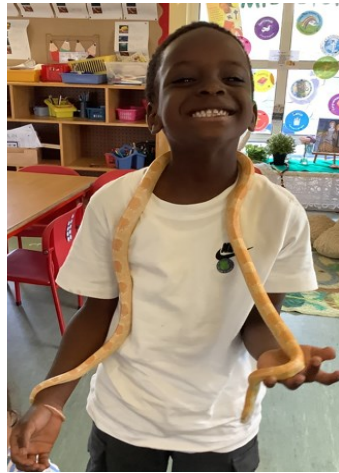


"No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted."

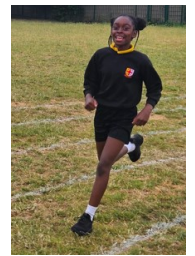
www.52-lives.org

Celebrations in Reception

On Thursday, we had a very exciting day celebrating the end of a successful year in Reception. We wore our own clothes and enjoyed a teddy bears picnic. The weather meant we had to have this in our classrooms but we really enjoyed eating our pack lunches together. After lunch we had a brilliant animal workshop provided by Wild Science. They brought in a corn snake, a tarantula, a cockroach, a gerbil and a giant snail. The children were very curious and keen to touch and hold each of the animals. We learnt that snakes like to go into our armpits as they are one of the warmest parts of our body. The cockroaches were very tickly and liked to move their antennae's a lot. The gerbil is called a fat tailed gerbil and can store water in its tail! All the children participated enthusiastically and were very gentle with the animals.



Junior Catholic Athletics



On Wednesday, children from Years 3 to 6 took part in the Junior Catholic Athletics event at St James the Great. They competed with great enthusiasm across a variety of events, showing determination, teamwork, and a fantastic attitude throughout the day. A special congratulations to Abdul, who came first in the long jump – an impressive result! We are proud of all the children who represented our school so positively and gave their best in every event. Well done – you were a credit to the school!



Recognition of our Stewardship

CAFOD and Gardening Club have been recognised and awarded a certificate for all they do to support and protect God's beautiful creation. Well done to our children for living out their mission so faithfully and proudly!



Attendance

23/06/2025 - 27/06/2025

Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	95.4	0.9
St Peter Rec	94.6	0.4
St Ann Rec	97.3	2.3
St Elizabeth Y1	99	1.5
St Luke	99.1	2.6
St Martha Y2	93.8	1.4
St John Bosco	97.2	1.2
St Carlos	99.6	1.3
St Martin	98.3	3.1
St Catherine	99.6	3.9
St Andrew Y5	93.2	1.8
St James Y5	92.5	0.5
St Therese Y6	100	2
St Brigid Y6	100	0.5
Totals	97.1	1.7

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 Therese and St Brigid and to St Luke for the best attendance in KS1

Fantastic a attendance last week with 97.1% across the school!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

COSTLY TO REPAIR
Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY
While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Some recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS
Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate content simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION
iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT
Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and receptive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING
Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES
Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disallow the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY
Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homeworks – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING
Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert
Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College