



# St Chad's Catholic Primary School

5th September 2025

## Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! A particular welcome to new and returning families. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It has been wonderful to see the children return full of enthusiasm and ready to begin the new school year. They have come back looking very smart in their St Chad's uniforms and are already upholding the high standards we value so much.

The term has had a very exciting start with a special visit from royals representing African countries including Uganda, Ghana, and Kenya. This incredible opportunity was arranged for us by Mrs Curran, a parent at St Chad's, and we are very grateful for her support.

The visit allowed the children to engage directly with the delegation, asking thoughtful questions about their roles, cultures, and responsibilities as leaders. The group of nine dignitaries were extremely impressed by the children's confidence, curiosity, and contributions. As always, our St Chad's pupils did us proud.

Our Breakfast and Afterschool Club is now open and running. We truly appreciate your patience with the delayed communications. In our defence, there has been a great deal to organise behind the scenes, but we are now up and running and look forward to welcoming your children. We're well on our way to getting ready and fully compliant for the new school year, and we appreciate your continued support.

### Beginning-of-Term Reminders & New Systems

#### Late Pick-Up Procedure

While we understand that things can happen from time to time, which causes parents to be delayed. We are currently experiencing a significant number of late collections. To manage this more effectively, we will be implementing a new system:

- From **3:15pm onwards**, any child not collected will be placed into the Afterschool Club.
- A **£12.50 charge** will be applied to cover the cost of supervision.

We kindly ask all parents to make arrangements to collect children on time where possible.

#### Morning Drop-Off Routine

This past week has been a settling-in period for everyone. Starting **Monday**, we will be returning to our usual drop-off routine:

- **Reception parents** may continue to walk their children down the path.
- **Years 1 to 6** children are expected to walk into class **independently** each morning.

This change is to help reduce congestion and ensure a smooth and prompt start to the school day. Thank you for your cooperation and support—it is very much appreciated.

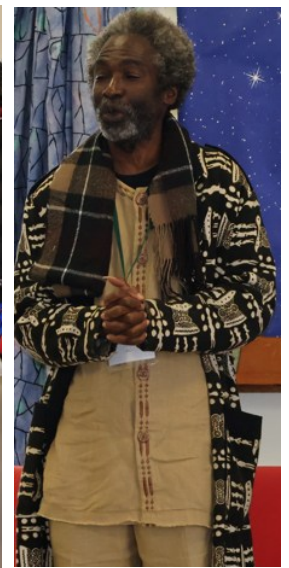
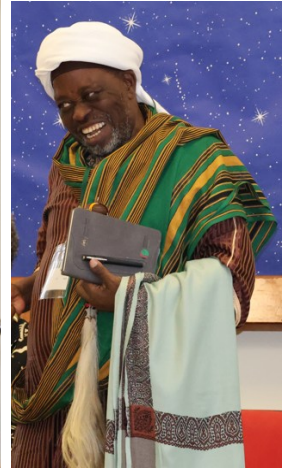
Here is to a positive and productive start to the new term and school year.

In Christ, Mrs T Lawlor



# Royal Visitors

On Thursday, our juniors had a very special treat! A delegation of kings, queens, and princesses from Africa and the Caribbean, visiting London for their annual conference, took time to speak to the children about their roles, duties, and home nations. The children learned the formal royal greeting 'Bayete,' a salute reserved for royalty and prominent figures. They asked many curious questions and really enjoyed this unique and inspiring assembly. A big thank you to Mrs Teddy Curran, who is herself a royal princess and a parent in Yr6, for organising this unforgettable visit!



## Attendance



Welcome back to St Chad's for the new school year! We are proud of our consistently high attendance and want to maintain these standards. Regular attendance is essential for your child's learning, progress, and overall attainment. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time each day and avoid taking term-time holidays. If your child is absent, we ask that you phone the school on the first day to inform us of the reason. Thank you for helping us support your child's education and achievement.

# Meet the Teacher

## Meet the Teacher Evening – Wednesday 10th September

We are delighted to invite you to our *Meet the Teacher* evening on **Wednesday 10th September**. This is a valuable opportunity to visit your child's classroom, meet their new teacher, and hear about the curriculum and expectations for the year ahead.

The evening will begin with a welcome talk from **Mrs Lawlor, Headteacher, at 4:00pm**, followed by classroom sessions at **4:30pm, 5:00pm, and 5:30pm**. You only need to attend one session per child. On arrival, please go to the school hall, and ensure that you arrive on time for your chosen session.

There will be an opportunity to ask general questions at the end of the session. However, please note this is not the appropriate time for in-depth discussions about individual children - separate appointments can be arranged if needed.



Join us for our Coffee Morning on **Thursday 11th September** - a lovely opportunity to get together with other parents, renew friendships, and make new ones. The session will be led by **Mrs Lawlor** and **Mrs Davern (Family Support Worker)**. We warmly encourage you to come along and be part of this friendly get-together!

# Secondary School Transfer Meeting

## Year 6 Parents' Meetings – Thursday 18th September

We invite all Year 6 parents to attend two important meetings on **Thursday 18th September**, starting at **5:30pm**.

- The first meeting will provide information about the **secondary school transfer process**, including guidance on completing the online form and details of upcoming open mornings and evenings.
- This will be followed immediately by a meeting about the **Year 6 residential school journey** taking place in **May 2026**.

Both meetings will run back-to-back and should take approximately one hour in total. Please note that this is a **parents-only meeting**, to ensure key information can be shared and heard clearly. The PowerPoints used during the evening will be available on the school website the following day.

# Staff Liturgy

*On Monday Mrs Mitchener led the staff in a beautiful liturgy, reminding us of our mission as teachers in St Chad's. The theme was the road to Emmaus – walking with Christ.*

Lord,

We thank You for being with us in this time of prayer.  
 You are our hope and our future,  
 the One who renews our strength when we grow weary.  
 Bless our school community,  
 our students, our colleagues, and all families we serve.  
 Grant us hearts of hope,  
 that we may see possibilities where others see obstacles,  
 and joy where there is discouragement.

As we go forth,  
 may we carry Christ our Redeemer into every classroom,  
 every staffroom, and every encounter,  
 so that our work may shine with the light of hope.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Every act of kindness is a step on our pilgrimage of hope. Together, we can make our school a place where Christ is recognised and hope is alive.**



## Next two weeks at St Chad's

Monday 8th September	
Tuesday 9th September	
Wednesday 10th September	Meet the Headteacher — 4:00pm Followed by meet the teacher—First session 4:30pm, Second session 5:00pm, Last session 5 :30pm (Year groups 1-6)
Thursday 11th September	Coffee Morning 8:40am
Friday 12th September	
Monday 15th September	
Tuesday 16th September	Lara Kenneavy— Reading For Pleasure Parent Workshop EYFS/KS1
Wednesday 17th September	
Thursday 18th September	Reception Phonics/Reading Parents Meeting 4:30pm Yr6 Parents -Secondary Transfer & PGL meeting 5:30pm
Friday 19th September	Yr2 Horniman Museum Trip

Headteacher's Award	
St Elizabeth	Whole Class
St Luke	Whole Class
St Martha	Akusha, Oliwia
St John Paul II	Zahra, Ayla
St John Bosco	Leah, Junior
St Catherine	Nogan, Shalom A
St Martin	Simeon, Kamiyah
St James	Raheem, Ayomide
St Andrew	Malachi, Cale, Marisha
St Therese	Bentley, Ksawery
St Brigid	Ebere, Jonathon

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

- 1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES**  
Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.
- 2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS**  
Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.
- 3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP**  
Children need adequate sleep for concentration, better practice, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.
- 4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS**  
Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If written reports, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.
- 5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**  
Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or rides home in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on their first day back.
- 6 CREATE A CALM MORNING**  
Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.
- 7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES**  
Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day went?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help ease children's anxious thoughts and return school as a safe and engaging place.
- 8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL**  
If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school library is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly useful for younger children or those with additional needs.
- 9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER**  
Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.
- 10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT**  
Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence boosts their confidence and resilience.

St Chad's Wrap Around Provision





# Hope's Haven

**St Chad's Catholic Primary School  
Breakfast & After-School Club**



**Breakfast Club**  
Open from 7:30am - £6 per session

**After-School Club**  
Open Until 6:00pm - £12.50 per session

**Discount for Full Wraparound Care  
(Breakfast & After-School)**  
£16 per day

**10% Discounts for Siblings**

**Club Manager  
Stephanie Odewale**

**Starting  
2nd September 2025**



**To make a booking for your child  
please email Mrs Odewale at  
wac@stchadsprimaryschool.com**

