



26th September 2025

# St Chad's Catholic Primary School Weekly Newsletter

**Dear Parents,**

It has been lovely to see some sunshine this week! The term is progressing well, and the children are settling into their routines. We're already seeing some great learning taking place across the school. Our Reception children, in particular, are making fantastic progress.

It was a privilege to attend Mass on Wednesday at Southwark Cathedral with five of our Year 6 pupils. They were wonderful ambassadors for St Chad's. The children joined representatives from all the Catholic schools in the Diocese for this special celebration. The Mass, celebrated by the Archbishop, marked the beginning of the new academic year.

Thank you for the continued support you provide, which enables our children to grow and learn each day.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

In Christ, Mrs T Lawlor

## St George's Cathedral Mass

Five children from Yr6 attended St George's Cathedral on Wednesday to celebrate the start of the new academic year. They were accompanied by Mrs Mitchener and Mrs Lawlor. Mass was celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson, and the children behaved beautifully throughout the service, enjoying the experience. It was wonderful to join with so many other schools to celebrate our faith in this special Jubilee Year of Hope.



# Horniman Museum



On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of September, we visited the Horniman Museum. We had a look around all the different exhibitions. We participated in a workshop about Africa. We did different activities which included using African toys, wearing African clothes, looking at some animal skulls, working in the Makla market, living like Massai people and playing musical instruments.



# St Catherine's Trip to Pizza Express

On Tuesday, St Catherine Class had a very exciting morning attending Pizza Express to support their Science learning. We became chefs, learning how to make our very own pizza! We learnt about the ingredients used and thoroughly enjoyed watching our creations come to life in the oven! Once the pizzas were cooked, we made our way back to school with great anticipation ready to enjoy a lunchtime treat! The children were a credit to us all with their behaviour and attitude on the trip.



# New Faith Leaders

Last Friday, our new Faith Leaders were announced to the school. These children will help to lead our daily prayers and regularly demonstrate our Gospel values through their actions. It is a great honour to be chosen as a Faith Leader, as they are elected by their classmates and recognised as shining examples of God's light.



## Priest Reference Secondary Transfer

Fr Ambrose will be signing secondary school forms, in the Church Hall on:

Monday 8th September 6pm-8pm

Monday 22nd September 6pm-8pm

Monday 13th October 6pm-8pm



# School Fund Donation

We would like to invite all families to make a voluntary contribution to our School Fund. We suggest an amount of £20 per family, though of course, any amount would be greatly appreciated. You can make any payments via your ParentPay account.

These funds will support the replacement of our outdated whiteboards with interactive whiteboards, ensuring our children have access to the latest technology to enrich their learning experience. By investing in these vital resources, we can create more engaging, interactive lessons and give every pupil the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Your donations will make a real and immediate difference in our classrooms. We thank you, as always, for your support.

## Late Pick Up Procedures

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.

# Nursery News

Part of the EYFS curriculum is our physical development. The children have been learning new skills in fine motor control so they can use paint brushes, scissors, staplers and tape to be creative, and in large motor movement to throw and catch as well as being able to balance on the bikes ,scooters and stilts.



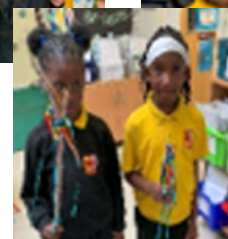
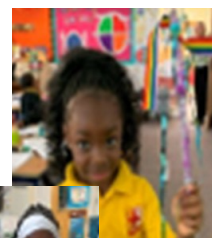
## Yr3 Stone Age Art

This week year 3 stepped back in time to the Stone Age as part of their history topic. The children explored how early humans used natural materials to create artwork on cave walls, and then had the chance to create their own versions using chalk, charcoal and pastels.



## Yr2 Rainsticks

After reading our class book Lila and the Secret of Rain we made rain sticks to help Lila bring the rain to the village. We collected sticks from the field, painted them white and decorated them with glitter and ribbons.



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Headteacher's Award



St Luke	Ryan, Destiny
St Elizabeth	Theo, Rudi
St Martha	Machau, Shakye
St John Paul II	Denzil, Sophia
St John Bosco	Keziah, Micah
St Martin	Odera, Monisade
St Catherine	Zofia, Ayomide
St James	Joshua M, Georgia
St Andrew	Sophie, Joshua E
St Brigid	Kamiyah, Shalom
St Therese	Jayda, Stanley

## Gospel Value



St Luke	Liam, Weslynn, Rahmahtullah
St Elizabeth	Luna, Ethan, Belul
St Martha	David, Tiffany, Tofunmi
St John Paul II	Tony, Ronel, Zahra
St John Bosco	Leah, Chizi, Governor
St Martin	Whyshown, jayden, Divine
St Catherine	Andre, Mathilda, Choyce
St James	Maria, Leilah, Tara
St Andrew	Antonia, Angel, Malachi
St Brigid	Joshua, Jesse, Ameerah
St Therese	Benjamin, Gabriella, Jacob

## Next two weeks at St Chad's

Monday 29th September	
Tuesday 30th September	Yr4 Parents Meeting—Multiplication Tables Check 3:15
Wednesday 1st October	Deanery Mass
Thursday 2nd October	Yr6 Trip to the James Caird
Friday 3rd October	St Brigid's Liturgy— Harvest
Monday 6th October	
Tuesday 7th October	
Wednesday 8th October	KS2 Guest speaker -Parliament Assembly Geo Bus Yr6 London Fire Brigade—Yr2&5
Thursday 9th October	
Friday 10th October	World Mental Health Day

# 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](mailto:wac@stchadsprimaryschool.com)

Our **Wraparound Care** offers a safe, welcoming space where children can thrive before and after school. With high-quality, caring staff, delicious fresh food, and a wide range of stimulating activities, we make sure every child is happy, well looked after, and engaged. Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, giving parents complete peace of mind. Whether it's enjoying a healthy snack, getting creative, or having fun with friends, your child will love their time with

us.



# Attendance

15/09/2025 - 19/09/2025		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	93.5	0.8
St Peter Rec	95.5	0
St Ann Rec	96.2	0.5
St Elizabeth	95.6	2.2
St Luke	92.7	1.8
St John Paul	93	0.4
St Martha	94.3	3.8
St John Bosco	97.1	2.9
St Martin	94.7	0.8
St Catherine	100	0.4
St Andrew Y5	95.2	0
St James Y5	97	3
St Therese Y6	96.4	0.5
St Brigid Y6	92.3	0
Totals	95.4	1.3

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 Ann and St Catherine this week*



## Croydon Harvest featuring The Walnut Fair

Celebrate the autumn at Croydon's fun, free celebration of global folk stories, dancing, crafts, and performance!

Date: Sat 4 & Sun 5 October 2025, 12pm - 5pm, Croydon town centre

Croydon Harvest is back for an autumn extravaganza where giants roam and hope blooms!

Inspired by the history of Croydon's Walnut Fair (1314 – 1868) this centuries-old tradition comes back to life with plenty of surprises and spectacles. [Join us for a free family-friendly weekend like no other.](#)

- Folk dancing from around the world – see performances and join free workshops from Morris to Bhangra
- Street performances; theatre shows; face painting; fortune telling; and the return of the Magic Shed
- Harvest stories (for adults and children) from Africa, Asia, Mexico and even the rather off-putting tale of John Barleycorn...
- Vauxhall City Farm in The Queen's Gardens
- Street food; a craft and community market and seasonal cocktails at our Harvest Bar
- Autumnal crafts – create a Ukrainian wheat crown (vinok); rosettes; miniature baskets and much more
- Join the Jonkonnu Queen, the Walk of the Dandelion, and The Orbitza Parade

[Plus hear a talk on The Walnut Fair on Thurs 2 Oct, 6.30pm – 7.30pm at Croydon Clocktower.](#)

Pull on your cosiest jumper and step into the best of harvest!

Find out more at [www.culturecroydon.com](http://www.culturecroydon.com)

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

## UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

### WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence was happening to them, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to personal characteristics of the victim (e.g. race, religion, sexuality, gender, or being LGBT+) and being provoked, rather than the young people being violent, being provoked, or having a mental health problem.

### WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy about friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar visiting arrangements, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

### ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Problems like FOMO and algorithmic echo chambers can lead to harmful content, often perpetuating stereotypes. Many use social media to share their distress, leading to fear and deindividuation. A recent study found 70% had seen self-harm videos online, and 50% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 33% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online content can often go viral fast, with serious real-world consequences.

- Opportunity
- Community
- Wellbeing
- Respect

- UNCERTAINTY
- CONFLICT
- FEAR

### WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in high-risk areas, the focus is on the time between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – as it is particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply meeting through informal means as the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the areas they live in, and 30% don't feel safe walking the streets.

### WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or subculture activity. Some don't realise it's illegal, or may believe it earns respect.

### WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places behind building activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-attended public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through these communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. It's a good idea to begin, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid blaming and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

### AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'SAFE' – their instincts, take a breath, and talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival mode', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Talking to breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

### HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be removed by police or teachers if suspended or sent to a prison. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record, even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, fleeing, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

### REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through helplines or whistleblowers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

### Meet Our Expert

The Bow Bowelle Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through in-school workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit [bowbelle.org.uk](http://bowbelle.org.uk)



Source: Bow Bowelle Trust (2023) and other research. For more information, visit [bowbelle.org.uk](http://bowbelle.org.uk)