



# St Chad's Catholic Primary School

28th November 2025

## Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The season of Advent is upon us, and I hope that this weekend we can all take some time to reflect and begin preparing ourselves spiritually for the weeks ahead. This is always a special time of year, but it can also be a challenging one. It's important that we remain mindful of not getting swept up in the commercial side of Christmas and instead focus on what truly matters.

This week, we were treated to a wonderful Rocksteady concert performed by our KS2 rock band members. The children's skills are certainly improving, and we now have a truly impressive group of young instrumentalists—drummers, guitarists, keyboard players, and vocalists. Well done to all involved!

Unfortunately, this time of year also brings a great deal of illness. Today alone, we have 47 children absent with high temperatures, or vomiting and diarrhoea. Several members of staff are also unwell with similar symptoms. Please ensure that children are not sent to school if they have a fever, are visibly unwell with a cold or cough, or have experienced vomiting or diarrhoea. Children must not attend school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have fully subsided, in line with NHS guidance.

We hope that this weekend will act as a much-needed 'fire break,' as the current level of sickness is quite concerning. Let's hope everyone feels much better after a good rest.

Wishing you all a healthy and peaceful weekend.

Happy Friday, everyone!

In Christ, Mrs T Lawlor

## Open Morning 2nd December

We warmly invite prospective parents of children due to start **Reception in September 2026** to join us for our **Open Morning on 2nd December at 9:30**.

Come and see St Chad's in action - meet our dedicated staff, explore our vibrant classrooms, and discover how we nurture a love of learning right from the very start of your child's journey. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing what makes St Chad's such a special place to learn and grow.



Grow  
in Love,  
Live in  
Peace

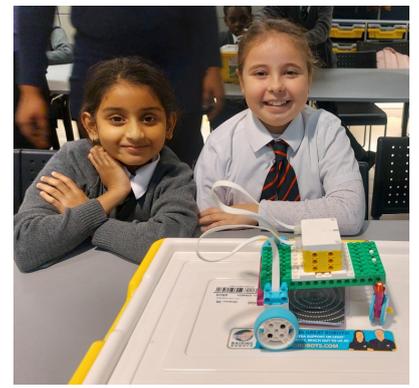
### Next Events

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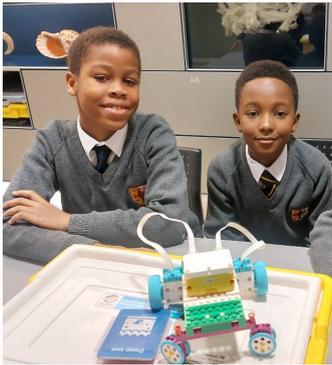
Open Morning

Reception Places  
Still Available for  
2025/2026  
Admissions - Apply  
Now!



## Yr5 Trip -Natural History Museum

As part of our learning about space and the Curiosity Mars Rover, Year 5 enjoyed a great day out to the Natural History Museum and took part in a Mission to Mars Lego Workshop. The children were able to share their learning about space and find out about the new rover due to go to Mars in 2028. Children worked in groups to build their own model Mars rovers out of Lego, they then had the opportunity to add their own additional features, write code to programme their rovers movements and test them out on different terrains. We were so impressed by their great teamwork, enthusiasm and the application of their learning from the classroom. We also had the opportunity to explore the museum and see many of the other exhibitions.



# Nursery News

Our topic is nursery rhymes and this week we are exploring 'Humpty Dumpty'. We painted him, used playdough to make an egg figure and even built a wall with bricks to see if he could stay on top. He fell off again! But we were most excited to make a real egg bouncy by putting it into vinegar and watched what happened for 2 days. We loved it bouncing on the tray before it eventually broke!



# Hurricane Melissa Appeal

A huge thank you to all our families for the generous donations of much-needed items for the Hurricane Melissa Appeal. Hector came on Wednesday and collected everything, and we know these supplies will be gratefully received by the communities affected.



If you have not yet had the chance to donate but would still like to help, you can support national relief efforts through organisations such as the British Red Cross Disaster Emergency Appeal, who continue to collect monetary donations to support emergency responses. Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference.

# Inconsiderate and Dangerous Parking

We would like to remind all parents and carers about the ongoing issue of dangerous parking at the corner of Alverston Gardens and Selhurst Road. Parking on the double yellow lines is not permitted at any time, and doing so creates a serious hazard for pedestrians and other road users. This behaviour puts our children at risk by blocking visibility and making crossing the road unsafe.



The safety of all our pupils is paramount. Please ensure you park considerately and follow all road markings to help keep our school community safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

# School Coats Reminder

As the temperature has dropped and a cold spell is forecast, we would like to remind all parents and carers that every child should bring a **named school coat** to school. It is important that children are dressed appropriately to stay warm during the day, especially during outdoor activities and playtimes. Thank you for helping us ensure that all pupils remain comfortable and safe in the colder weather.



# Geo Bus Yr5

Both Year 5 classes were lucky enough to take part in a 'Planets in the Solar System' Workshop, hosted by UCL University. This included an interactive experience, looking at planets and moons in the solar system, using 3D glasses! Children also had the chance to ask the presenter lots of challenging questions about Space.



# Rock Steady

A group of children from Years 2–6 took part in Rock Steady today, showcasing their talents across a variety of instruments. The children performed with confidence and enthusiasm, and it was clear how much effort had gone into their practice. Their hard work resulted in a fantastic afternoon of entertainment that was enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. The session was well led, highly engaging, and a wonderful celebration of the children's musical achievements. A big thank you to Sean for his dedication, encouragement and excellent leadership.



# Coffee Morning

You are all warmly invited to attend our next coffee morning which will take place on **Wednesday 10th December at 8.45am**

The subject of the coffee morning is -

**Harmony at Home: Practical Tools for Parenting.**

We are really lucky to have Soroya and Pam from our school's wellbeing team delivering the presentation.

They will share information and practical strategies on how we can support our children's mental health and wellbeing at home and school.



# First Holy Communion 2026

Registration forms (printed on purple paper) are available at the back of the church in a white tray. Please take a form, read it carefully, and complete it if your child is in Year 3 or above at primary school and you wish them to receive Holy Communion in June 2026.

**Completed forms should be returned to the Guild Room** in person on either:

**Saturday 22nd November** from 12 - 2 pm.  
**Saturday 13th December** from 12 - 2 pm.

Forms received after 13th December will be deferred to the 2027 program. The First Holy Communion team looks forward to welcoming you all.



# Advent Breakfast

We warmly invite all families to join us for our Advent Breakfast on Tuesday 3rd December. This special community event is a lovely way to begin the season of Advent together.

We will be serving delicious bacon rolls, brioche and toast, along with a warm, welcoming atmosphere to start the morning. All proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to CAFOD, helping to support families and communities in need around the world.

We hope you can join us and share in this simple but meaningful start to Advent. Your support will make a real difference.



**CAFOD**  
Just one world

## Attendance

17/11/2025 - 21/11/2025		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	91	1.5
St Peter Rec	100	0
St Ann Rec	90.5	0
St Elizabeth	95.2	0
St Luke	90.5	0
St John Paul	97.3	0
St Martha	97	1
St John Bosco	95.7	0.4
St Martin	99.2	0.4
St Catherine	98.6	0
St Andrew Y5	97.2	0.3
St James Y5	100	0.4
St Therese Y6	99.1	0
St Brigid Y6	98.6	0
Totals	96.3	0.3

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 Peter in the infants and St James and St James in the Juniors.*



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Headteacher's Award



St Luke	Olivia, Ryan
St Elizabeth	Desire, Theo
St Martha	Marcel, Tofunmi
St John Paul II	Nyla, Zahra
St John Bosco	Governor, Sky Blue
St Martin	Monisade, Emmanuel
St Catherine	Aleksis, Arabella
St James	Raheem, Jermaine
St Andrew	Christian, Carla
St Brigid	Ksawery, Serena
St Therese	Mary, Alex

## Gospel Value



St Luke	Sage, Gregorio, Isaiah
St Elizabeth	Mia, Merrick, Brielle
St Martha	Machau, Akosua, Lorenzo
St John Paul II	Caevan, Tony, Shana
St John Bosco	Ithiel, Ryden, Christly
St Martin	Jazelle, Jewel, Michael
St Catherine	Mathilda, Ife, Jamal
St James	Georgia, Emmanuel, Mikaera
St Andrew	Charlotte, Eva, Marisha
St Brigid	Joseph, Tahlia, Liesel
St Therese	Inam, Michaela, Jayda

## Next two weeks at St Chad's

Monday 1st December	Adoration Y6 Height and Weight Checks
Tuesday 2nd December	Open Morning for prospective parents from 9.30am
Wednesday 3rd December	Advent Breakfast
Thursday 4th December	Yr6 Polka Theatre— The Fire Makers Daughter
Friday 5th December	
Monday 8th December	
Tuesday 9th December	National Literacy Assembly—Live from St Chad's! Carol Concert Y3 and Y4 @ 6pm ( children in school from 5.30pm)
Wednesday 10th December	
Thursday 11th December	Nativities: 8:50am—Nursery 10am—St Anne (Reception)
Friday 12th December	Y1 and Y2 Nativity @ 9.15am

# 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.





## We can help with information on:

- Applications for all benefits
- DLA and Carers Allowance
- Housing/Private Renting Issues
- Discretionary Housing Payments
- Household Support Fund—Grants
  - Disability Grants
- Debt Management and Budgeting
- No recourse to public funds
  - Food Bank Vouchers
  - Parenting Courses
- 2 year funding and 30 hour funding
  - Domestic Abuse
- Support for childcare (nursery/school applications and childminders)

We offer support over the telephone or we can book a 1:1 appointment in a private and confidential space.

Please call a member of the Family Support Team on:

Reha—0777 6590 571

Kirsti—0777 8105 573

Samantha—0777 6590 572



www.croydon.gov.uk

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

**13+**

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**  
Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
TikTok's following feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

**BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES**  
Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families find tweets of other children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

**IN-APP SPENDING**  
TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.95, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok shops adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Consumer Investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
Between 1.6 and 1.8 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s for young people using a false date of birth are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

**MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION**  
TikTok's short videos may appear light-hearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one-third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

**ADDICTIVE DESIGN**  
TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2021, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**  
Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

**DISCUSS THE DANGERS**  
If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

**BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING**  
Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok shops. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

**READ THE SIGNS**  
If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

**Meet Our Expert**

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, Tech Radar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

**#WakeUpWednesday**

**The National College**

See full reference list on our website