



4th September 2026

St Chad's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back to a New School Year

Welcome back to the new school year! It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to St Chad's, and I have to say, the children are looking extremely smart in their uniforms. Thank you to all our parents and carers for your attention to this and for embracing the changes to our uniform.

Please remember that where children already have uniform items that are no longer compulsory, we do not expect families to purchase new items. We want to avoid imposing unnecessary expense on families, so please continue to make good use of uniform items you already have.

Thank you also to our Year 6 parents for supporting our new mobile phone policy, which does not allow children to use smartphones to and from school. This is in line with government guidance and the requirements set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education. We appreciate your support in helping us to ensure that our children are safe and able to enjoy the many benefits of school life without the distractions that smartphones can bring.

We will not be holding our usual Meet the Teacher meetings this term. Instead, you will receive an information poster from your child's class teacher containing all the relevant information you need for the year ahead. Our first parents' evenings will take place during the week beginning Monday 19th October 2026.

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of Mr Stephen Beck, former Headteacher of St James the Great Catholic Primary School in Thornton Heath. Stephen was a great champion and ambassador for Catholic education and for the Croydon community. We remember him with great affection and gratitude and keep his family, friends and former colleagues in our prayers at this very sad time.

I hope that the summer break has been kind to you and your families. As we begin a new academic year, I would encourage us all to start the year with good habits and positive routines. Establishing good routines around bedtime, attendance, punctuality, reading, homework and preparing for school each day will help our children to settle quickly and start the year positively.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead, filled with opportunities for our children to learn, grow and flourish together.

Welcome back — it is wonderful to have you with us!

Mrs T Lawlor



Punctuality

Why being on time matters

Children should be **in school and ready to start learning at 8.25am**. Arriving on time means children can settle, greet their friends, organise themselves and be ready for the day's learning. Even a few minutes of lateness can add up:

If a child is late by...	Over a 5-day week	Over a 39-week school year
5 minutes every day	25 minutes	16¼ hours
10 minutes every day	50 minutes	32½ hours
15 minutes every day	1 hr 15 mins	48¾ hours
20 minutes every day	1 hr 40 mins	65 hours

That means a child who is just 10 minutes late every day could miss the equivalent of more than 4 full school days of learning over the course of a year.

It is also important to remember that the impact is not simply the number of minutes missed. Children arriving late can miss the **start-of-day routines, instructions, teaching and important information**. Government guidance highlights that missing school affects children's learning, progress, confidence and readiness to learn.

Lateness affects everyone

Lateness also has an impact on the smooth running of the school. Once the register has closed, children arriving late need to report to the school office. Their arrival must be recorded and, importantly, their school lunch choice needs to be recorded by the office. This creates additional administration for our office team at a particularly busy time of the morning. Late arrivals can also interrupt lessons once teaching has begun and can make it more difficult for children to settle into their learning.

Our expectation is therefore that children arrive at school in good time to be in school and ready for the start of the school day at 8.25am.

We know that occasional delays happen, but developing good morning routines and allowing enough time for the journey to school can make a significant difference.

Good attendance starts with good punctuality



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 Jesus,

We place ourselves in your presence.

Be at the centre of all that we do.

Be at the centre of our decisions, our teaching and our relationships.

Be at the centre of our challenges, giving us courage and wisdom.

Be at the centre of our successes, that we may always give thanks.

And be at the centre of our lives, so that all we do reflects your love.

Help us to see you
in every child, every colleague
and every opportunity to serve.
May our school be a place
where your love is seen, felt and lived.
Amen.



A Blessing for the Year Ahead

May the Lord bless us as we begin this new year.

May he give us **eyes to see** those who need our care,

ears to hear those who need to be listened to,

hearts to love those entrusted to us,

wisdom to guide,

courage to lead,

and **faith to trust** in God's plan.

May Christ remain at the centre of all that we do.

And may our school be a place where his light shines brightly.

