



St Chad's Catholic Primary School

25th September 2026

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents,

This week, we celebrated Mass with Fr Ambrose to ask for God's blessing on our new academic year. Father also blessed our new school Bibles and the faith leaders from each class. It was a lovely and meaningful occasion, and we are very grateful to Fr Ambrose for joining us and helping us to begin the year in such a special way.

We also had a very positive visit this week from the English Hub. Our consultant was extremely complimentary about the provision for phonics and reading at St Chad's, as well as the clear love of reading that is being fostered across the school. The children engaged enthusiastically with all aspects of the reading curriculum and are already in Reception class beginning to show progress in both phonics and reading.

We continue to emphasise the importance of regular reading at home, as this makes such a valuable contribution to children's progress and helps to develop confidence, fluency and a lifelong love of reading.

A huge thank you to Mrs Gant and Miss Roberts for their commitment, enthusiasm and drive in ensuring that phonics and reading are so strongly embedded within the St Chad's curriculum. Their hard work is already making a positive difference.

It has been a wonderfully sunny week at St Chad's. Let's hope the sunshine continues into the weekend! Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Grow in Love. Live in Peace.

In Christ, Mrs T Lawlor



A huge thank you to our outgoing PTFA team for all their hard work, dedication and support over the past year. We are particularly grateful to Sophie Sherman, who has been an amazing Chair for the past couple of years. Sophie has given so much of her time, energy and enthusiasm to the PTFA, always working tirelessly to create wonderful opportunities and experiences for our children. Her commitment to our school community has been exceptional, and she will certainly be a hard act to follow! We cannot thank her enough for everything she has done.

We are delighted to welcome Danielle Richards, Xavier's mum in Reception, who is taking on the role of PTFA Chair. We wish Danielle every success and look forward to working with her as the PTFA continues its fantastic work.

We would also love to hear from new parents who would like to get involved. Whether you can offer time, ideas, skills or practical help, there are lots of ways you can support the PTFA and help create amazing experiences for our children.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email the school office, who will be very happy to forward your details to the PTFA. Every contribution, however big or small, is greatly appreciated!



Catholic Life

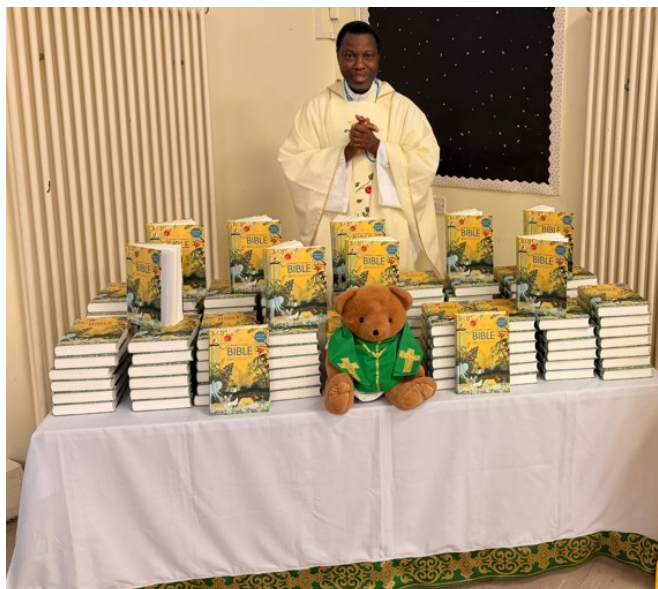
Welcome Back Mass



It was a lovely and joyful way to begin our new academic year as we came together for our Welcome Back Mass, celebrated by Fr Ambrose.

During the Mass, Fr Ambrose blessed our class candles, new Bibles and Faith Leaders, marking the beginning of another year of learning, prayer and growing together in faith. It was wonderful to see the children demonstrating such great reverence, contributing to a truly prayerful and reflective Mass.

We look forward to all that the new academic year will bring, as we live out our Gospel values and continue our mission to serve Christ by being His hands and feet on Earth.





This week in STEM, we explored the science behind a colourful lava lamp experiment. We learned about density and why oil and water form separate layers. We also discovered how water-soluble food colouring mixes with the water and how a chemical reaction creates carbon dioxide bubbles, making the coloured water move up and down through the oil like a lava lamp!



If you would like to recreate this exciting experiment at home, you will need:

A clear plastic bottle or glass

Vegetable oil

Water

Food colouring

An Alka-Seltzer tablet

A tray or plate to protect your surface

Quick Method

Fill the bottle about three-quarters full with vegetable oil.

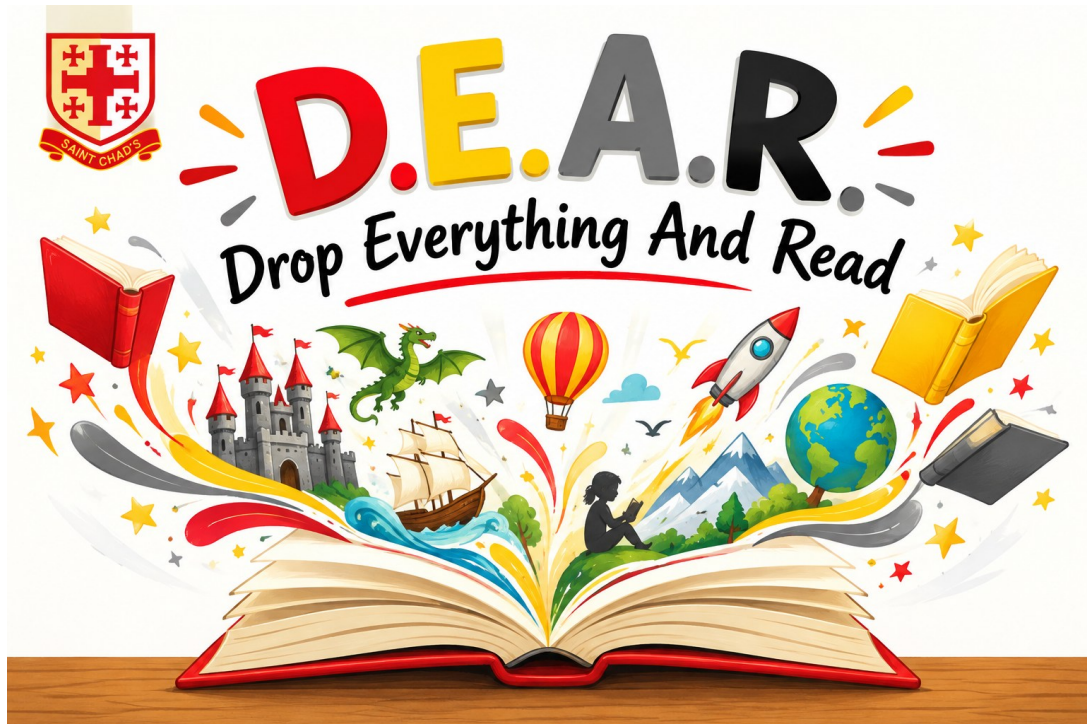
Add water, leaving a little space at the top.

Add several drops of food colouring and watch as it sinks into the water.

Add one Alka-Seltzer tablet into the bottle

Watch as colourful bubbles rise and fall, creating your own lava lamp effect!

Remember: An adult should supervise the experiment, and children should not drink or taste any of the materi-



Friday 2nd October 8:25-9:00

Come along to the school hall and share a story with your child.



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 Elizabeth, St Luke, St Martha and St Therese this week



14/09/2026 - 18/09/2026		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	100	3.6
St Ann Rec	94.7	1.3
St Elizabeth	100	0.9
St Luke	100	0.5
St Martha	100	1.9
St John Paul	91	0
St John Bosco	94.6	1.8
St Carlos	90.5	1.4
St Martin	92.5	0.6
St Andrew	95	0.8
St James	93.6	0.4
St Therese	95.9	1.5
St Brigid	94.6	1.4
Totals	95.3	1.2

Yr4 Multiplication Tables Check Meeting

A reminder that our Year 4 Parents' Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) Workshop will take place on **Tuesday 29th September at 3.10pm** in the Year 4 classroom.

The workshop will provide information about the MTC, explain how multiplication tables are practised and assessed in Year 4, and share some helpful ways you can support your child at home.

We look forward to seeing you there!

School Uniform

A gentle reminder to all families about our school uniform expectations.

In line with recent government guidance, we have reduced the number of compulsory branded uniform items to just **three: the school coat, school bag and school jumper or cardigan**. Families are welcome to purchase additional branded items if they wish, but these are no longer mandatory.

While we have introduced greater flexibility around branding, **our school uniform remains an important part of our school identity and we ask all families to follow the agreed uniform carefully.**

In particular, we have noticed that some children are wearing coats that are not part of our school uniform. Our school coat should be either a **grey duffle coat or a black jacket featuring the St Chad's logo**. This is one of our three compulsory branded items.

We have also noticed a small number of girls wearing **trousers that are not part of our agreed uniform**. We kindly ask families to ensure that children come to school wearing the correct uniform each day.

We appreciate that there are many items to remember when preparing children for school, and we thank you for your support in helping us to maintain high and consistent standards. **Our full uniform requirements are clearly set out on the school website**, so please do refer to these if you are unsure about any item.

Thank you, as always, for your cooperation and support.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Headteacher's Award



St Luke	Nyla, Moyo
St Elizabeth	Iremide, Isla
St Martha	Barbara, Luna
St John Paul II	Olivia, Ezekiel
St John Bosco	Psalm, Tony
St Carlos	Olamaria, Olivia
St Martin	Eliora, Harlem
St James	Jamal, Aleksis
St Andrew	Favour, Emmanuel A
St Brigid	Anashe, Maria
St Therese	Charlotte, Akonbea

Gospel Value



St Luke	Iyla-May, Elijah, Iyla-Rae
St Elizabeth	Kyle, Brayden, Neinga
St Martha	Nora, Ethan, Theo
St John Paul II	Ryan, Sage, Shammah
St John Bosco	Ayla, Nicole, Shana
St Carlos	Rousette, Naella, David
St Martin	AJ, Amanda, Chelsea
St James	Shalom A, Arabella, Nana
St Andrew	Lily, Mayank, Divine
St Brigid	Elijah, Bella, Joshua
St Therese	Nicole, Tara, Kyle

Next two weeks at St Chad's

Monday 28th September	
Tuesday 29th September	Yr4 Multiplication Check Meeting 3:10pm 9:30 Open Morning for perspective parents
Wednesday 30th September	Faith leaders Day at Good Shepherd
Thursday 1st October	St Therese Trip to Dulwich College 4pm Denery Mass at John the Baptist Purley
Friday 2nd October	D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) event 8:15am
Monday 5th October	
Tuesday 6th October	Open Morning 9:30
Wednesday 7th October	
Thursday 8th October	St Brigid Trip to Dulwich College
Friday 9th October	

Spread the Word!
Know a family who'd love St Chad's?
Tell them about our Open Mornings!



St Chad's
Catholic Primary School



Grow in Love Live in Peace

**Welcomes you to our
Open Mornings**



Tuesday 29th September
Tuesday 6th October
Tuesday 13th October
Tuesday 20th October
Tuesday 3rd November



Open mornings
start at
9.30am.



Please book by emailing:

office@stchadsprimaryschool.com.

If you can't make any of those dates then please call
or email the school: **0208 771 3470.**

This year's SATs results were

93%

for Reading, Writing and Maths
which places us in the **top 5**
schools locally.

Please do come along
and find out more about
St Chad's.



We look forward to welcoming you.



Year 6 Secondary School Transfer Priest Reference Signing Evenings



A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers that there will be three evening sessions at the Church Hall for the signing of secondary school priest references.



Monday 28th September – 7:00–8:00pm

Monday 12th October – 7:00–8:00pm

Monday 19th October – 7:00–8:00pm



Fr Ambrose will need to see your child's Baptism Certificate before signing the reference form. Please try to attend one of these sessions, as Father's diary is very busy and individual appointments may be difficult to arrange.

Please ensure your forms are signed within these dates.

St Chad's PTFA

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

Working together to support our children



Make a real difference

Help to raise valuable funds to provide extra resources, equipment and opportunities for our children.



Make new friends

Meet new people, feel part of our school community and work together for a positive difference.



Be part of a supportive community

Join a friendly group of parents, carers, staff and friends who share a common goal – supporting the needs of our children.



Use your skills and talents

Everyone has something to offer – whether it's organising, baking, practical skills, creative ideas or simply your time and enthusiasm.

Join our PTFA!

If you are interested, please speak to the school office team.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.