



16th October 2026

St Chad's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another busy week, I would like to thank all our children for their excellent academic contributions. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils enjoying reading and making strong progress in their writing. Their enthusiasm, effort and resilience continue to be a source of pride for us all.

We are looking forward to sharing examples of the excellent work and progress being made across the school during Parents' Evening next week. These opportunities to celebrate achievement and discuss next steps are always valuable.

As we approach half term, when everyone can start to feel a little tired, we would like to remind all members of our school community of the importance of treating one another with kindness, courtesy and respect. We are all busy people with many demands on our time, and by working together positively and respectfully, we can ensure the very best outcomes for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a restful weekend.

In Christ,

Mrs T Lawlor



Our next parents' coffee mornings will take place on **Wednesday 4th November At 8.40am.**

We will have Samantha from the Family Hub in attendance. Samantha is a Senior Croydon Family Hub Navigator. She will be in attendance to introduce her service and share the support on offer for children, young people and their families.

Family Hub Navigators provide a friendly, accessible point of contact for families, helping them to connect with a wide range of local services and support. Their aim is to ensure that families receive the right help at the right time, improving wellbeing and strengthening outcomes for children and young people.

They can offer signposting and referrals into appropriate services, information, advice and guidance to families on a range of topics (e.g. parenting, emotional wellbeing, behaviour, SEND support, financial advice and community services, Early Years services etc..) They work with families who have children aged 0 -19 (up to 25 with SEND)



Catholic Life

St Chad's Joins Virtual Rosary for Pope Leo XIV



The children of St Chad's were delighted to join over 9,000 pupils from Catholic schools across South London and Kent in a special virtual Rosary led by Archbishop John Wilson, offered for the health and recovery of Pope Leo XIV.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in prayer alongside so many other Catholic schools. We felt privileged to join Archbishop John in this shared act of faith and reflection, demonstrating the strength and unity of our Catholic community. We continue to keep Pope Leo XIV in our prayers and were grateful to be part of such a meaningful occasion.

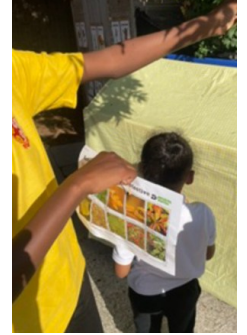


CAFOD Club



The CAFOD Club has been working together as "tree detectives," using leaves to identify and learn more about the diverse trees across our school grounds. This hands-on project is part of our dedicated effort to achieve the Woodland Trust's Bronze Green Tree Schools Award.

By discovering more about our local environment, our student leaders are putting the teachings of Laudato Si' into action. Through this project, they are learning what it truly means to be faithful stewards of creation. Every leaf identified and every tree mapped helps our school community better care for our common home, ensuring we protect the natural world for generations to come.





Life Space PHSE Yrs 1-5

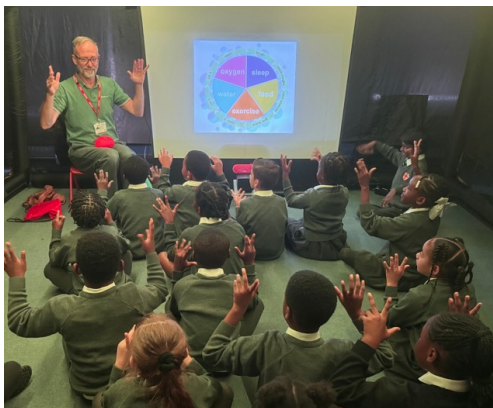


Year 1: My Wonderful Body

Year 1 had a fantastic time taking part in their *My Wonderful Body* experience. The children explored the major food groups and learned how food, water and oxygen help our bodies grow, stay healthy and give us energy. They enjoyed using an interactive body model and discussing the different things we need to keep our bodies happy and healthy. Through the story of Harold the Giraffe and his friends, the children helped solve problems, create balanced lunch boxes and understand the importance of healthy eating.



On Monday, Year 3 enjoyed a SCARF workshop with Mark called Meet the Brain. Through fun activities and discussions, the children learned about the importance of looking after both their physical and mental wellbeing, explored how the brain helps our bodies work, and thought about making healthy choices. They also discussed what makes a good friend and how to build positive friendships. It was a fantastic session, and the children were fully engaged throughout.



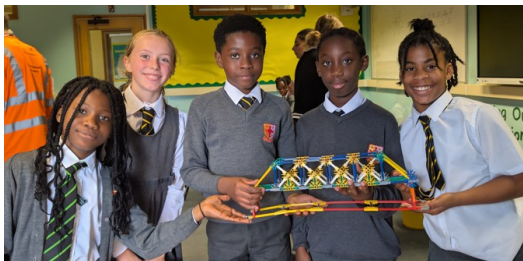
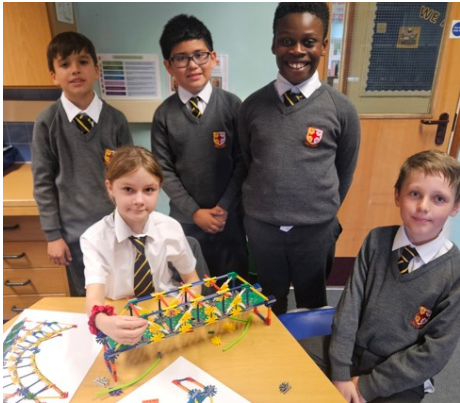
This week, the **Year 5** children explored how everyday choices affect both their body and brain. They learned about the importance of a balanced diet, regular exercise, and good sleep, as well as ways to support their mental well-being through mindfulness and simple breathing exercises. The session with Mark was engaging, informative, and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Bridges 4 Schools

On Thursday, Years 5 and 6 took part in an exciting STEM workshop delivered by **Bridges 4 Schools** and **Mott McDonald**. The children learned about different types of bridges through an informative presentation before putting their engineering skills to the test by building bridges from K'NEX. They then investigated how much weight their designs could hold, with a group within both year groups achieving an impressive record of **6kg**!

The highlight of the day was working together to construct a giant truss bridge in the hall, which the children were able to walk across themselves. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We hope the workshop has sparked an interest in civil engineering and inspired some future engineers!



STEM CLUB

This week in STEM Club, we had great fun exploring the science behind the density and buoyancy. Pupils discovered that an egg sinks in ordinary water but floats when enough salt is dissolved in it. But why does this happen? The experiment demonstrates density and buoyancy. An egg is denser than ordinary water, so it sinks (negative buoyancy).

Adding salt increases the water's density. When the salt water becomes dense enough, it provides sufficient buoyant force to make the egg float (Positive Buoyancy)! We even tried to add enough salt to make the egg float to the middle of our cup (Neutral Buoyancy). We linked our egg experiment to real life examples such as submarines.

What you need:

- Three eggs (not boiled)
- Salt
- Three cups
- Water
- Spoon to stir

Method:

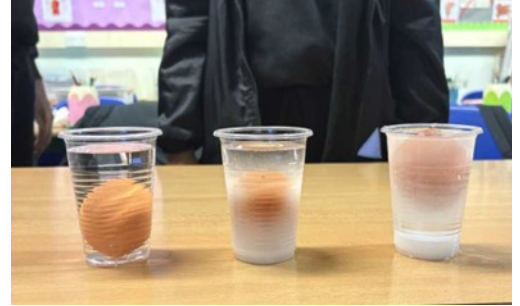
Fill the three cups with water.

Place one egg in your first cup and watch it sink to the bottom.

In your third cup, start adding salt, stirring as you go to dissolve the salt.

Place your egg in the third cup and watch it float.

In your second cup, place your egg and gradually add salt, stirring as you go. Be patient, and see if you can add just enough salt to make the egg float just off the bottom of the cup, but not all the way to the top.



Nursery News

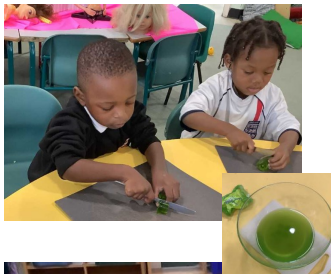
We have been learning about the colour green, with cutting around leaves, making play dough and exploring with paints. The children were very excited to make jelly, stirring until jelly dissolved. Science was introduced with liquid and solid vocabulary. We sang and danced to jelly songs. The children tasted green vegetables and fruits and had a vote for their favourite ones.

In RE the children went on a Creation treasure hunt, to find all the trees and leaves God has made. The children made a display.

As part of Black History Month we watched Yaw and Friends playing the African drums and we also played the drums.

During PE the children are working on balancing skills and their core.

Coach Brad awarded nursery Primary Star certificate for perseverance and being ambitious.





05/10/2026 - 09/10/2026		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	97.9	1.4
St Ann Rec	97.6	2.4
St Elizabeth	97.3	2.3
St Luke	95.7	0.4
St Martha	98.6	1.9
St John Paul	92.1	2
St John Bosco	94.6	1.8
St Carlos	99.05	1
St Martin	96.3	1.3
St Andrew	100	2.9
St James	99.2	0.4
St Therese	100	1.1
St Brigid	98.5	1.5
Totals	97.2	1.6

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 Martha
and St Therese and St Andrew this week***



First Holy Communion at St Chad's Parish



Registration forms for the FHC 2027 are now available at the back of the church (yellow form in a white tray).

Forms should be completed and returned **in person** on either

7th or 14th November

to the church hall between 9:30am and midday.

Unfortunately no forms can be accepted after 14th November.

Children eligible to join the programme, should be in Yr3 or above at primary school.

The First Holy Communion team, look forward to meeting you and your family.

God Bless you.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Headteacher's Award



St Luke	Iyla-May, Maria
St Elizabeth	Bliss, Khadir
St Martha	Barbara, Ethan
St John Paul II	Weslynn, Shammah
St John Bosco	Nyla, Ayla
St Carlos	Machau, Shasanth
St Martin	Christly, Ithiel
St James	Shalom N, Keziah
St Andrew	Louis, Antonelle
St Brigid	Bella, Georgia
St Therese	Mikaere, Angel

Gospel Value



St Luke	Olivia, Diya, Nyla
St Elizabeth	Iremide, Laelle-Reign, Avital
St Martha	Elisha-Noah, Theo, Malaika
St John Paul II	Liam, Nikyrah, Alaiyah
St John Bosco	Nicole, Denzel, Nathan
St Carlos	Esme, Shilo, Olamaria
St Martin	Eliora, Ebun, Chizi
St James	Rouge, Nana, Nogan
St Andrew	Paul, Leonard, Emmanuel A
St Brigid	Jermaine, Moyin, Mariam
St Therese	Tara, Noah, Brielle

Next two weeks at St Chad's

Monday 19th October	Parents Evening EYFS & KS1 (not St Luke) 3:20-6:50pm
Tuesday 20th October	Parents Evening KS2 & St Luke 3:20-6:50pm Yr6 Height & weight Check Open Morning
Wednesday 21th October	Parents Evening EYFS & KS1 3:20-5:50pm
Thursday 22nd October	Parents Evening KS2 3:20-5:50pm
Friday 23rd October	
Monday 2nd November	R.E Week
Tuesday 3rd November	
Wednesday 4th November	Coffee Morning—Family Hub
Thursday 5th November	Dress up as a Saint (or religious person) day
Friday 6th November	

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.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

ST CHAD'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
SOUTH NORWOOD

OCTOBER MARY FESTIVAL 2026

Come, let us honour Mother Mary

Devotion to praying the Rosary daily
and honouring Mother Mary

WAYS TO JOIN IN

Weekend Rosary Before Mass

Saturday 6:00pm • Sunday 8:00am

October Marian Talks

Thursdays 1, 8, 15 & 22 October • 7:00pm

Pilgrim Statue Visits Our Homes

Register for a three-day visit to your home.

Youth Community Launch

Sunday 11 October • 2:00–4:00pm
Under the patronage of Our Lady of Fatima

Rosary Procession

Sunday 25 October, after 10:30am Mass
Followed by the crowning of Mary in church
and parish consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

Night of Light

Friday 30 October • 4:30–8:00pm
Children celebrate, pray the Rosary and crown Mary.
Saint dress up pageant • Learn about saints
Play, dance and share a meal

WE GIVE GLORY TO GOD • HONOUR MARY

We Look Forward To Celebrating

The Union of Catholic Mothers

FREE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY DAY!

Children in Years 1-5 are invited to join us for a fun-filled Activity Day!

Monday 26th October
10.00am–4.00pm

Registration from 9.30am
St Chad's Church Hall

✦ Places are limited, so booking is essential. ✦

✉ To request an application form, please email:
ucmsnf@gmail.com

📌 Completed forms must be submitted by Wednesday 21st October.

❤️ We look forward to welcoming the children for a lovely day together!

All children must be accompanied by a completed application form • Safe, fun, and supervised activities • Crafts • Games • Stories • Prayers

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.