



St Chad's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents,

Half term has finally arrived, and we are all looking forward to a week of rest and recuperation before the busy months of November and December and the run-up to Christmas.

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our recent Parents' Evenings. Thank you to our staff for facilitating appointments and for the considerable work involved in preparing performance overviews for every child. These meetings are such an important opportunity to celebrate successes and discuss next steps in learning.

School life can become very busy at this time of year, so we would encourage all families to read the newsletter carefully and stay up to date with forthcoming events, key dates and important messages.

The weather has certainly turned, and by next week we will officially be in winter. Please ensure that your child brings a school winter coat every day. It is important that children are able to enjoy playtimes and lunchtimes outdoors, and they need to be suitably dressed for the colder weather.

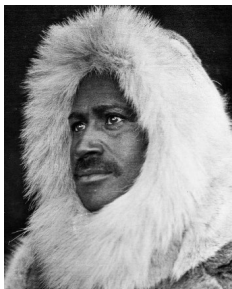
I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Dench all the very best as she begins her maternity leave after half term. We look forward to hearing her wonderful news in the months ahead.

A warm welcome to Miss Lee, who has joined us in Reception, and to Miss Richmond, who will be the class teacher for St John Bosco class for the remainder of the academic year.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this half term. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming everyone back after half term, refreshed and ready for another successful term.

Have a wonderful week.

Mrs T Lawlor



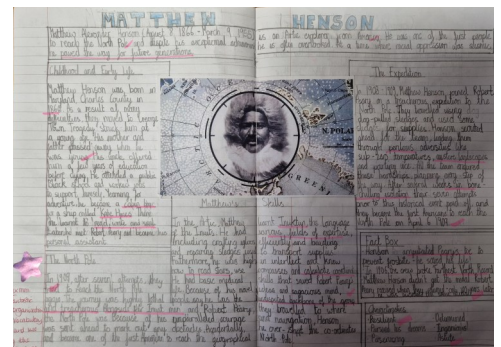
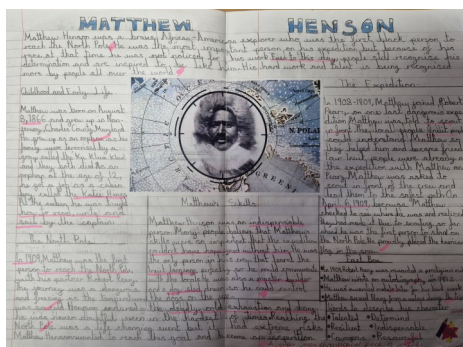
Year 6 Celebrates Inspirational Black History Pioneers

As part of Black History Month and our Geography topic on the Polar Regions, Year 6 have been learning about the achievements of Matthew Henson and Barbara Hillary.



Pupils explored how both pioneers overcame barriers to achieve extraordinary goals. Matthew Henson played a key role in Arctic exploration, while Barbara Hillary became the first African American woman to reach both the North Pole and the South Pole.

Their stories have helped us celebrate Black history and recognise the important contributions Black people have made to our world. Most importantly, they remind us that with determination, resilience and self-belief, anything is possible.





Catholic Life



The Rosary



This week, the children in Years 1 and 2 took part in a lovely liturgy dedicated to Mary. Sitting together in a circle, we reflected on Mary's example and discussed the many good choices we can make each day to honour her, we also prayed a decade of the Rosary. The children shared some wonderful insights and thoughtful reflections, making it a truly special time together. We ended our assembly by singing hymns in honour of Mary, celebrating her with joy and devotion.



This is to certify that the pupils of
St Chad's Catholic Primary School

have achieved the
Bronze Award

on the Woodland Trust's
Green Tree Schools Award



Darren Moorcroft
Chief Executive



CAFOD CLUB

A huge congratulations to our **CAFOD Club**, who have officially achieved the **Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Bronze Award!**

Throughout this half term, club members have been working hard to put Pope Francis' encyclical, **Laudato Si' (Care for Our Common Home)**, into action. By exploring the importance of forests, tracking local wildlife and promoting eco-friendly changes around our school, they have demonstrated what true stewardship looks like.

We are incredibly proud of our young leaders for inspiring others to live more sustainably and care for God's creation. Well done on this fantastic achievement!



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)

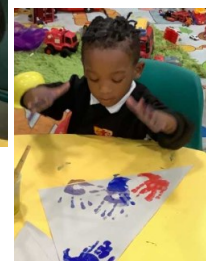


This week our focus has been on Rainbow colours. We have been colour detectives and went on a colour hunt around the school

The children listened to Elmer stories and made a patchwork elephant. They enjoyed mixing paints to find new colours.

Lots of fun and excitement decorating biscuits with rainbow sprinkles and delicious to eat.

Black History Month the nursery used Aboriginal art cutting around our hands and cotton buds to follow a pattern.





12/10/2026 - 16/10/2026		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	97.2	2.1
St Ann Rec	97.6	1
St Elizabeth	90	0.9
St Luke	87.8	0
St Martha	100	0
St John Paul	94.7	0
St John Bosco	99	0
St Carlos	97.5	1
St Martin	93.8	0
St Andrew	98.3	0.4
St James	95	0
St Therese	99	0.4
St Brigid	97.4	0.7
Totals	95.3	0.5

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 John Bosco
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 Rae, Akua
St Elizabeth	Aziel, Olivia
St Martha	Belul, Rudi
St John Paul II	Amanda, Uatiza
St John Bosco	Nathan, Nicole
St Carlos	Anjali-Rose, Marcel
St Martin	Fabiola, Ebun
St James	Hannah, Johanan
St Andrew	Rosie, Hunter
St Brigid	Eva, Elijah
St Therese	Joahua E, Marisha

Gospel Value



St Luke	Iyla May, Maria, Somkene
St Elizabeth	Sandi, Isla, Lior
St Martha	Naella, Jake, Desire
St John Paul II	Kendrick, Nikyrah, Aaliyah
St John Bosco	Psalm, Sophia, Nevaeh
St Carlos	Isla, Lorenzo, Jeremiah
St Martin	Ryeden, Clayton, Danielle
St James	Shalom N, Ire, Hannah
St Andrew	Jazelle, Jayden, Whyshown
St Brigid	Georgia, Bella, Iris
St Therese	Angel, Elisha, Kyle

Next two weeks at St Chad's

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	
Monday 9th November	
Tuesday 10th November	Open morning 9:30am Carbon Monoxide workshops
Wednesday 11th November	Carbon Monoxide workshops General knowledge quiz St Aiden's
Thursday 12th November	School photograph day (Individual and siblings)
Friday 13th November	Cross Country



St Chad's School Next Open Morning

Tuesday 10 November @ 9:30am



0208 771 3470

office@stchadsprimaryschool.com

**For Children Starting School
in Sept 2027
or In-Year Transfers
for Nursery or
Primary School**

**Book
Here**



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 TO MARY

We Look Forward To Celebrating With You!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHAT'S REAL ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Children are growing up in a digital world where seeing and hearing no longer mean they can always believe. One major emerging concern is what UNESCO describes as 'synthetic media': AI-generated audio, images or video, including deepfakes, that can convincingly imitate a person's voice or likeness. As these tools become easier to access, children may encounter manipulated content, cloned voices, and fabricated messages that appear or sound real. Parents and educators therefore need to help them question what they experience online, which can often feel harder when we're experiencing it for the first time, too.

AI-GENERATED CONTENT

Artificial Intelligence can now create realistic images, audio, video, and text in a very short time. Online, children may encounter fabricated news clips, AI 'influencers', fake screenshots, or entirely invented events without ever realising they are fake. The real challenge is that this content often looks polished and convincing. Parents and educators need to help children understand that professional-looking content is not automatically reliable and that all digital material should be questioned before it is trusted or shared.

DEEPIKES LOOK CONVINCING

'Deepfakes' use AI to alter or create images and videos that appear to show a real person doing or saying something that never happened. They are sometimes used to spread false information, embarrass someone, or target people through bullying and image-based abuse. Even when others know the content is fake, the emotional and reputational impact can still be significant – and, in some cases, potentially life threatening. Deepfakes therefore need to be treated as both a digital literacy and safeguarding concern.

FALSE INFORMATION SPREADS

Misinformation is false or misleading information shared without necessarily intending harm, while disinformation is deliberately created to deceive others. Both types can spread quickly through social media, messaging apps, and video platforms. Their popularity, repetition, and confident presentation can make these false claims feel true. Children may also be more likely to trust content shared by friends, influencers, or familiar accounts, making source-checking and verification essential parts of developing their digital literacy.

VOICES CAN BE CLONED

AI tools can copy someone's voice using only a short audio sample. A child may receive a call or voice note that appears to come from a parent, friend, teacher, or trusted adult, but the audio is not genuine. These messages can be used to create panic, request money, obtain information, or pressure a child into secrecy. Hearing a familiar voice is no longer enough to confirm someone's identity, especially when a message is urgent or unusual.

ACCOUNTS MAY BE FAKE

Not every online profile represents the person it claims to be. Fake accounts may impersonate another pupil, a teacher, a family member, or someone connected to the school. They can be used for acts such as bullying, scams, grooming, or manipulation. A convincing photograph, username, or message history does not prove that an account is genuine. Children should be cautious when someone asks for their or someone else's personal information, images, passwords, money, or access to private conversations.

ALGORITHMS INFLUENCE REALITY

Many online platforms, such as social media, are shaped by algorithms that recommend content based on what users view, like, search for, and share. This means children do not see a neutral or balanced version of the world. They may repeatedly encounter similar opinions, misleading claims, or increasingly extreme content. Over time, this repetition can make an opinion feel more common or credible than it really is, because the child may never see this opinion opposed or countered.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PAUSE, CHECK, COMPARE

Teach children not to accept content as true simply because it looks professional, sounds confident, or has been widely shared. Encourage them to pause, identify the original source, check the date, and compare the claim with another reliable source. Ask questions such as: Who created this? What evidence is provided? Could anything have been altered? What is the real motive? Regular, age-appropriate practice helps children develop the critical thinking needed to navigate their online worlds.

VERIFY ANOTHER WAY

A familiar face, voice, or account is no longer enough to confirm someone's identity. If a message is unusual, urgent, or asks for secrecy, money, personal information, or immediate action, children should verify it through a separate route. They should be encouraged to call the person directly using a known number, speak to them face to face, or check with another trusted adult. Families can also agree a private 'code' phrase to help them authenticate genuine emergency messages from each other. This should be something random, non-personal, and known only to the family.

KEEP TALKING OPENLY

Create regular, non-judgemental conversations about what children see, hear, and experience online. Make sure you use parental controls where appropriate and understand each platform's age restrictions. Asking children about new platforms, influencers, unusual messages, or content they are unsure about can help open up valuable conversations. Avoid immediately blaming the child or removing their device, as this may discourage them from disclosing their concerns in the future.

SAVE, REPORT, SUPPORT

When fake content, impersonation, or manipulation targets a child, take it seriously, even if the material is fabricated. Save relevant messages, usernames, links, and screenshots without sharing the content any further. Report it through the platform, follow safeguarding procedures, and escalate concerns involving threats, grooming, sexual content, coercion, or extortion. Remind children that creating or sharing this content, even as a so-called 'joke', can have serious consequences for them and others, and may be difficult to remove once shared online.

Meet Our Expert

Philippa Wraithwell is an educator, author and digital transformation specialist with expertise in digital safeguarding, online safety, AI in education and whole-school digital strategy. She is the Founder and CEO of Edukation and works with schools, organisations and policymakers to help create safer, more ethical and more effective digital learning environments for children and young people.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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