St Chad's Catholic Primary School
Weekly Newsletter

6th November 2026

Dear Parents,

RE Week was a wonderful celebration, and the highlight was definitely our Saints Dress-Up Day in honour of All Saints' Day. There were some amazing costumes, and it was lovely to see the great deal of thought that had gone into how the saints inspire us in our daily lives.

During the month of November, we are called to remember those who have gone before us. The children have been embracing this Month of Remembrance, wearing poppies as a symbol of respect and gratitude for those who have made sacrifices for others. We will be observing a minute's silence on 11 November, Remembrance Day, to reflect and remember.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our coffee morning on Wednesday. It was a great turnout, and I hope you found the information particularly useful, especially regarding the Family Hubs and services available in the Selhurst area, including the new Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Family Hub. Further information will be sent separately.

Our next coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 2 December. The focus will be on childhood immunisations, and we will be joined by healthcare professionals who will be available to talk to parents and carers about the importance of immunisation and answer any questions you may have.

Happy Diwali

We would like to wish any pupils, families, staff, and governors celebrating Diwali a happy and peaceful festival. May the Festival of Lights bring joy, hope, happiness, and prosperity to all who are celebrating

Mrs. Tamsyn Lawlor

The Thursday Liturgies

Yesterday KS1 and KS2 celebrated saint liturgies, exploring how saints are role models who inspire us to follow God. The children reflected on the message that we are all called to be saints by loving God, listening to Him, and trying each day to walk in His ways. It was a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and think about how we can show God's love to others.

Maria– I came as St Dorothy who believed deeply in God and made others believe in Him.

Ava Rose– I came as Pope Francis, who showed fairness and equality to everyone.





Paul- I came as St Paul because he travelled to spread the word of Jesus and wrote many things for us to learn from and follow in the Bible.

Catholic Life





RE Week has been a wonderful opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of our faith and Catholic Social Teaching. Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* ("I Have Loved You"), the children explored the principles of **Human Dignity** and the **Preferential Option for the Poor**, reflecting on the importance of recognising the God-given dignity of every person and caring for those who are most vulnerable. Through prayer, discussion, learning and activities, the children considered how we are called not only to show compassion but to put Christ's love into action through our words and deeds. Each year group also learned about a saint whose life reflected these values, creating beautiful displays that celebrate faith in action.

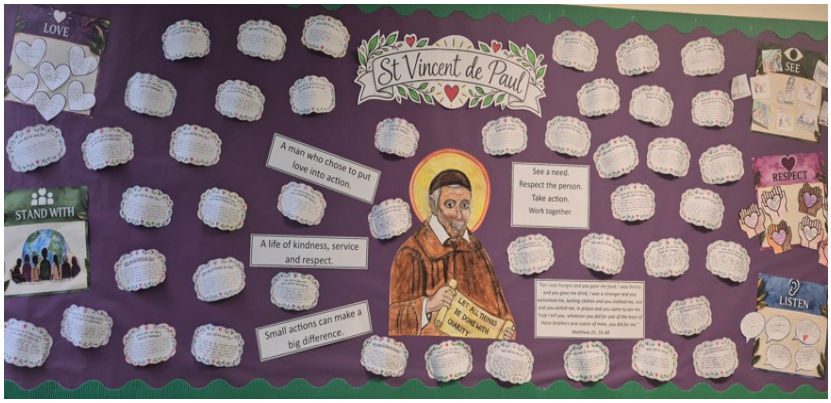
On Thursday, the whole school enjoyed our **Dress as a Saint Day**, with children and staff bringing the lives of the saints to life through their wonderful costumes.

Thank you for your generous support of our fundraiser for **Kindness 52**. We have raised an amazing **£196 so far!** Your contributions will help promote kindness and strengthen communities.

It has been a joyful and inspiring week, reminding us of our call to love others, uphold their dignity, and make Christ's presence visible through our actions every day.









A Selection of our Amazing Costumes













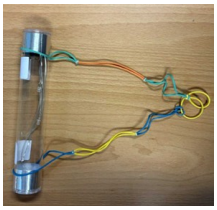





STEM CLUB



Our young scientists had an electrifying time investigating conductors and insulators of electricity! The children began by discussing, discovering and recalling how to make a simple electrical circuit. Using energy sticks, they then tested a variety of materials, including rubber bands, cotton wool, sponges and tin foil, to discover which allowed electricity to flow and which acted as insulators.







The excitement continued when the children joined hands to create a human circuit and made an amazing discovery – humans can conduct electricity too! It was a fantastic hands-on investigation filled with curiosity, teamwork and exciting discoveries!

Coffee Morning



Thank you to all the parents who attended our coffee morning. It was great to spend time together and discuss the support available through **Croydon Family Hubs**.

Family Hubs offer a range of services and activities for families, from pregnancy through to young people aged 19 (or 25 for those with additional needs). By bringing together health, council, and community services, Family Hubs provide easy access to advice, support, and opportunities for families across Croydon.





Nursery News

Great excitement on Thursday as some of the children dressed up as saints . They enjoyed making hats, marching like a saint and especially finishing off with a saint's party.



As part of our topic for Creation and Covenant we made a class Heart to celebrate 'God's Good World'







The children have been busy with our class Saint Mary. They have enjoyed simple stories and learnt songs about her life.
We made a collage and thanked Mary for her kindness.

The children were introduced to Baptism through role play. They learnt the importance of the priest, parents and godparents in welcoming and being part a family.





Attendance Matters

19/10/2026 - 23/10/2026		
Registration Group	**Attendance %**	**Punctuality (lates) %**
St Mary Nur	90.4	4.4
St Ann Rec	97.6	1.4
St Elizabeth	98.2	0
St Luke	95.7	0
St Martha	98.1	1.4
St John Paul	100	0.5
St John Bosco	92.8	1.8
St Carlos	97	1
St Martin	94.4	0
St Andrew	97.1	0.8
St James	95	0.8
St Therese	99.3	0.4
St Brigid	97.8	1.1
Totals	96.3	1

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 John Paul

and St Therese this week







Headteacher's Award	
St Luke	Somkene, Pretty
St Elizabeth	Josiah, Avital
St Martha	Nora, Jake
St John Paul II	Taleia, Liam
St John Bosco	Ephy, Sophia
St Carlos	Jeremiah, Tofunmi
St Martin	Lloyd, Logan
St James	Leonor, Aleksis
St Andrew	Paul, Aaron
St Brigid	Moyin, Anashe
St Therese	Raheem, Leilah

Gospel Value	
St Luke	No G.V today due to R.E week
St Elizabeth	
St Martha	
St John Paul II	
St John Bosco	
St Carlos	
St Martin	
St James	
St Andrew	
St Brigid	
St Therese	

Next two weeks at St Chad's

Monday 9th November	
Tuesday 10th November	9.30am – Open Morning Carbon Monoxide workshop
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance event 11am St Aidan's General Knowledge Quiz
Thursday 12th November	Online poetry party – Y1 – Y6 School photos
Friday 13th November	Cross Country Event
Monday 16th November	
Tuesday 17th November	
Wednesday 18th November	Yr6 Victorian Day
Thursday 19th November	
Friday 20th November	St Aiden's Travelling Crib years 3 and 5

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2025, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Emmerson OBE, CEO – City of London Academies Trust. With nearly 45 years' experience in inner-city education, including 28 years in senior leadership roles, Mark was an early advocate for tackling the risks of mobile phones in schools, introducing a ban as headteacher in 2000. He has also served as a national DfE adviser and held local authority roles, consistently driving improvements in pupil outcomes and Ofsted judgements, particularly in disadvantaged communities.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College