



NEWSPAPER

First Half Spring Term 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is our first detailed 'newspaper' update which from now on we'll be sending out once every half term. It aims to share all of the important information you need about our school in one detailed update. This is in addition to the weekly newsletter containing the award winners and any urgent updates. We hope you find it useful. Along with this newsletter are the 'diary dates' for the Spring Term. We've produced it as a separate document so that you can keep it handy to refer to throughout the Term.

Here is all of the important news and information for you for the first half of the Spring Term.

Our Catholic School's Pupil Profile Values this half Term are **COMPASSIONATE AND LOVING**



COMPASSIONATE: Being like Jesus in showing genuine concern and empathy for others. Taking the time to be good to other people, especially those who for whatever reason are struggling. Showing love and forgiveness where it is needed, even when this is hard to do.



LOVING: 'Love thy neighbour' 'Love one another as I have loved you' – being a loving person is challenging for the best of us. Jesus challenges us to be loving towards all those we encounter – forgiving those who upset us, reaching out to those who are marginalised in our community. We are learning that being a loving person can be very difficult at times – but in choosing to show love and care to others we truly choose to follow Jesus.



The God Who Speaks

Guided by the direction of Pope Francis, Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese are all focused on 'The God Who Speaks'. Put very simply, this is a year-long focus on helping even the youngest children understand how the Gospels are speaking to them. 'The God Who Speaks' is a focus of both our Religious Education provision and our Collective Worship. It is also a worldwide Church focus, launched by Pope Francis this week.

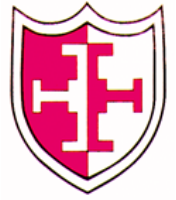
You are warmly welcomed to our weekly Mass each Thursday and Merit Assembly each Friday

Collective Worship is the most important part of the day and we encourage you to join us for these important weekly events. Mass is celebrated every Thursday for the school community and we warmly welcome parents, relatives and parishioners to be part of the celebration at 9.15am every Thursday. We also celebrate the children's achievements every Friday at 9.15am in our weekly Merit Assembly. Everyone is welcome to join us for this celebration and if your child is an award winner we will contact you in advance to let you know. It's a lovely opportunity to come together and congratulate all of the children, pray together and sing together. We look forward to seeing you.

Lent starts just after Half Term

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 26th February and marks the start of the Holy Season of Lent. There will be weekly opportunities for the children to PRAY, FAST and GIVE ALMS during Lent – details are included on the diary dates sheet. Where we invite donations to charity for the various activities these are entirely optional and we only ask you to make a donation 'if you can'. There is no expectation of any amount of donation – simply give 'what you can, if you can'. The purpose of our fundraising in Lent is to provide the opportunity for the children to truly understand what it means to 'give alms' and there is no financial target. Our role is simply to teach and provide little opportunities to do something good for others – no matter how small. We hope you will support our fundraising but you must not feel obliged to donate any more than you are able to.

LENT



Thank you very much for the warm welcome

It's three weeks since I joined the St Chad's family and it's been a real pleasure to meet parents and speak on the phone. Thank you for the welcome you have extended to me. As I said in the letter I sent out on my very first day at St Chad's – as the Executive Headteacher I am here to serve you and your children. Together with Mrs Clews, our Deputy Headteacher, we are both here to ensure your child/ren are safe, happy, well taught and thriving both socially and academically. It is our responsibility to serve you in this way and we take it very seriously. To that end – never ever hesitate to get in touch and let us know if you have any worries or concerns – the sooner we know about things the quicker we can try to sort them out for you.

Mr M Hinton
Executive Headteacher



What's new at St Chad's?

Here is an update on things that we have changed in order to improve your child/ren's experiences at school;



We have significantly increased our **staff supervision ratios** at break times in order to keep the children as safe and happy as possible.




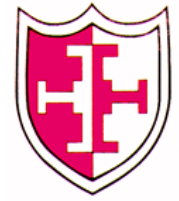
We have relaunched our **assemblies and masses** to make them even more spiritual and reflective gatherings where music, singing and prayer are used to bring everyone closer to Jesus.




We have introduced a **weekly class attendance award** as an incentive for all of the children to maintain high levels of attendance.




We are working to **improve the learning environment** of the school as much as possible – in the short term this means improvements to the general neatness and tidiness of the building and improved displays of children's work. In the medium term we will be starting a refurbishment programme to develop our school into the most attractive Catholic School learning environment we possibly can.



We are working hard to launch a **revised Catholic School curriculum** that ensures the requirements of the national curriculum are both met and exceeded. This is so important that we will start the transition process immediately after half term. You can expect to see not just the core subjects (English, Maths, Religious Education, Science) being high on the curriculum agenda, but also the wide range of foundation subjects (Art, Design Technology, Physical Education, Music, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages in Key Stage 2) We will write to you after half term with a full update on what your child will be learning in the various subjects in their class.



We are explicit in our commitment to **working in partnership with parents**. Your child's safety, happiness, wellbeing and academic and social development are our highest priority. We will do everything we can to be the best Catholic school we possibly can.



We are also explicit in setting our **customer service standards**. Whenever you have dealings with our School you should expect to be treated with **courtesy, respect, dignity and care**. We also ask that you extend this treatment towards us so we can have a genuinely positive relationship. However, if you don't feel that the School has treated you in the manner we aim to – **you must let Mr Hinton or Mrs Clews know straight away** so that we can sort things out and put things right. It's really important.



We have renewed our commitment to our School values (and houses) **FORGIVENESS, TRUTH, RESPECT AND EQUALITY** and introduced the golden thread of **KINDNESS**. Our values will feature prominently in displays throughout the school in the coming weeks and will be regularly explored with all of the children in both assembly and class.

Our Attendance Policy will soon be updated and sent out for your information

High standards of attendance are vital for all children – children need to be at school whenever they are truly well enough so that they have the best opportunity to learn and make progress. I want to make the School's Policies and systems for attendance really clear and transparent so parents know exactly where they stand. **As soon as our Attendance Policy has been finalised we will send it out to you.** For now, please note that **holidays in term time are not authorised** and that **we will refer unauthorised absence to the Education Investigation Service for penalty fines / prosecution.** This is in line with Government school attendance legislation.

Please support our Uniform Policy – jewellery is not permitted for safety reasons

A really polite reminder that jewellery is **not allowed for safety reasons.** Please remember to remove your child's earrings, necklaces and rings before school. Any jewellery is potentially dangerous in a busy primary school so we are really grateful for your support.

Parent consultations for Spring Term

Due to problems with the online system a paper booking form has been sent to you this week. Please fill it in and return to School as soon as you can so we can allocate your appointment. We'll be offering morning, early and late afternoon/evening appointments, each lasting 10 minutes, in order to give you the opportunity to catch up on your child's learning and progress.



Keep in touch

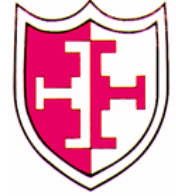
Mr Hinton is the Executive Principal of St Chad's and St Joseph's in Dudley. He splits his time between both schools, but is mainly based at St Chad's for the next two terms. **Mrs Clews** is the Deputy Headteacher who works with Mr Hinton to lead St Chad's. **Mrs Bentley** is the Senior Teacher and she is also available to help and support parents and children in any way she can.

Mrs Clews and myself can normally see you straight away – don't hesitate to get in touch. Please either **come to see us in person or give us a call**. We cannot always reply quickly enough to emails so it is **best to call or pop in**. We would also much **prefer to speak to you in person**, whether that's **face to face or over the phone**. It's never normally necessary to book an appointment – as soon as we hear from you we will either be with you immediately or we will call you back as soon as we are free.

If you or your child/ren are unhappy in any way it's always best to let us know – even if it seems really small. It's our responsibility to look after the children and we treat everyone's happiness very seriously.

We want to be the best Catholic School we possibly can be and we are on the journey towards that. Inevitably, no matter how hard we try things can, do and will go wrong. The difference has to be in the way things are sorted out. We promise we will always try our very best to sort out any concerns you have – so never hesitate to let us know.





THANK YOU

Thank you again for your support – please help us to improve

At St Chad's we're on a journey to becoming the best Catholic School we possibly can be. We are working very hard to improve, change and develop and we will keep you updated with our progress. We are very interested in your feedback and insight as we start this new journey together.

We'd be very grateful if you would complete the attached survey / questionnaire so that we can consider parent's views as we set our improvement priorities. We will also be asking the children to share their views with us as well. School leaders will analyse all of the academic attainment and progress data and consider this information alongside the views of parents, pupils and staff to determine the way forward. Your view **is important to us** so please take the time to complete the survey if you can. Thanks a lot for your support.

The next update will be sent out in the second half of Spring Term

We hope you have found this update useful (there's lots to tell you!) The next newspaper will be with you around the beginning of March. Until then, the weekly newsletter is sent out electronically and published on our website with details of our fantastic award winners and any urgent news updates.

With every kind wish,

Mr M Hinton
Executive Principal

Mrs C Clews
Vice Principal