



Second Half Autumn Term 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Half term is fast approaching and I wanted to get in touch with some updates and general messages to keep you up to date with everything that's happening at school, before we break up next week.

Thank you for your support this half term

Just like in every aspect of our lives at the moment – this has been an 'unprecedented' time for our school and all schools. As parents and carers, you've had to adapt to staggered start and finish times, wearing masks on the playground, changes to school meals and additional childcare difficulties. Thank you for being so understanding and for working with us. Your kindness and patience doesn't go unnoticed and means a lot to everyone at the school. Thank you so much.

Children break up for half term next Thursday 22nd October 2020

The children break up next Thursday and come back to school on Monday 2nd November. Children should return wearing their Winter uniform (a reminder that girls may wear grey school trousers if they wish). A full holiday list for the rest of the year is also enclosed.

School Mission Statement

We've updated our mission statement to make it accessible and meaningful to the children. We haven't changed the school's mission – we have simply updated and expanded the wording as follows:

At St Chad's we are part of God's family:

We learn from Jesus' teachings in the Gospels
We love Jesus and each other with all our hearts
We show kindness to everyone just like Jesus did
'Christ in our heads, our hearts and our hands'



Our Catholic values next term are **INTENTIONAL** and **PROPHETIC**

Intentional

We will make a deliberate effort to live our lives and treat others and our world in the way Jesus taught us.

Prophetic

We will set a good example of forgiveness, love, kindness, respect, truth, equality and tolerance just like Jesus teaches us through the Gospels.

Collective Worship in school

Collective Worship is central to the life of our Catholic community. We can't all gather in the hall at the moment because we have to keep each class separate as a bubble. However – we have ensured that collective worship remains central to the school day. Every week, on a rota basis, one class joins Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman for Gospel assembly on Monday. The rest of the classes celebrate Gospel assembly in their classrooms. On Tuesdays Father Paul comes into school to celebrate Mass with one of the classes on a rota basis and On Fridays one class joins Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman for the weekly merit assembly. The rest of the classes celebrate the merit assembly in their classrooms.

Our collective worship timetable is as follows:

Monday	Gospel Assembly (with one class in the hall, others in the classrooms)
Tuesday	Mass (for one class in the hall) B Tales (Bible Tales) online assembly in the classrooms
Wednesday	Wednesday Word Assembly in class (with copy of the Wednesday Word to bring home)
Thursday	A guided meditation or prayer service in the classrooms
Friday	Merit assembly (with one class in the hall, others in the classroom)

All classes from reception to Year 6 take part in the full collective worship programme.

Celebrations and achievements from home

We still celebrate the children's achievements in our assemblies. Whilst we'd ask you not to send in certificates and medals – you can still let us know by phone or email (no later than Thursday for the assembly the next day!) and we'll be certain to celebrate with your child in assembly.





Read Write Inc.

Reading Books

Thank you for your patience during the time we have been undertaking all of the phonics and reading assessments prior to rolling out our new phonics scheme and using our new reading books. The assessments are being finished off this week and next week and your child will be bringing their reading books home before half term.

Different types of books

Everyone in Years 1 to 6 will bring home a **book banded book** – the band they have been placed on is following a detailed reading assessment. Your child will need to read this book with an adult as there may be a few words that they need help to learn.

After half term **children who are on the phonics programme** will bring home phonics scheme books as well. These are recognisable as they will have **RWI** (Read Write Inc) on the front. If a book is a phonics scheme (RWI) book your child will have learnt all of the sounds and will be able to read the book to you with little help needed. The RWI book is matched to the phonics that your child has learnt.

The RWI books will start to come home soon after half term once we've completed the 'catch up' phase of the scheme which follows on from the assessments.

RWI books = Books the children can read without / with minimal help

Book Band Books = Books to read with parents with some support needed for tricky words

Children in Years 3-6 who have completed or are beyond the phonics programme won't bring RWI books home – **they'll just have their book banded books.**

Reception children will be bringing books to share and letters to blend before half term and will move onto the reading books as they learn their new sounds. See Mrs Bentley, Mrs Stevenson or Mrs Harris if you need any help!



Black History Month

In the spirit of the values above we are proud to be having a focus week on Black History next week. The children will learn about why we have Black History Month, sporting achievements of black elite sportspeople, segregation, musical achievement, The Windrush and older children will learn about slavery in an age appropriate way. In addition, our school values of equality and respect are affirmed every day and these also help us to teach the children not to be racist or prejudiced.



Communication system - text messaging and online payments

Thank you to everyone who has downloaded the Schoolgateway app. If you haven't done so here are the steps to follow;



- Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play or on your phone go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android)
- Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications"
- When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with school.
- The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

School Nurse - Mrs Amanda Stanier



We welcome our new School Nurse Amanda Stanier to St Chad's. If you wish to make a telephone appointment to speak to Mrs Stanier please call the school office who will pass your details to her. Mrs Stanier will be in school at 2.00pm on Monday 9th November and at 2.00pm on Monday 14th December.

Safety on the Church Car Park – please never use the church car park when dropping off or picking up

We have been working with Father Paul to make the church car park safer. Please supervise your children very carefully at all times in the car park area. We are doing everything we can to minimise the risks but the children must be kept under close supervision at all times.



St Chad's Church Graveyard

Please can we kindly ask everyone to respect the graveyard and the graves. Please keep an eye on your children and keep noise down in this area if you can. Please don't gather in the graveyard as there are often people there spending time at the graves of their loved ones. Thanks ever so much for your consideration.

Hair Ribbons and Headbands – please stick to modest sizes in school colours!

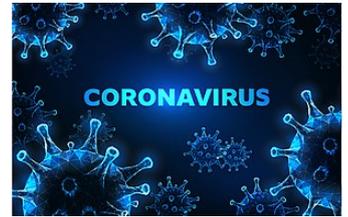


Large ribbons, bows and novelty headbands are really fashionable and fun for the children but they are not suitable for school for a few reasons – one being that they can block the view of children sitting behind the wearer! Very large headwear is also a potential risk when playing e.g. if another child grabs it. Please can we ask that ribbons and headbands are not overly large or outsize and please can we ask that they are kept to school colours of red or green. We really don't want to spoil anyone's enjoyment but imagine if everyone were to wear an outsize ribbon or band – it wouldn't be appropriate for school. We hope you understand and thank you for your support.

School Meals

We expect to be able to provide hot food for all of the children that would like it after half term. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are able to eat in the hall but due to the need to keep bubbles apart, we are not be able to accommodate the older children in the hall due to time constraints. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will eat their hot food in their classrooms and it will be served in 'takeaway' boxes with disposable cutlery. This enables us to provide hot food for everyone whilst also keeping everyone safely distanced. This is the case in most schools at the moment. As a result, the menu will be a limited one and will be sent out to you before we break up.





COVID cases are increasing significantly – as I'm sure you're all too aware

We're all more than aware that the virus is spreading fast. We haven't had any class closures yet but realistically the time will come when we have to close one or more of our classes if there is a confirmed case within them. This is regrettably part and parcel of the normal workings of schools at the moment and you probably know that lots of other schools have had to close classes since September.



It's a good idea to have a back-up plan in the event of a class having to close

If there is a confirmed case in our school the Department for Education and / or Public Health England will determine which class/es need to close. As soon as we are notified, we will contact you to come and take your child home as quickly as possible. We will be told the length of time that the class/es will be closed and this is likely to be 14 days. Your child will need to stay at home (self-isolate) for the designated time and be looked after by a member of your household or support bubble. More information can be obtained from the DfE Coronavirus Helpline 0800 046 8687, 8.00am to 6.00pm weekdays.



We will soon be able to provide online teaching via Microsoft Teams if the class is closed

At the moment, if one or more of our classes were to close, we would provide work in paper form and the teachers and teaching assistants would call you regularly and provide some help and advice to you and your child over the phone about their work. In the near future, we will be able to provide live lessons from your child's teacher direct to your home via Microsoft Teams. This will be supplemented by paper resources. If your child wouldn't be able to access the online teaching via Microsoft Teams – don't worry – they will be given all of their work as paper resources and will be called very regularly by school staff who will help you and them with every aspect of the work. Full user guides will be sent out as soon as the Microsoft Teams provision is up and running.





Don't forget
parents'
evening!

Let your child's teacher know if you would prefer online teaching or telephone contact if your child's class has to close

When your child's teacher contacts you next week for the parent consultation over the phone – they'll ask you if you would be like to use the Microsoft Teams provision or telephone support instead. This is important for us to know so we can prepare resources and make arrangements. Remember in the event of a closure everyone (staff included!) has to go home ASAP – so we are making sure we have everything ready 'on the shelf' to go home if need be.



Children (and staff) mustn't come to school if they or anyone in the household has symptoms

If your child or anyone in your household has Coronavirus symptoms **the entire household – including siblings - must stay at home and the symptomatic person must get a test. You must self-isolate until the test result comes back.** If the test is positive the household will be told to self-isolate. If the test is negative the household can stop self-isolating provided: you are well, no-one else in your household has symptoms, if anyone else in your household has symptoms they have also received a negative test result, you have not been advised to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace **and** you have not arrived into the UK from a non-exempt country within the last 14 days.





donate



School fund

A HUGE 'thank you' to everyone who has donated to the School Fund. There is over £400 of your kind donations that will be spent on the extras in school for our lovely children. We can't thank you enough.

Donating is entirely voluntary and is very much appreciated if you can donate but you must not feel pressured to do so. Donation can be made on Schoolcomms until 14th December.

Keep in Touch

Your parental satisfaction and the progress, safety and happiness of your child is the top priority for the school. We try hard to do the best we can in all areas but we know that things can and do go wrong. What is important is the way these problems are sorted out. Never, ever hesitate to get in touch for help with any matter however small it may seem. You can speak to staff on the door in the morning or you can call the office. Teachers will always call you back and Mr Hinton or Mrs Chapman can usually speak to you straight away. If for any reason we can't get to you immediately we will always ring you back as soon as we possibly can. Never hesitate to make contact – most things can be resolved and the sooner we know about your concerns – the sooner we can address them.

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy half term

Whatever you are doing over the half term week, I hope you and your family have a safe and happy time and that the weather is kind. We will look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 2nd November. Keep safe and thank you so much once again for your kind and generous support of the school at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Hinton
Executive Principal

THANK YOU



St Chad's Catholic Primary School



Term Dates October 2020 – July 2021

October Half Term

Thursday 22nd October 2020: Children break up for half term holidays
(23rd October is a staff training day)

Monday 2nd November 2020: Children come back to school after half term

Monday 9th November 2020: School nurse will be available from 2pm

Wednesday 11th November 2020: School Photographs

Wednesday 9th December 2020: Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 10th December 2020: School nurse will be available from 2pm

Christmas Holidays

Friday 18th December 2020: Children break up for Christmas holidays at normal finish times (not lunchtime)

(4th and 5th January are training days)

Wednesday 6th January 2021: Children come back to school after Christmas

MAC-wide closure/ training day

Friday 5th February 2021: School is closed to children on this day

February Half Term

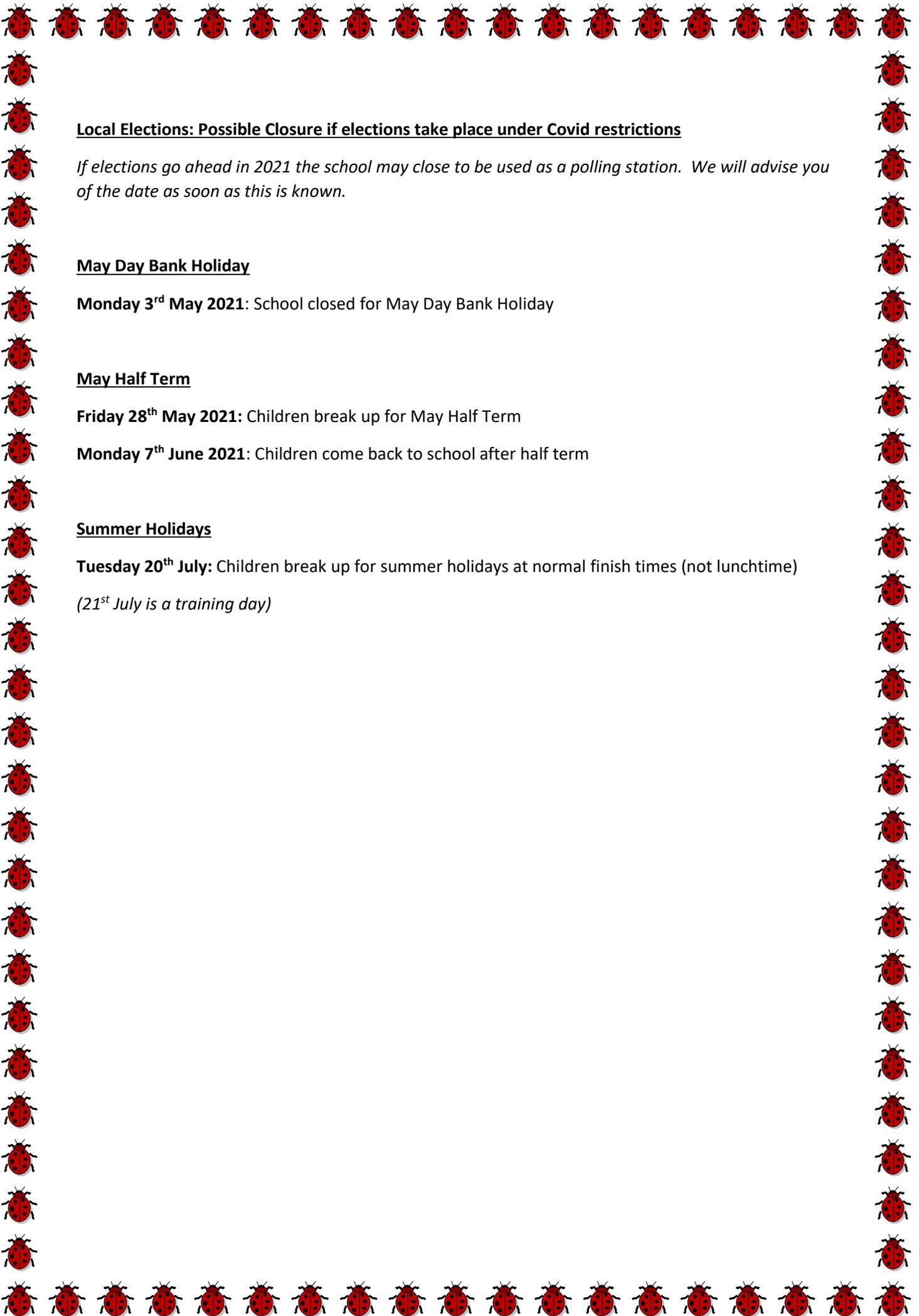
Friday 12th February 2021: Children break up for February half term holidays

Monday 22nd February 2021: Children come back to school after half term

Easter Holidays

Thursday 1st April 2021: Children break up for Easter holidays at normal finish times (not lunchtime)

Monday 19th April 2021: Children come back to school after Easter



Local Elections: Possible Closure if elections take place under Covid restrictions

If elections go ahead in 2021 the school may close to be used as a polling station. We will advise you of the date as soon as this is known.

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 3rd May 2021: School closed for May Day Bank Holiday

May Half Term

Friday 28th May 2021: Children break up for May Half Term

Monday 7th June 2021: Children come back to school after half term

Summer Holidays

Tuesday 20th July: Children break up for summer holidays at normal finish times (not lunchtime)

(21st July is a training day)