



Second Half Spring Term 2021

WELCOME BACK

March 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school!

We are all extremely glad to have all of the children back in school. Without exception they have made an excellent start to their new term and we are so happy to have them back.

Thank you for everything you did to support your children and the school during the closed period

We want to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers for the sacrifices you made during the period of school closure. We understand how hard you worked to balance your own commitments with home schooling and we are really grateful. Thank you for supporting the children and thank you for your support and kind words towards the school. We appreciate all of your help and kindness and it means a lot to everyone in the school.

We are thinking of you and praying for all those who are sick or have lost family and friends

I hope you and your loved ones are all safe and well. If you have been or are still poorly or your loved ones have been or are still poorly – we send you our most caring thoughts. To anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one or a friend we send you our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy. We pray for our entire community every day and we never forget how difficult illness and bereavement is. Many of us of course have been affected too so we genuinely sympathise and we promise you we are always thinking of you.

Keeping Children Safe

Our school is committed to safeguarding and safe practices and you can read our Policy on our website. The Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mr Hinton and Mrs Chapman and Mrs Bentley and Miss Oakley are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. If you are concerned about your own your child or any other child, please speak to one of our safeguarding leads straight away.



Mr Hinton
Executive Headteacher



Mrs Chapman
Executive Head of School



Mrs Bentley
EYFS & KS1 Co-ordinator



Miss E Oakley
SENCO





Our Catholic Schools Pupil Profile values this half term are **ATTENTIVE** and **DISCERNING**

Attentive

Children are learning to be attentive to their experience of God and to their vocation (calling). They are learning to 'pay attention' to what God asks of them and who he is calling them to be.

Discerning

Making good choices – discerning the right thing to do no matter how hard this is. Considering the effects of the choices we make upon other people. Always trying to discern the right choice, guided by Jesus' teachings.

The God Who Speaks: Scripture to focus on this half term

The focus piece of scripture for this half term is Luke 1: 38 where Our Lady promises to say 'Yes' to God's plan for her. The scripture reminds us all that it is often very difficult to do as God wants us to, but that like Mary, we can all do something beautiful for God and each other by responding to God's call for us to be good and kind:

'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said'

We are half way through the Holy Season of Lent

In Lent we are asked to Pray, Fast and Give Alms as we journey with Jesus towards Easter. We're doing lots of work in school to help the children to connect with the season of Lent.

We're praying and reflecting even more

As well as the normal routines of daily collective worship, assemblies and prayers throughout the day, we are having special, extra assemblies throughout Lent to learn about each Station of the Cross. The children also take five minutes out of the day, every day to attend a short virtual retreat led by One Life Music, the liturgical music partner of the Archdiocese. When we reach Holy Week, each class will attend a special Holy Week assembly and reflection in the hall.

Due to restrictions on large gatherings of children, assembly and prayers take place in the classrooms with one class attending assembly in the hall with Mr Hinton each day. This is on a rolling programme so every class attends an assembly in the hall once in every 5 working days. Every class will also have the opportunity to attend a Holy Week assembly in the hall led by Mr Hinton.

National Day of Reflection & Prayer: Tuesday 23rd March

Tuesday 23 March at 12 noon. This day is an opportunity for the country to take time to reflect and pray for all those victims of the pandemic, those who grieve and mourn for them and for those who have cared for them. The school will be joining in this time of prayer throughout the day.





St Chad's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

There are opportunities to Fast and Give Alms this Lent

The children are learning that 'giving alms' doesn't have to mean giving money or physical items. Giving Alms can be (as one of our Year 2 pupils put it so beautifully in assembly) 'giving love' – giving a smile, a hello, giving forgiveness, kindness, friendship, showing care and concern for others. We are helping all of the children to find moments in their lives where they can 'Give Alms' in such a way that doesn't cost anything.

Giving Alms can also mean charitable giving and there are a couple of opportunities to make physical donations if you are able to this Lent. We are very aware of the difficult financial circumstances many people find themselves in at this time so we have deliberately limited what we are inviting you to donate. As always, please only donate if you are able to – you are under no obligation to make donations if you do not wish to or you are not able to.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day – to be celebrated here on Friday 26th March – Fast and Give Alms

We will organise our fast day in school on Friday 26th March. On this day we invite the children to give up (fast) their playtime snack and donate some money to CAFOD instead. This year, CAFOD will use all of the funds raised to provide clean water in overseas communities where there is no clean water for drinking and washing. As well as being essential for life, access to clean water for handwashing is ultra-important during the pandemic.



If you are happy for your child to participate, please encourage your child to fast (give up) their Friday playtime snack and donate some money to CAFOD instead. By fasting we experience (just for a very short time) a tiny taste of what it must be like for those who are starving and thirsty.

Please donate what you can to CAFOD if you are happy and able to do so.

Give Alms: Donations for The Good Shepherd Shelter in Wolverhampton – we will gratefully receive your donations From Monday 29th to Wednesday 31st March

The children are invited to bring in donations of food and toiletries for the homeless and poor who use The Good Shepherd Shelter in Wolverhampton. You might choose just to donate one item or if you are able to and happy to – please donate as many items as you wish. They will be gratefully received and will make a huge difference to the day to day life of someone who is homeless or financially in great difficulty and struggling to survive.

Good Shepherd gratefully accept donations of the following:

Cereal	Pasta, pasta and curry sauces	Shampoo, shower gel
Long life milk and fruit juices	Pot noodles, cup a soup, crisps	Washing powder
Tea, coffee, sugar & hot chocolate	Tinned fruit, vegetables and jelly	Deodorant
Biscuits, jams, chocolate	Tinned meat	

Again, please only donate if you are happy and able to do so. Please don't feel obligated.

Donations are being collected from School by Good Shepherd volunteers on Thursday 1st April 2021

Making a difference near and far

By supporting CAFOD and The Good Shepherd we are helping those in need in overseas countries far away (CAFOD) and those who are in need close by (Good Shepherd Wolverhampton).





St Chad's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Staffing changes – we are really sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Thomas and Mrs Harris

Mrs Thomas

Mrs Thomas our Year 1 Teacher is leaving St Chad's at Easter to take up a part time teaching post in another Catholic school. We're really sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Thomas and she is really sad to be leaving us, but securing a part time post was a big priority for her due to family commitments. We want to say a huge thank you to Mrs Thomas for all of her care and dedication during her time at St Chad's and we wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Harris

Mrs Harris, one of our Teaching Assistants, is retiring at Easter. Mrs Harris has served at St Chad's for twenty five years and has been a friendly face to so many children and parents. She is looking forward to her retirement and has a lovely family that she is looking forward to spending more time with. We want to say a really big thank you to Mrs Harris and wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

We welcome Mrs Zarin as our Year 1 Teacher after Easter, with help from our SENDCo Miss Oakley

Year 1 families have also been written to separately. From after the Easter holidays through to the end of the Summer Term, Year 1 will be taught by **Mrs Zarin**. Mrs Zarin has worked with us at St Joseph's covering long term maternity in recent times and we have chosen her especially to teach our Year 1 class at St Chad's. Mrs Zarin is an Early Years and Key Stage 1 specialist, with a strong background in phonics and early reading. She was an excellent addition to St Joseph's last year and we are delighted she can work with us at St Chad's. Mrs Zarin will teach Year 1 Monday to Wednesday and our own SENDCo **Miss Oakley** teaching the class on Thursday and Friday. Miss Oakley is a Senior Teacher within our Catholic Academy Company with twelve years service at St Joseph's and has also been working as our SENDCo at St Chad's since September. **Miss Oakley is the Senior Teacher in Year 1 and Mrs Zarin is the Class Teacher.**



Half Term Holiday

The last day of term is Thursday 1st April and we finish at the usual time. We return to school on Monday 19th April.



Relationships Health and Sex Education consultation

We recently emailed you information on our consultation to introduce TenTen – a Catholic relationships, health and sex education curriculum approved by the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service. Please check you've received this and please respond by Thursday 25th March.

Please wear a face covering!

Please wear a face covering at all times on the school site. Whilst our staggered start times help to limit the numbers of people on the playground and around the school entrance, there is still inevitably a high number of people passing through one place. Please wear a face covering to protect others and limit the spread of the virus. Thanks for your support.

We know it's difficult – but please don't gather in groups and please keep up social distancing

Please follow Government guidance which is for everyone's safety and protection. Please don't gather in groups on the playground or in the Church grounds or indeed anywhere! Please keep at least 2 metres apart from anyone who is not part of your own household. This will help keep everyone safe and hopefully limit the spread of the virus at the school. We desperately want everyone to be safe and we want to do all we can to keep St Chad's free of the virus so please follow all of the Government guidance carefully.

Please supervise children carefully and ensure the graves around the Church are respected

Please ensure the children are respectful of the graves in the Church grounds and sensitive towards those who are attending the graves of their loved ones. History puts a busy school close to the resting places of others and we need to be sensitive and thoughtful towards everyone. Thanks very much for your understanding.



Important – dangerous website

A family support worker from Dudley has advised us that children are accessing a website where they can interact with strangers. One Dudley parent has reported very dangerous and inappropriate contact between adults and children on this site. The website is called Omegle – Talk to Strangers. The family support worker strongly recommends you block this website and ensure your child is not accessing it. We are passing this information on to help keep the children safe.

Turn on the Subtitles Campaign

Recent research has found that turning on the subtitles when the TV is on can have a significant impact in helping children to read. In some cases it can double the speed at which children learn to read! It's really simple – the combination of hearing spoken words and matching them to written words on screen helps children to read words faster! More information is available here: <https://turnonthesubtitles.org/>

Useful video about how to stay in control of your child's internet access

We've recently been signposted to this useful YouTube video explaining how to turn off the internet wireless router (wireless hub) at certain points of the day e.g. overnight so that children cannot access the internet when they are unsupervised – for example in the middle of the night. All of the major internet providers have similar videos available on YouTube. This is a general video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMKAEkDFGI4>

Parentview

Last academic year we were overwhelmed by the huge number of positive reviews placed on ParentView around the time of the school's Ofsted inspection. It was very good for us to know that you'd noticed some positive changes in the short time since I started with you. Unfortunately – Parentview archives all of the responses at the end of the academic year. Thank you to everyone who has already left a response.

Please could I invite you to leave a review on Parentview for the school so that both Ofsted and the school can gather your views. All I would ever ask is that if there is something you are unhappy about – please come and speak to us first. We take great pride in always trying to resolve issues and responding quickly to parents and carers. Please give us the opportunity to make things better by letting us know.

You can submit your Parentview responses at www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk and our postcode is DY3 3UE. Thanks very much indeed for your time and support.





**Year 6 Confirmation – Wednesday 7th July at 6.30pm in Church
(subject to any Government restrictions)**

Year 6 Confirmation has been rearranged with Bishop Stephen Wright. Bishop Wright will visit the children in school during the afternoon and the Sacramental Mass will take place in Church at 6.30pm. Details of any restrictions on numbers and social distancing arrangements if applicable will be sent to you much closer to the time when we know what restrictions remain in place (if any) The children have already been fully prepared and Mrs Dunne will revise the preparation with them before they receive the Sacrament.

**Year 4 First Holy Communion – Saturday 3rd July at 10am in Church
(subject to any Government restrictions)**

Year 4 First Holy Communion has been rearranged again! The Mass will take place in Church on Saturday 3rd July at 10am. Children will meet the teachers in the Church and the celebration tea party will take place in School the following week. This means families are free to depart after Mass – hopefully for your own family celebrations by that time, fingers crossed. We will have a special Mass in school on Tuesday 6th July followed by the traditional tea party for the children afterwards. More details to follow once we know the level of restrictions (if any) at the time. The children have already been fully prepared and have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) and Mrs Hunt will revise all of the learning with the children before they receive the Sacrament.

Year 3 First Holy Communion

Year 3 will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in the first half of the Autumn Term 2021. We will be in touch after Easter to confirm the date for their First Holy Communion and the date for the children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (first confession).

Current Year 2 and Current Year 5

We hope that things will return to some kind of normal in 2022 and so Year 2 children should receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on a Saturday in May/June 2022 – date to be advised in the next academic year. We also expect the current Year 5 to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on a week night (Monday to Thursday) at 6.30pm in July 2022 – again date to be advised early next academic year. We will keep you fully up to date but these are the arrangements we hope to be able to make.



Attendance and Punctuality

School is fully open and attendance at school is mandatory by law. We have made changes to start and finish arrangements for families with more than one child, to make dropping off and picking up easier. Any one of us can be running late from time to time for good reasons – but children must ordinarily arrive at school at the correct start time – and as per school registration rules – they will be marked late if they arrive after the start time. Please support regular attendance and regular good timekeeping. Thank you for your support.

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
Reception	9.15am	3.15pm
Year 1	9.00am	3.00pm
Year 2	8.45am	2.45pm
Year 3	8.45am	2.45pm
Year 4	9.00am	3.00pm
Year 5	8.30am	2.30pm
Year 6	8.30am	2.30pm

Request for Leave of Absence during Term Time

The policy on holiday during term time has not altered. There is no automatic entitlement in law to leave in school time to go on holiday. If you intend to take your child out of school, please complete a Leave of Absence form first and hand it into the School Office. The Executive Principal/Head of School cannot discuss the leave without seeing the written request.

Did you know you, your support bubble and your childcare bubble can ALL access FREE Lateral Flow Tests for adults? This really helps us to limit the spread of the virus at St Chad's and beyond



Parents and carers and anyone else living with a school age child or young person are among the priority groups given access to free home lateral flow testing kits to test themselves.

Information on how to access these can be found on the [government website \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)

All are strongly encouraged to have a lateral flow test at a local testing site prior to starting home testing, to know how a test is undertaken. Twice weekly testing will help detect hidden asymptomatic cases and help keep pupils and staff safer in school.

Anyone unable to do home testing can go to one of the Dudley lateral flow testing centres. These are at Dudley Leisure Centre, Saltwells Education Centre, with pop-up sessions at Holy Trinity Church Community Centre in Wordsley, Lifecentral Church in Halesowen, St Andrews Church in Sedgley, St James Church in Wollaston and the Salvation Army Church in Lye. There is also testing at more than 30 pharmacies across the borough.

Find out more on where you can [get a lateral flow test and book visit. \(https://www.dudley.gov.uk/symptom-free-testing\)](https://www.dudley.gov.uk/symptom-free-testing)



Cakes and sweets for children's birthdays – food allergies

We have a number of children in school with food allergies. When parents and carers generously send in birthday cakes or sweets not all children can accept the gifts because of food allergies. This means that the school is finding alternatives – sometimes involving staff having to go off site to the shops to find suitable replacements. Sadly, this isn't always practical so it is safest that we ask you not to send in cakes or sweets for children's birthdays because of the difficulties we experience in ensuring everyone's food allergies are met. We're really sorry to have to make this restriction but we hope you'll appreciate that ensuring everyone is kept safe has to be our priority.

Choking Hazards – grapes, tomatoes and similar small fruit – please chop into pieces before sending to school

Small fruits such as grapes and cherry tomatoes present a serious choking hazard if they are swallowed whole. If you are sending your child to school with small fruits/vegetables like this, please make sure they have been chopped into small pieces. All small fruit that is served at school is chopped so that it presents less of a choking hazard.

Nut Friendly School



Children may have nut allergies without parents yet being aware. In order to maintain a safe environment as possible St Chad's is a nut-friendly school. Please can we ask that you don't send your child to school with nuts to eat or with any nut-rich products such as Nutella, Peanut Butter and Reese's. Chocolate spread without nuts is a safer alternative.

Healthy Playtime Snacks and Healthy Lunchboxes

Please can we ask you to only send healthy snacks for playtimes and lunchtimes. For playtime a piece of fruit is ideal, although a biscuit, a very small chocolate bar or small bag of low fat crisps is also acceptable. Big bags of crisps, high sugar snacks or big chocolate bars are not healthy snacks and are not suitable for playtimes. We don't want to 'ban' any foods in moderation but we do need to ask you to keep a close eye on playtime snacks and help us to make sure all snacks are as healthy as possible.

Similarly at lunchtimes, please can we ask you to ensure lunchboxes don't contain big bags of crisps, big chocolate bars or any other high fat or high sugar products. A small bag of lower fat crisps, a biscuit or a very small chocolate are acceptable – but please try to keep high fat or high sugar foods to healthy levels.

We want the children to be able to enjoy a balanced diet and we feel that 'banning' any food is at odds with making healthy choices. We would much rather help the children understand how to enjoy 'everything in moderation' and encourage them to make healthy choices wherever possible, enjoying treats in moderation. Thank you for supporting us.





St Chad's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

If you are eligible for income based free school meals it's really important you apply

If you think you qualify for free school meals please apply as a matter of urgency. You will receive vouchers during lockdown and will have the option of accessing free school meals at school when we reopen. By successfully applying, you will also gain access to pupil premium funding for the school for the next 6 years – which is extremely valuable to the school and enables us to provide more for the children. Applying is confidential, fast and can be done online. You don't need to produce any documents.

If you get any of the following support payments your child may be entitled to receive free school meals:

Free School Meals

If you receive any of the following support payments your child may be entitled to Free School Meals

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If you currently receive free school meals but have now moved into the area, you will need to complete a new Free School Meals Application form

If you wish to apply for Free School Meals, please go to

www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals

If you need further information, you can contact the Free School Meals Team by:

-  Telephone -01384 814988
-  Email – freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk
-  Visiting – Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, Dudley
between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am and 12 noon Saturday


Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council



St Chad's
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

donate

School fund donations – your contributions go a long way and are much appreciated

We gratefully welcome and accept donations to the school fund. The generous donations of many parents who have been able to and wanted to make donations have contributed towards the extensive refurbishment of the school and the purchase of new resources, books and equipment for all of the children. Every penny that is donated to school fund makes a massive difference and is much appreciated. At the same time – we never want anyone to feel obliged to donate so we invite your donations if you feel you would like to donate and you are able to. Please don't feel obliged – however if you are happy and able to make a contribution please be assured that your donation will be put to good use to benefit all of the children.

How to donate - donations can be made using the SchoolGateway app.

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

- Search for "SchoolGateway" 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 SchoolGateway 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.

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.

With every kind wish as always,

Mr M Hinton
Executive Principal

Thank you!