



St Chad's Newsletter



5th September 2025

"At St. Chad's, we grow in the light of Christ, to share his love and reflect the gospel values."

- It has been a great start to the term. The children have returned looking smart, ready to learn, and—most importantly—with big smiles on their faces. Their behaviour has been excellent, and they have enjoyed getting to know their new teachers and settling into new routines. We are very proud of how well they have begun the year.
- This term our theme is '**Stewardship**'. We will be thinking about the wonderful gift of the Earth that God has given us. He created it out of love and in His image, doing the very best for us. Because of this, we all have a special job — to look after our world, protect it, and care for it for everyone.

To help live out this theme at home, here are some simple ideas families might like to try together:

- Switch off lights when leaving a room.
- Recycle bottles, cans, and paper.
- Walk or cycle short journeys instead of using the car.
- Save water by turning off taps while brushing teeth.
- Spend time outside enjoying God's creation.

Small actions make a big difference when we all play our part in caring for the world.

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Labelling Uniform and PE Kits

It would be very helpful if all items of school uniform and PE kit could be clearly labelled with your child's name. With 30 children in a class, all wearing identical uniform and kit, it can be very difficult to identify which item belongs to whom. Labelling saves a great deal of time and helps us ensure belongings are returned to the right child.

School Masses

18. 09.24	Year 6 Mass at 9am
21.10.25	Year 5 Mass at 9am
16.10.25	Year 4 Mass at 9am
20.11.25	Year 3 Mass at 9am
04.12.25	Year 6 Mass at 9am
18.12.24	Year 5 Mass at 9am



School Uniform

It has been wonderful to see the children starting the year looking so smart and proud in their school uniforms. Thank you for supporting us in maintaining these high standards.

A few key reminders:

- Children should wear **black school shoes** (not boots or trainers).
- The correct **PE kit** must be worn on PE days.
- **Winter uniform** is not required until after the October half-term.
- If your child is wearing a **school shirt**, a tie must also be worn. Polo shirts may be worn without a tie.

We also kindly ask that children bring a water bottle to school each day. To help keep everyone focused and healthy, only **water** (not juice or squash) should be drunk in class.

For full details regarding our uniform policy, please see the school website.

<https://www.st-chads.bham.sch.uk/Parents/Uniform/>

If you need a school tie, you can purchase one from the school office for £3.00. If you are having a problem with Parent Pay, please come to the office and Mrs Actor or Mrs O'Malley will help you sort out your account.

Key Dates Autumn Term 2025

- 24.09.25 Y3 Visit to the Lickey Hills
06.10.25 Y6 begin swimming everyday for two weeks.
22.10.25 Parents' Evening. This will be a mix of face to face and phone calls. Further details nearer the time.
24.10.25 Break up for Half-Term—One Week
14.11.25 Anti-Bullying Day. Children to wear odd socks. This years theme is 'Power of Good'.
17.11.24 SEND Reviews Begin. Mrs Whetley will contact Parents nearer the time.
12.12.25 Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 School Nativity 2pm in school.
17.12.25 KS2 Nativity at St Chad's Cathedral at 5pm
19.12.25 Christmas jumper, Christmas dinner and Christmas Party Day
19.12.25 School closes for Christmas at 3:15pm

Follow us - @ChadPrimary

www.st-chads.bham.sch.uk

<https://www.st-chads.bham.sch.uk/index.asp>

Contact us:

Hospital Street

Newtown

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B19 3XD

0121 464 6554

enquiry@st-chads.bham.sch.uk

Eloquent & Truthful



Eloquent and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.

What does this mean?

We will help our pupils to grow by developing an eloquent language which they can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be truthful in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.

Feast of St Teresa of Calcutta

Today we celebrated the feast of **St Teresa of Calcutta**. Our Year 6 pupils led us so beautifully in our prayer service, showing great reverence and helping us reflect on her life and message.

St Teresa dedicated her life to serving the poorest and most vulnerable. She reminds us that *"not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."* Her words inspire us to see that everyday acts of kindness — a smile, a helping hand, or a kind word — can make a big difference in the lives of others.

Prayer

Loving God,

Thank you for the example of St Teresa of Calcutta.

Help us to live with kindness, to notice those in need,

and to share your love through our words and actions.

Amen.



Newsletter Update

We had hoped to launch our *brand-new* newsletter format this week... but technology had other ideas! So, for now, it's back to our trusty old version until we get the glitches sorted. Out with the new and back in with the old — at least for a little while longer.

Attendance Reminder

Please take a moment to read the important letter attached about school attendance. Every day in school makes a big difference, and the letter explains what happens if children are absent as well as how even a small drop in attendance can mean weeks of learning lost.



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Website: www.stchadsprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Parker



3rd September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to begin by thanking you for your continued support in helping your child/children achieve excellent school attendance. One of the most important ways parents can support their child's education, personal development and wellbeing is by ensuring they attend school every day and arrive on time.

Regular attendance helps children feel part of the school community. It allows them to learn effectively, build friendships, take part in clubs and trips, and benefit from the routines that are so important for their wellbeing. Being in school, with teachers and friends, is the best way for pupils to learn and reach their full potential.

That is why school attendance is so important, and why the Government, St Teresa of Calcutta MAC, and St Chad's Catholic Primary School are committed to addressing any issues that might prevent children from attending school regularly.

The Law on School Attendance

Every child of compulsory school age is entitled to a full-time education, and it is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure their child receives it. Where a child is on roll at a school, parents have a duty to make sure they attend regularly.

This means children must attend every day that school is open, unless:

- they are too unwell to attend, or
- the school has given prior permission for absence in exceptional circumstances.

Attendance directly impacts learning outcomes. Pupils with the highest attainment at the end of Year 6 and Year 11 typically have higher rates of attendance. Every day in school matters. Missing just one day is the equivalent of five lessons lost – and over time, this really adds up:

Attendance in one school year	Days absent	Weeks absent	Approx. lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	45 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	95 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	145 lessons



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Attendance Challenges

We understand that sometimes children may find it difficult to attend school. Common challenges include:

- **Minor illness:** Children can still attend school with coughs, colds, headaches, or tiredness. If you are unsure, please send your child in and let us know. We will always contact you if they become too unwell to remain in school.
- **Anxiety or reluctance to attend:** If your child is worried about school, please contact us straight away. Early communication means we can work with you to support your child and put strategies in place.
- **Medical appointments:** Wherever possible, appointments should be made outside school hours. If this is unavoidable, your child should attend before and/or after the appointment to minimise learning time missed.
- **Family circumstances:** If difficulties at home are affecting your child's attendance, please talk to us in confidence. We may be able to offer support or signpost other services.

Working together and sharing concerns early helps us find solutions before patterns of absence become established.

When and How to Contact School

If your child is absent, you must:

- **Notify the school on the first morning of absence** by 8:15 via phone call: 0121 464 6554 (Preferred) OR Email - enquiry@st-chads.bham.sch.uk
- **Provide a reason for the absence.** If we do not hear from you, we are required to contact you to establish the reason for your child's absence.
- **Update the school each day** your child is away, unless you have agreed otherwise with the attendance team.

If your child is absent without explanation and we cannot contact you, we may carry out a home visit as part of our safeguarding duty.

Term-Time Holidays

Holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Requests must be made in advance, and decisions are made by the school. If leave is taken without authorisation, the school is required to refer this to Birmingham Local Authority, who may issue a penalty notice.



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St Teresa of Calcutta MAC Attendance Policy

From 1st September 2025, **St Chad's Catholic Primary School** and all schools in St Teresa of Calcutta MAC follow the same Attendance Policy, available on our website: https://www.st-chads.bham.sch.uk/docs/Policies/2025-2026_MAC_Attendance_Policy.pdf

Our approach is based on six principles:

- **We Expect** high standards of attendance from all pupils and families.
- **We Monitor** data to spot issues early.
- **We Listen & Understand** barriers to attendance.
- **We Facilitate Support** to remove barriers and signpost help.
- **We Formalise Support** where absence persists despite help.
- **We Enforce** statutory intervention only when all other avenues are exhausted.

School-Specific Attendance Information

- **Arrival time:** 8am – 8:30am (if you would like your child to attend Breakfast Club)
- **Entry to school from:** 8:30am
- **Contact school by:** 8:15am by phone call: 0121 464 6554 if your child is absent
- **Gates close at:** 8:40am
- **End of school day:** KS1 3:10pm
- KS2 3:15pm

Attendance Team Contact Details

- Senior Attendance Champion: Mrs Parker – 0121 4646554 or speak with the school office
- Attendance Support Team: Mr Lewis – 0121 4646554 or speak with the school office
- Requests for leave of absence: Mrs Parker – 0121 4646554 or speak with the school office

We truly value the support of our parents and carers in ensuring children have the best possible start in life. If you are ever worried about your child's attendance, please contact us at the earliest opportunity – we are here to work with you and your child to find a way forward.

Working together, we can make sure that your child attends regularly, enjoys their time in school, and reaches their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Parker
Headteacher

Virtue Certificates

- Y1 - **Kaiden** - Eloquent and Truthful - For explaining his feelings.
Y2 - **Gideon**—Eloquent and Truthful —For setting a good example of how to speak to others..
Y3 - **Katherine** -Eloquent and Truthful - For having wonderful things to say about everyone's work.
Y4 - **Abemelek**- Eloquent and Truthful - For being truthful
Y5 - **Ezana**- Eloquent and Truthful -- For always telling the truth even in disagreements.
Y6 - **Anika** - Eloquent and Truthful - For always using kind words and telling the truth.

Stars of the Week

Our **Stars of the Week** have exemplified Christ's teachings through their actions and their positive attitude towards others, their learning, and school life.

CONGRATULATIONS

Y1 Caleb Y2 Gabriel Y3 Kamal Y4 Mikiyas Y5 Jaxon Y6 Maanasaa



Attend Today. Achieve Tomorrow



Well done to Year 6 with the highest attendance this week
of 99%