



St. Chad's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

'Be who you were created to be...'

Web: www.st-chads.lancs.sch.uk

Friday 11th September 2026

Parish Newsletter Available at <http://stchads-southhill.org/newsletter>



HEADLINES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

Friday 11th September: Toddler group starts

Friday 11th September – Toast!

Monday 14th September – Spanish Club – **spaces available**

Wednesday 16th September – Shinpo Martial Arts @ Breakfast Club resumes – **spaces available**

Wednesday 16th September: Forest School for Years 5&6

Thursday 17th September – Year 3 swimming

Friday 18th September – Guitar lessons resume

CLASS DOJO APP



Thank you for linking with the new Dojo app for your child's class. This is a new system for us all, so please let us know how you experience it from your end. Like Seesaw, the app allows direct messaging between parents and teachers. Teachers aim to respond within 2 working days during office hours (9am-5pm) . If a message is urgent, please contact the school office directly. Also, please report absences etc to the **school office** only.

Dojo might try to upsell to a premium subscription. This is **NOT** necessary. You will be able to access all the features we will be using with the free subscription. We hope you like it!

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

SEE FULL DETAILS IN PARISH NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE AT

<http://stchads-southhill.org/newsletter>

LITTLE CHURCH: All our children are invited to come along to Church for Sunday Mass at 9:15am, where they are welcome to join in the Children's Liturgy at "Little Church".

COFFEE MORNINGS: Regular coffee mornings will be held in St. Chad's Parish Centre every second Sunday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served for a small donation. Everyone welcome.

ALTAR SERVERS: Any young people who have made their first Holy Communion are welcome to become altar servers. Please have a word with Fr Mark who will explain how you can get involved.

PARISH CENTRES FOR HIRE: St. Chad's and St. Bede's Parish Centres are available to hire for use by groups and for some private functions. **Enquiries :** **St Bede's** call Aidan on 01257 271818 / **St Chad's** call 07719 718523. If you get the answerphone, please leave your name and number and they will call you back.



PLAYTIME SAFETY

Could we kindly ask that parents, grandparents and other family members do not stop to chat with children through the school fence during playtimes. Whilst we understand that these interactions are well intentioned, staff supervising the playground do not always recognise the adults involved. This can make it difficult for us to distinguish between familiar visitors and potential safeguarding concerns. We appreciate that this may seem an overly cautious approach, but the safety and wellbeing of our children must always remain our highest priority. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.

TODDLER GROUP HELPERS

Our first toddler group was wonderfully well attended today. We were delighted to welcome far more young families than we could ever have expected, which is fantastic news for our school community. A huge thank you to the two mums who helped set up, make drinks and tidy everything away afterwards. Your support was greatly appreciated.

With such encouraging attendance, we would really benefit from a few extra pairs of hands. If you are able to help, even occasionally or on a rota basis, please let Mrs Aldridge know. Your support would make a real difference and help us continue to provide a warm welcome for all families.

WELCOME MASS & COFFEE MORNING – PROVISIONAL DATE

We have provisionally planned for our Whole School Welcome Mass to take place on **Thursday 24th September in school at 9:30am**. Fr Mark is away at the moment, so we cannot confirm this until next week, but we wanted to share our provisional plans. We also plan to host a coffee morning afterwards. All are welcome! More details to follow.

SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Please follow these accounts to receive our feed and share with friends and prospective families. They are not intended as a communication tool, but rather for promoting the school to prospective parents. Thank you.

Facebook: St Chads Catholic Primary School

Instagram: StChadsChorley

TOAST



Toast will continue to be offered in school on Friday mornings throughout the school year. If your child would like toast, please send in your payment of £5 per child. If your child has any dietary requirements that have changed or that we are not already aware of, such as gluten free, no butter etc, please email Mrs Southworth so that we can ensure your child is catered for correctly. **Please send in payments in a clearly named envelope.** Payments for siblings can be put together in the same envelope as they are all sent through to the office for updating the list. Please remind children to hand the envelope in to their class teacher during morning registration, or drop off at the school office. Unfortunately, we cannot accept payment through ParentPay for this as we need to be able to easily re-imburse our toast fairies.

CLASS NEWSLETTERS

These provide termly information specifically about your child's class, including curriculum, routines, PE days, homework, etc. These will be uploaded to the school website and emailed to parents shortly.

MEDICAL FORMS FOR MEDICATION AND INHALERS KEPT IN SCHOOL

If your child normally has medication or an inhaler kept in school, please complete a new form using the link below to ensure we have the most up to date information. Please also remember to send in any medication which may have been sent home at the end of Summer. You are responsible for checking any expiry dates on medication, so please make sure you check these before sending them in and ensure that you replace them before they expire. Many thanks.



[MEDICATION FORM](#)

PARENT & TEACHER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (PTA AGM)

SAVE THE DATE

More details to follow, but for now please bookmark **Monday 28th September at 7:00pm**.

CLUBS

Please chart below for an overview of clubs on offer this half term, with full details in following sections.

DAY	TIME	CLUB	START DATE	YEAR GROUPS
Every Day	7:45-8:45am	Breakfast Club	03/09/26	All year groups
	3:15-6:00pm	After School Club		
Monday	3:15-4:20pm	Junior Dance	14/09/26	Years 3 - 6
	12:00-12:30pm	Spanish	14/09/26	Years 1 - 6
	3:15-4:25pm			
Wednesday	3:15-4:20pm	Infant Dance	16/09/26	Reception – Year 2
	7:45-8:45am	Shinpo (Breakfast Club)	16/09/26	Years 1 - 6
Thursday	3:15 – 4:00pm	Choir	24/09/26	Year 3 -6
	During school time	Piano & Vocals	17/09/26	Years 3 - 6
Friday	During school time	Guitar & keyboards	18/09/26	Years 3 - 6

DANCE CLUBS ARE BACK!

Please see the details for the 4 week block of dance classes at St Chad's:



KS1: Wednesdays 3.15–4.20pm



KS2: Mondays 3.15–4.20pm



4 week block commencing the week beginning 14th September

Cost of block: £24

Contact Claire on 07703057272 to book your place.

EL CLUB ESPAÑOL

We are delighted to invite you to join our Fun Languages Clubs, returning lunchtimes & after school this term. Learning Spanish at primary age is fun, practical, and helps build a lifelong love of languages. Not only that, children make friends, learn valuable social and life skills and build confidence. In our clubs, the children learn Spanish the fun way, with songs, games, stories, drama, crafts and more! Our Fun Spanish Clubs have begun again at St Chad's. New children in Years 1 to 6 can come along for a no obligation taster any Monday. Our fun clubs allow your child to get started on a new and exciting language, with the help of fun games, songs, stories and drama, and children can try any time! We have two clubs – one takes place at lunchtime and one after school, offering a fun and educational alternative to after school club, and they are open to all levels of ability.



Fun Spanish After School Club for Y1-Y6 is a 1-hour club and takes place on Mondays until 4.25pm for 12 weeks in the Autumn Term, fees are £7.30 per session, payable termly.

Fun Spanish Lunchtime Club for Rec-Y6 is a 30-min club and takes place at 12-12.30 on Mondays for 12 weeks in the Autumn Term, fees are £5.90 per session, payable termly.

Membership fee for new members is £14.50 and new children receive a songbook & CD with folder and sticker chart and it includes free access to our internet gamezone and access to all the LCF French & Spanish music via streaming on any device. 10% Discounts for siblings. Monthly direct debits/standing orders/card payment options are available. Beginners are most welcome and all children can have a **no obligation taster** for these clubs by signing up at www.boltonlanguages.co.uk/enrol and paying AFTER the trial session, by skipping the payment stage of the signup until the trial is complete. If your child doesn't wish to continue, then you don't need to pay anything. Please contact Chris Abalain if you would like more information on these clubs, you can email chris@boltonlanguages.co.uk or call 07917 848745.

MARTIAL ARTS CLUB

Due to the success of our Martial Arts Club at Breakfast Club last year, we are pleased to confirm that sessions will resume again from next **Wednesday 16th September**. There will be 5 sessions this half-term so the dates to book in advance are:



- Wednesday 16th September
- Wednesday 23rd September
- Wednesday 30th September
- Wednesday 7th October
- Wednesday 14th October



This is open to all children **from Year 1 to Year 6, regardless of whether your children normally attend breakfast club or not** and they can welcome new members at any time. To join or continue with classes, you just need to book your child onto breakfast club through ParentPay for the above dates, where the cost is £7.50 per session which not only allows them to take part in the martial arts club but it also means they get breakfast too! New members will also need to make themselves known to the Martial Arts instructors and provide them with their own club member form (attached).

CHOIR

Mrs Topp's choir club will start on Thursday 24th September. This is open to all junior children. Full details to follow.

MUSIC TUITION

Mrs Strickland piano and singing tuition resumes on Thursday 17th September.
Mr Wadsworth guitar lessons resume on Friday 18th September.

CODING DAY LUNCH

We will be offering a "Coding Day" themed lunch on Tuesday 22nd September. The menu will be:
Glitching Chicken Goujons with Data Stream Dips, Micro-Chip Fries, Server Sweetcorn & Processor Peas

or

Pizza Pocket Programmes, Micro-Chip Fries, Server Sweetcorn & Processor Peas (v)

or

Binary Baked Jacket Potato with a choice of filling

Followed by

Waffle Grid & Cache Chocolate Sauce or Java Jelly pots with Ctrl+Alt+Del-icious Fruit Wedges



SPACE DAY LUNCH

We will be offering a "Space Day" themed lunch on Thursday 1st October. The menu will be:

Meteor Meatball Marinara & Solar Spaghetti with Galactic Garlic Bread

Or

Cosmic Cheese & Onion Roll with Planet Potato Wedges & Lunar Peas (v)

Or

Jupiter Jacket Potato with choice of filling

Followed by

Sonic Boom Rocket Ice Lolly or Super Moon Cookies with Frontier Fruit Wedges



This menu will be available to the whole school. If your child does not normally have a school lunch on this day but wishes to take part, please ask for your child to be added to the list by emailing Mrs Southworth at k.southworth@stchads.lancs.sch.uk. Children who normally have a school lunch on this day do not need to reply. Payment for this lunch should be made via the Pupil School Meal payment item on ParentPay for children who are in KS2 (unless entitled to Free School Meals).

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2027

We are already planning ahead for the next round of admissions for Reception in September 2027. It would be most appreciated if you could spread the word with family and friends who have an eligible child. Families may register their interest and book on to open days throughout the autumn term using the QR links below.



Please see details below about how to apply for either a reception class place or a secondary school place for September 2027 and the application closing dates for each:

Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2027 and living in Lancashire?

Closing date: 15 January 2027

You must apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

Apply for a school place now by scanning the QR code or visit lancashire.gov.uk/schools



Do you have a child starting secondary school in September 2027 and living in Lancashire?

Closing date: 31 October 2026

You must apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school.

Apply for a school place now by scanning the QR code or visit lancashire.gov.uk/schools



FREE CHILD CAR SEAT/BOOSTER SEAT

A grandparent has kindly offered a free car seat and a booster seat, should anyone need one. Please let us know if you are interested.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Toddler Group Flyer
- Heads Up from Health Protection – July edition
- Heads Up from Health Protection – August edition
- Spanish Club Flyer
- Shinpo Martial Arts – New Member Form
- Ebb & Flo events flyer
- Drama Kids Flyer
- First Kick Football Flyer

SCHOOL VACANCY

If you know a teaching assistant who is looking for a new position, please signpost them to our advert at https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=68324 The closing date is Monday 21st September.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – IMPORTANT CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

The Department for Education has confirmed significant changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility which came into effect from September 2026. Please note that these “Benefit related Free School Meals” is separate to the free meals which children currently receive in the infants under the Universal Free School Meals scheme”.

What has changed?

Eligibility has broadened significantly, meaning more families will qualify, even if they have not previously been eligible. There are now 2 different types of Benefits related Free School Meals; Targeted and Expanded

- **Expanded Free School meals** - **All** pupils in households receiving **Universal Credit** will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of household income.
- **Targeted Free School meals** – available for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of £7,400 or less, or other certain benefits. Unlike the newly introduced *Expanded FSM*, **Targeted FSM** unlocks broader disadvantage support such as Pupil Premium Funding for schools to support their learning and grants access to free holiday clubs and meals during school holidays under the **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** program.
- **End of transitional protections**
Transitional protections, which have ensured continued entitlement for some pupils since 2018, ended at the close of the 2025/26 academic year.

Please see separate email and flyer sent before the end of term for more information along with details of how to apply if you think you now qualify.

If you have already applied and received notification of being eligible, please forward your eligibility confirmation email on to k.southworth@st-chads.lancs.sch.uk as the school meals team have a backlog of claimants to update on our school systems.



AUTUMN TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

N.B. Dates may be subject to change. We will update with changes and highlight new dates in yellow. You may also subscribe to our calendar [via the school website](#). Click on ‘SUBSCRIBE’ and follow the instructions for your device.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday 11 th September	9:00-10:30am	Toddler Group begins
Tuesday 22 nd September	-	Coding Day Lunch
Thursday 24 th September	9:30am	Welcome Mass & Coffee Morning (TBC)
	4:00 – 6:00pm	Year 6 football league matches
Saturday 26 th September	-	Scarecrow Festival
Monday 28 th September	7:00-8:00pm	PTA AGM
Tuesday 29 th September	6:00-7:00pm	Infant Phonics Workshops for Parents
Thursday 1 st October	4:00 – 6:00pm	Year 6 football league matches
Friday 2 nd October	2:15pm	Harvest Assembly
Thursday 8 th & Friday 9 th October	-	Year 6 Bikeability
Monday 12 th & Wednesday 14 th October	3:30-6:00pm	Parents’ Evenings
Friday 16 th October	3:15pm	School closes for half term
Monday 2 nd November	8:45am	School reopens

REMINDERS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

ROUTINES AND RULES REMINDERS

It is helpful to begin the year with a few reminders, so that we can start on the right track. Please share with anyone who helps with the school run.

- Children are not allowed to use the play equipment before or after school, as our risk assessments require strictly limited numbers and staff supervision. Thank you.
- Children should not run around the playground after school. Space is limited and it is very busy. Incidents have occurred where tall Year 6s have accidentally injured small Reception children, which is to be avoided.
- Dogs are not allowed on the school premises.
- Smoking is not allowed anywhere on the school site.
- Please park responsibly and avoid blocking any neighbour's driveways.
- Stopping on the zig-zag lines is prohibited.
- Only plain stud earrings should be worn, and removed entirely for PE days.
- We are a 'nut-free school', so please do not send in snacks or lunches with food containing nuts.
- Please cut grapes in half to reduce choking risks.
- Watches should only tell the time (i.e. no smart watches - see details below)
- Children should not bring fidget toys into school, unless suggested by a teacher/agency professional through formal support meetings and individual support plans.



All the above are to help keep your children safe and create an effective learning environment. Many thanks indeed for supporting these.

COMMUNICATION METHODS

Open, honest and clear communication is the key to an effective and happy school. You will receive regular communication from school in a variety of forms, all with a different purpose. Please see chart below:

METHOD	PURPOSE
Emails via Parent Pay	Communication from the school office (uniforms, dinners, trips, etc)
Weekly Newsletter Email and on the school website	General important updates and information, including dates for your diaries.
Class Newsletters Email and on the school website	Termly information specifically about your child's class, including the curriculum, routines, PE days, homework, etc.
Dojo (App) (See update on this below)	Direct messaging between parents and teachers. Teachers aim to respond within 2 working days during office hours (9am-5pm). If a message is urgent, please contact the school office directly.
Informal conversations before and after school	Teachers and Mr Riley make themselves available before and after school for quick informal messages or chats. Teachers are, however, required in class to begin teaching at 9:00am. See below if more time is needed.
Face-to-Face meeting	More formal conversations, where required. Please make an appointment should this be needed.

We greatly value our relationship with parents and encourage you to reach out to us where necessary. We would much rather you to ask questions or raise concerns, rather than worrying or being confused about something. Please contact class teachers in the first instance where a question is relating to your child and their experiences in school. Admin questions may be directed to the school office.

WALK TO SCHOOL ALONE POLICY

If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 and you wish for them to walk/ride to or from school alone, please request a copy of our 'Travelling to and from school alone policy'. An application form is contained within the policy to be submitted to Mr Riley. **Please include details of the route and address and await a response.** Many thanks.

FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS

As explained in a recent email, our exciting Forest School provision begins on **Wednesday 9th September** for children in **Year 5 and Year 6**. Could relevant parents please check the details in the letter and complete the online form ASAP. Thank you for the replies so far. N.B. There was a mistake in the letter, asking infant parents to complete the form – it is only relevant for Year 5 and Year 6. We will gather details from other classes later in the year. See form links below for easy reference:

[YEAR 5 FORM](#)

[YEAR 6 FORM](#)



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE: MOBILE PHONES, INC SMART WATCHES

National safeguarding guidance has changed significantly. The Department for Education's *Mobile Phones in Schools* guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026, with schools expected to begin implementing it from 1 September 2026. The guidance states:



"All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default (including smart watches); anything other than this should be by exception only."

This is straightforward for us at St Chad's, where **mobile phones have never been permitted**. However, we recognise that phones may be needed in certain circumstances, such as when a child is moving between households or walking home independently (see policy for further details). In these cases, phones should be handed in at the school office on arrival and will be returned to the child at the end of the school day. We strongly encourage children to enjoy a phone-free childhood, whilst recognising that there are occasions when a mobile phone may be necessary.

National safeguarding guidance also requires schools to treat smart watches in the same way as mobile phones. Last year, some smart watches worn in school were capable of taking photographs, recording audio and accessing the internet, which is neither appropriate nor necessary during the school day. It is difficult and time-consuming for staff to verify the functions available on different models of watch, so our policy must be clear and consistent. **Children should therefore only wear watches that tell the time.** All classrooms have clocks, and children are supported to be in the right place at the right time throughout the day, so watches are not essential in school.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for all children.

ST CHAD'S PARISH SOCIAL GROUP COMEDY NIGHT

A night of massive laughs is coming to Chorley this autumn! Friday 2nd October 2026.

Local comedy legend, radio presenter, and Britain's Got Talent finalist Steve Royle is bringing an incredible line-up of funny friends to host a special, non-profit charity evening.

Expect a fantastic night of top-tier stand-up and entertainment as Steve shares the stage with a handpicked group of his closest comedy chums to guarantee non-stop laughs—all while raising vital funds for St Chad's Church in Whittle-le-Woods.

Event Details: Charity Comedy Night hosted by Steve Royle and Friends. St Marys Parish Centre, Devonshire rd, Chorley PR7-2BY

Ticket Sale Locations & Times:

Tickets can be purchased in person after mass at the following locations starting 5th September:

Price £15.00pp

- **St Chad's Church (Whittle-le-Woods):** Sundays 10:00am (also available from the school)
- **St Bede's Church (Clayton Green):** Saturdays at 6:45pm or Sundays at 11:45am (also available from the school)
- **St Joseph's Church (Harpers Lane, Chorley):** Sundays 10:15am
- **St Gregory's Church (Weld Bank, Chorley):** Sundays 10:15am

 **Contact Information:**

Phone: 07904 984322 (For enquiries or ticket questions)