



St. Chad's Catholic Primary School
Class 1 Newsletter – Autumn Term 2026



Dear Families,

A very warm welcome to our EYFS and Year 1 class!

We are looking forward to a happy, exciting and purposeful year of learning together.

This is our first Class letter of the school year. You can expect to receive one of these at the start of each term, but in addition to this letter you will receive weekly updates via Class Dojo.

Here at St Chad's we want every child to feel valued, loved and encouraged to be the very best version of themselves. As a Catholic school, our faith is woven throughout school life, and we will encourage the children to grow in confidence, kindness, compassion and respect for others.

 Our Curriculum This Autumn

We use the Jonathan Lear approach to support our curriculum planning. This helps us to create an exciting, engaging and purposeful curriculum which builds on what the children already know and encourages them to become curious, independent learners.

Our first term is our "Discover" term. We will be encouraging the children to explore, investigate, ask questions and discover more about themselves, their families, their community and the world around them.

Main focus (subject):	History
Enquiry Question:	Can people always make changes to the way they live?
Concepts	Peace, Fairness, Change, Tradition
Concept connections across other subjects, where it adds value:	Science: Animals including humans and seasonal changes R.E. /PSHE/RSE: Myself, how we change and grow. Life is a gift, can we all live in peace. Family and family traditions D.T. Healthy diet and food preparation

English

Our English learning will be based around a range of engaging texts and stories.

One of our key texts this term will be The Gingerbread Man.



Through our stories, the children will develop their speaking and listening, phonics, reading and writing skills. We will encourage the children to retell stories, develop their vocabulary, make predictions, write for different purposes and become confident communicators.

Phonics

Phonics will be an important part of our daily routine. The children will take part in daily regular phonics sessions appropriate to their age and stage of development. We use the Red Rose Phonics Scheme.

Our Reception children will develop their understanding of sounds and begin to apply their phonics knowledge to reading and writing.

Year 1 children will continue to develop their phonic knowledge and apply this when reading and writing independently.

Maths

In Maths, we will develop the children's understanding of number, counting, place value and mathematical patterns. We will also explore shape, space, measure and problem-solving. Where possible, learning will be practical and hands-on, allowing the children to develop their mathematical understanding through play, investigation and real-life experiences.

Science / Understanding the World

This half term we will be learning about animals, including humans. This will include how we grow and change, our senses, learning parts of the body and recognising that humans have similarities and differences. We will also explore other animals and how we can group them and identify their structures. In the second half term our topic will be seasonal change; this will include a season's walk, discussing changes in our local environment and observing differences.

History / Understanding the World

The History topic this term is exploring periods of time beyond living memory. We will start by focusing on learning about The Great Fire of London. We will look at how and why the fire started, how the people of London escaped the fire, how they lived after the fire and the changes that were made because of the fire. Later in the term we will be finding out about a famous historical figure when we learn about Guy Fawkes.

Expressive Arts & Design

There will be lots of opportunities for the children to be creative through art, music, drama, dance, construction and imaginative play. We will encourage them to express themselves, explore different materials and develop their own ideas.

Understanding the World

Our Discover theme will provide lots of opportunities for the children to explore their environment and develop an understanding of the world around them. We will encourage curiosity, questioning and observation as the children investigate people, places, nature, animals and the changing seasons.

Physical Development

We will develop gross and fine motor skills, coordination, balance and movement. The children will have regular opportunities to develop their physical skills through PE, outdoor learning and continuous provision.

Our PE day is Wednesday.

RE and Our Catholic Faith

Our Catholic faith will be at the heart of our classroom and will be woven throughout our learning and daily routines. We will explore Bible stories, prayer, God's love, kindness, friendship and how we can follow Jesus' example. We will also learn about and celebrate important events in the Church's year.

Important Information



Online Learning

We will be sending home login details and information for any online platforms that your child has access to. Please keep these details somewhere safe, as you may need them throughout the year.



Snack

The children will need to bring one small snack for morning break each day. Toast is provided on Fridays for children who would like it. Please only send one snack with your child for morning break.



Wellies

Please send your child into school with a named pair of wellington boots. These will be kept under your child's peg so that they are readily available for outdoor learning and play.



Reading Books

The children have been grouped for reading, and each group will have its own designated day for having their reading book changed. For example, Foxes will be listened to reading and have their books changed every Monday.

Important: Reading books and reading records must be brought into school every day, not just on your child's designated book-changing day.

We are very fortunate to have volunteers in school who listen to the children read throughout the week. Having reading books available in school means that your child can benefit from these additional reading opportunities. Please try to read regularly with your child at home and record any reading in their reading record. We really appreciate your support in helping your child to develop a love of reading and become a confident reader.

 Home Learning	We will send a weekly update through Class Dojo. This update will include suggestions for home learning activities. The activities will support and reinforce the learning that we have been completing in class. Home learning is intended to be enjoyable and provide opportunities for you to share in your child's learning.
 PE	Our PE day will be Wednesday. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their correct PE kit on this day.
 Water Bottles	Children should bring a named water bottle to school each day. Please ensure it contains water only.
 Uniform & Belongings	Please make sure that all uniform, coats, PE kits, wellies and other belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.
 Attendance	Being in school every day and arriving on time helps children to feel settled and ensures that they don't miss important learning experiences.

Working Together

We really value the partnership between home and school. By working together, we can help your child to feel happy, confident and excited about their learning.

If you have any questions, concerns or information that you feel would help us to support your child, please speak to us at the appropriate time or contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support. We are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to working with you and watching the children flourish.

Mrs Aldridge

EYFS & Year 1 Class Teacher