

Message from Mrs Jenkins:

Our vision: 'Learning to love, loving to learn'

This term's value: Hope

Next term's value: Forgiveness

We have had a busy but wonderful start to the new academic year at St Chad's. It has been brilliant to see the children so enthusiastic about their learning and promoting our vision of '**Learning to love, loving to learn**' so well. Having spent time in lessons and in our celebration assemblies, it has been wonderful to see the children experiencing such success in their learning and feeling proud to share the knowledge they have learned and retained. **Well done children of St Chad's! You have made a super start to the new school year. We are very proud of you and excited about watching you on your learning journey this year.**

We have been delighted to welcome a new Reception cohort and their families and some new children across the school—welcome to you all!

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing half-term break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 3rd November. **Kind regards, Mrs Jenkins**

Farewell to Cherie

Today, we say farewell to Cherie, a Teaching Assistant and Lunchbreak Supervisor, who has been with us for 11+ years. Thank you to Cherie for her long term dedication to the role and for all of her hardwork. We wish her all the very best for the future.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mrs Ellett and her husband on the birth of their baby son, Maxson. They are all doing well and we look forward to seeing them soon.

New Catering Provider:

We are very pleased to advise that we will have a new provider of our school meals from 24 November. Innovate, operated by Impact Food Group are an award winning catering provider, you can find out more information about them here <https://impactfood.co.uk/brands/innovate-ifg/>. Their Primary school offer has been developed to bring a memorable experience for our children. Quality food is the basis of their offer coupled with innovation that delivers fantastic dining experiences that will ensure our pupils truly enjoy their lunches and go back to lessons nourished, relaxed and ready to learn. The menus are nutritionally balanced and compliant with the revised food standards and allergen labelling regulations, special dietary needs are also considered and catered for. This will offer our children hot lunches that they are familiar with and therefore more likely to eat. The new menus will be circulated as soon as they are available. Meal ordering and payments will move to a new App. Details of this will be shared after half-term.

Are you missing benefits that are available to you?

You can get £100 and free school dinners for your children!

If you are eligible and sign up, you will be able to access both. "My child already gets free dinners in KS1," you might say, but they won't in KS2 unless you sign up for this. Once 'signed up' you will have access to a one off fund of £100 to use during the time that your child is at St Chad's. This £100 can be used for a range of things school based, including

- Trips during school time or after school where a donation is asked for by the school,
- School camp,
- Payment of after / before school clubs,
- Any activity in school where a donation is asked for, such as a visitor to the classroom,
- School uniform to be purchased from Monkhouse/Linela where we have negotiated a payment procedure and where you are able to purchase logoed items.

If you want more information, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. It is an anonymous application; it does not come to the school but to the local authority and once accepted, the benefits are yours. The purpose of the fund is to support academic development, hence the list, and school -of course- will not hold cash on site, so rather a running tally of spends will be kept. We hope that this will both help the school further provide great education and also support eligible families with the ongoing demands of having a child in school.

Uniform reminder

A reminder that the list below is a basic uniform list that the children are required to wear to school. We do not require a logo on items but if you wish to purchase these, you can do so from Linela or Monkhouse (see our website for further details).

- White or light blue shirts/polo shirts.
- Navy sweatshirts or cardigan.
- Grey or black trousers/skirt/pinafore.
- Summer option – plain black/grey shorts, blue/white check or stripe summer dresses .
- Plain, black sensible shoes. We do not allow high heels or raised shoes for safety reasons.

Suitable clothing for P.E is essential and we are asking for the following to be worn: Completely plain white t-shirt or completely plain t-shirt in your child's house colour (the school logo is allowed), appropriate sports' trainers that can be used within PE lessons (ideally black), plain, black or navy sweatshirt/zip-up top, black or navy shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings.

Items, such as football shirts, are not part of our PE uniform and we kindly request that children wear the appropriate items to school for PE days. Please make sure that PE hoodies/jumpers are plain black or navy.

Primary school admissions

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you must apply for them to start primary school in September 2026. This is a very important decision and it is important that you read the South Gloucestershire Primary school admission guide before you apply. Applications for primary school admission must be submitted no later than 15 January 2026.

<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=GLu6GUIMkpw&fa>

Attendance

- Consistently very good attendance helps children to access the full curriculum and receive the support and challenge needed to move their learning on. In line with our attendance policy, we do not authorise holidays in term time, so please try to book holiday during the 13 weeks of school holidays. % attendance will be monitored on a termly basis:
- 96%+ is expected and very good
- 95-95.9% is close to expectation
- 90-94.9% is cause for concern
- 89.9% or less is classed as a persistent absentee.

Where attendance is becoming a concern, parents may be invited to a School Attendance Meeting (with targets set for improvement) and fines may be incurred in the case of persistent absentees or prolonged unauthorised holidays. Our S. Gos Education Welfare Officer supports us with attendance matters.

Please also support your child to arrive in school on time as this also affects learning and attendance percentages.

In line with our safeguarding responsibilities, the school office will always ring parents of children who are absent from school and where we have not been notified or updated on a daily basis.

Many thanks for your continued support in this.

Congratulations to Years 1, 4, 5 and 6 for achieving the national of 96%. Well done!

Our attendance percentages are the highest they have been for a while, which is absolutely amazing. We are so close to the 96% target. Thank you everyone for your support with this. Parents/carers will have been given a copy of your child's attendance certificate at parents' evening so you will be able to see what their current attendance percentage is.

Attendance—Current standings at the end of term 1. National Average 96%

Reception	93%
Year 1	98.18%
Year 2	92.65%
Year 3	95.55%
Year 4	97.36%
Year 5	97.01%
Year 6	96%
School Total	95.76%



Thank you!

A huge thank you once again to the Little family for their incredibly generous donation of sensory equipment for use in school. We are very grateful to you for your kindness.



Successful visits from external professionals this term:

We have had a number of external visits to our wonderful school this term, including a Local Authority Safeguarding inspection, a Local Authority Education review and a visit from our Bridge Strategic lead (also an Ofsted inspector). We have been really pleased with the feedback received. Here are some of the comments below directly from the professionals.

Strengths

- **Safeguarding systems are secure.** Evidence from all staff that safeguarding culture is the highest priority.
- There is a **strong caring ethos** shown in the consistency of purpose which was detectable across the whole school.
- Staff are secure in school processes in reporting concerns. They feel very well supported by the Head and evidence of training was reported.
- **The children spoke with a love for school. They feel safe, know who they would go to if they had a worry and are confident that they would be helped.**
- Strong evidence of analytical thinking and linking to strategic planning on show.
- **Strong leadership with a clear focus for continued development and understanding of where the organisation needs to progress.**
- **Strong safeguarding Governor practice**
- Annual Face to face training with an external speaker was highly valued by staff at all levels.
- The Headteacher was exceptionally well prepared with extensive notes and evidence pre-prepared for the visit.
- The school has invested in research, CPD and targeted support for teachers to secure an effective consistent lesson design built around the principles of Rosenshine. This lesson design incorporates small step teaching but, central to the organisation of learning, is how and when teachers check understanding. During the learning walks it was clear that teachers have a clear understanding of this design and actively seek out opportunities to check understanding and tackle misconceptions in the moment. The **level of consistency around lesson design is high.** Teachers, through delivery and planning, demonstrate confidence and accuracy. The impact of this investment can be seen in how well children thrive in lessons. **The skill of the Teaching Assistants to enhance the role of the class teacher remains secure.** Leaders and teachers prioritise the training of Teaching Assistants and help them to more effectively support children and groups.
- **The purposeful and deliberate scaffolding and coding of lessons so that all children can access the learning is outstanding.** During the evaluation, visual coding using Widgeit and other icons was prolific. All teachers coded their learning. Scaffolds were universal to reduce stigma and, at its best, teachers had deliberately ensured that the coding used in their teaching was replicated on desks and on the learning walls. Children spoke confidently about the scaffolds and used the adaptations well. The consistency of the scaffolding continued into small group interventions and 1:1 support. Further to the visual scaffolding, the school team understand the importance of verbal scaffolds. Teachers invest in robust instruction of vocabulary.
- **Children at St Chad's thrive. Time and time again, external visit reports comment on the 'excellent' provision and quality of education. This is down to secure leadership.** The Senior Leadership Team is experienced, research informed, diligent and rooted in assessing success or challenges rather than assuming. These Leaders are reflective practitioners and understand the importance of being outward facing. Most significantly, they understand what high-quality inclusive teaching needs to look like.

Our next steps as a school are to consider the development of handwriting and spelling across the school.

St Chad's Patchway CE VC Primary School — Key Diary Dates 2025-26

Thursday 23rd October	Last day of term 1. Half term holiday from 3.30pm
Friday 24th October	INSET (2 of 5)
November	
Monday 3rd November	School reopens for pupils
Friday 21st November	Christmas Fayre 3.30-5.30
Wednesday 26th November	Christmas Disco
December	
Tuesday 9th December	Key Stage Two Carol Service at St Chad's Church 5pm
Wednesday 10th December	1.30pm EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas production to parents/carers
Sunday 14th December	Carols by Candlelight 6pm St Chad's Church
Wednesday 17th December	Whole School Christmas lunch and Christmas jumpers/hats
Thursday 18th December	Class parties Non-uniform day
Thursday 18th December	End of term 2—School closes for the Christmas break
Friday 19th December	INSET Day (3 of 5)
January 2025	
Monday 5th January	School reopens for term 3
February	
Tuesday 10th February	Parents' Evening 4-7
Wednesday 11th February	Parents' Evening 4-6
Friday 13th February	End of term 3
Monday 23rd February	School reopens for term 4

Services/Events at St Chad's Church



St Chad's Church
172 Rodway Road
Patchway
BRISTOL

Please visit the St Chad's Church website for details about Worship and events taking place: <https://www.stchad.org.uk/>



March	
Friday 6th March	World book day – look out for the letter, and come as your favourite book character!
April	
Thursday 2nd April	End of term 4. School closes.
Monday 20th April	School begins for term 5
May	
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
W/comm Monday 11th May	Year 6 SATs tests
Monday 18th May	Sports Day 1.30pm
Tuesday 19th May	Reserve Sports Day in case of wet weather 1.30pm
Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd May	Year 6 camp
Friday 22nd May	End of term 5. School closes for half-term
June	
Monday 1st June	School reopens for term 6
W/c Monday 1st June	Multiplication tables check (Y4)
W/c Monday 8th June	Phonics testing (Y1)
Monday 15th June (TBC)	5pm New to Reception Parents' Evening
July	
Monday 6th July (TBC)	1.15pm UKS2 production at St Chad's Primary School
Monday 6th July	Reports to be collected (R-Y5)
Tuesday 7th July (TBC)	5.15pm UKS2 Production at St Chad's Church. Pupils to arrive no earlier than 4.45pm. Details to follow nearer the time.
Friday 10th July	Year 6 Reports to be collected
Monday 13th July	9.15am EYFS concert to parents/carers at school
Thursday 16th July	1.30pm Leavers' Assembly
Friday 17th July	School closes for the summer
Monday 20th July	INSET (4 of 5) - School closed to pupils
Tuesday 21st July	INSET (5 of 5) - School closed to pupils

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Talk therapy

Louise O'Rourke is a brilliant Behaviour Support Adviser who has advised St Chad's for many years in her role .

She is qualified in CBT and Talk Therapy and is a certified parent coach.

As a result, Louise is now offering this service in her private business. She is, of course ,still working in school providing support. However, on her evenings, weekends and holidays she will be offering this type of therapy and parent support. We can highly recommend her. If you wish to find out more, her website is below:

www.steptherapeutic.com

About STEP (steptherapeutic.com)

This term's highlights at St Chad's

- Welcoming our new Reception children and other new children to our school.
- 2 wonderful Harvest festivals. Thank you very much to The Fox family for donating our amazing Harvest loaf.
- Year 4 and Year 6 swimming.
- Year 1/2/5/6 Field trips. Thank you to parents/carers who volunteered to help.
- 2 Parents' evenings to share the super work the children have been completing.
- Parent Council
- World Mental Health Day
- Rocksteady
- Parent tours for prospective parents
- Flourish and school chaplain work.
- Flourish worshipping community –it has been amazing to see so many of you there.
- A brilliantly attended Friends AGM.
- Year 5 Assembly to the school on Hope.
- Reception curriculum evening with parents/carers.
- Official welcoming of our Reception children at St Chad's Church during a service.
- Mad science assembly
- Non uniform day
- Year 5/6 Dodgeball competition
- Successful visits from external professionals (see feedback earlier in this newsletter).



- **Harvest:** We hosted 2 Harvest Festivals this term. Well done to the children who sang beautifully and received much deserved praise from the community. Thank you for your donations and to parents and carers for coming along to join us. All donations were gratefully received by North Bristol Foodbank. We were delighted to welcome Rev. Paul from St Chad's Church who joined us for them.

Dodgeball Competition—Y5/6

Congratulations to our Y5/6 Dodgeball Team for their participation in a local competition recently. They were excellent role models for the school. Congratulations Team St Chad's! Thank you to parents/carers, Mrs Jones and Mrs Pryce for going along to support.



Secondary school admissions

If your child is in year 6 and was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 (inclusive), they must attend a secondary school in September 2026. This is a very important decision and you are strongly advised to read the South Gloucestershire Secondary school admissions guide before making any decisions and completing your application. Applications for secondary school admission must be submitted by the 31 October 2025. <https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?i=12VIUICdFLs&familychannel=2-2&channel=family>