



ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 6th September 2019

Re: Welcome and general information

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year at St Chad's Primary and for some, welcome to St Chad's.

What a fantastic start it has been to the new school year! It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces around school and I have been really impressed with the way the children have risen to the changes and expectations in their new year group, coming in settled, engaged and ready to learn. I have already seen some super work being produced and heard some great stories about the summer holidays.

We extend an especially warm welcome to the new families starting with us this year in Reception and those who have joined in other year groups as well. I'm sure you'll make the families welcome, as you always do at St Chad's.

Communication

We aim to keep you regularly updated and reminded about events, things that the children need and so on. This is done mainly via text, class dojo and letters uploaded to the school website but we also have a school twitter account too **@StChadsPrimSch**. It isn't easy to get the balance right as some people like to receive regular updates, whilst others prefer the one reminder but we do try hard. The school website is always the best place to go to find the information you will need. All letters for your attention are added to the letters section of the school website <http://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/letters/> and a text reminder is sent home to let you know that it is there.

In an attempt to improve your access to letters, we have updated our texting process. When a letter has been uploaded to the website, the text you receive will be the direct link to the letter itself so you'll be able to open it up immediately on your phone. As we are limited to a specific number of characters, please understand that the link will be sent on its own without additional detail so that it will fit in! Part of the link will tell you what the title of the letter is.

If you prefer to use the website itself using a different device, you will also find that we have added a quick link on the front page of our website that will take you directly to the letters page without having to navigate your way around our website.





I write a termly newsletter that is sent out during the last week of every term. This is another main form of communication with you and will provide you with important dates, invites, a celebration of learning and much more. You should definitely look out for this.

We do try hard to make sure that you are kept informed. If you have any suggestions regarding communication, we would be more than happy to hear them.

I would like to remind you of a few important items, which will make the year a little easier.

The dates for the year can be found on the school website and was also included in the newsletter at the end of term. Please remember that we have an INSET day on the final Friday of this term (Friday 25th October) so the last day of term one will be Thursday 24th October.

Universal Free School Meals

Please remember that if your child is moving into Year 3, they will no longer be eligible for universal free school meals and you will either need to apply for Pupil Premium (please see the website for more details <http://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/pupil-premium/>) or pay for school dinners via parentpay. Pupil premium brings a lot of benefits, not least £100 for you to spend on school items! Copies of the dinner menu can be found on the school website (<https://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/letters/>).

Attendance

We are all proud to be part of one of the most successful schools in the area. Part of how a school is able to be successful is having pupils in school to teach! Please remember that unless for illness or exceptional circumstances, absence during term time (including holidays) will be recorded as unauthorised. If more than 10 sessions (=5 days) are recorded as unauthorised, the school is duty bound to request South Gloucestershire Council issue a penalty notice. There are two sessions in one school day, so a week of holiday will equal 10 sessions. This is further explained in a separate letter on our website:

Holidays in term time - <http://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/key-information/> and also in our Attendance policy - <https://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/policies/>.

Please support your school in giving the very best all round education to your child by ensuring they attend, thank you.

Snacks and drinks

It has always been the rule that pupils are permitted to bring a small snack and drink for break times. This is separate to their lunches. There are plenty of water fountains across school, but if you wish your child to bring bottles of drink and a snack, we ask that pupils bring water and either real fruit or a plain biscuit if you choose to bring such refreshments. Linking with the national drive to improve the way pupils eat, chocolates, sweets and other such snacks are not allowed at break times. Equally, the mess made when a bottle of squash leaks in a classroom, in a bag or in a corridor necessitates us asking for water only please.

Morning drop off

As you know, the new Reception (EYFS) pupils are starting school and many being only 4 years old. It is really important that they are able to leave their parents hand and walk to a receiving teacher. For the year ones, who have been used to a similar drop off last year, we will continue to have their class teacher to greet them for a while, which means we have two year groups being directly handed over to teachers during the morning drop off. I am sure you will understand that a forest of adults in the path is quite daunting for young children, and so we ask that parents of older pupils, who wish to wave goodbye after you have dropped them off, stand in a way that does not block the gates,



allowing the youngest pupils to feel a little less worried and allowing staff to help ease their start in school.
Thank you.

School drop off and pick up

As you know, the roads around our school are not really suitable for the volume of traffic at the beginning and end of the day. In order to make things smoother, we have an informally agreed one-way system on Standish Avenue, which we would appreciate you using; the exit route requires you to take a right hand turn as you leave Cranham Drive (the road the school is on). Please also ensure that you avoid blocking driveways, parking or stopping in the school gates bay and parking on corners.

I know that 99% of school car drivers try really hard to support everyone's road use and thank you if that is you. Although we are never going to remove school traffic, I urge you all to work together to make the school run easier for everyone around you, and in turn they will make it easier for you.

School start time

School officially starts at 9.00am. A few years ago as a gesture of goodwill, we agreed to staff the playground from 8.50am onwards, giving parents and carers an extra few minutes to get to their next destination after drop off. You will appreciate that most of the staff arrive at or before 7.30am and that hour or so before 9.00am is a very important time of the day for them.

As such, we are not able to staff the playground before the time of 8.50am. Please can I ask that pupils do not arrive at school before this time (unless they are an official morning helper, or part of an organised club) as they will not be supervised and we cannot guarantee their safety.

Welcome to new staff

Some of you may have already met/spotted our 2 new members of staff! As you will recall from the newsletter and a previous letter last academic year, Mr Ridd (our new Deputy Head) and Miss Bendall have joined the St Chad's team. Mr Ridd will be teaching Year 3 part-time alongside Mrs Dobson and for the remainder of the time, carrying out his Deputy Head responsibilities. Miss Bendall will be teaching Year 2 covering Mrs Ives' maternity leave. We are delighted to welcome them both to St Chad's.

Congratulations to Mrs Player (previously Miss Davies, Reception) and her husband on their marriage in the summer and also to Mrs Ives and her husband on the birth of their baby daughter. We wish them all much happiness.

For those of you new to our school, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are an open school; if you have anything you would like to discuss, please pop in and have a chat with your class teacher or with myself. One of the factors of the success of St Chad's Primary School is that we all want the best for your child and aim to work together as a team to create an environment where they will flourish.

With best wishes for another happy and successful year.

Kind regards,

Steph Jenkins
Headteacher

