



**Dunholme St Chad's Church of England
Primary School
June 2024**



It is hard to believe that we are already in our final term of the school year. Furthermore, I have nearly finished my first year as Headteacher at St Chad's. At the end of each half-term, I write a letter to parents reflecting on the term's highlights and achievements, so what have I learned so far?

I have discovered that we have:

- wonderful, happy children who warm my heart every morning with their hearty 'Good morning Mrs Appleby' greetings at the gate.
- hard-working, caring staff who go the extra mile for the children in our school
- dedicated governors who are ambitious for the school
- supportive parents who want the best for their children
- a thriving village, which enjoys community events
- a rich, broad curriculum, bursting with planned and purposeful opportunities to enrich children's lives

Talking about opportunities, make yourself comfortable as I share just some of the many highlights from this term.

Music has featured prominently this term. Music specialists from Lincolnshire Music Services have been teaching ukulele to our Year 3 pupils and our Year 4 pupils have been thoroughly enjoying how to play P bones (a lightweight trombone). It is amazing when the children play a piece together, but it is also very loud! We were treated to a very special performance when some of the children who have piano and flute lessons at school overcame their nerves and played in front of the whole school. We hope that those who learn guitar and violin will be encouraged to perform in future assemblies.

Our Year 4 pupils had a fantastic time focusing on Viking culture during their residential to York. They visited the Yorvik Centre & participated in hands-on archaeological activities at DIG. The residential tied in with their theme work this term, titled 'Invaders, Raiders or Traders?'. Here are a few photos from their time in York:



We were incredibly proud of the way our Year 6 pupils conducted themselves during SATs week. They had worked so hard in the weeks leading up to it. Mr Parkin had fully prepared them so they approached the tests calmly and some pupils said they actually enjoyed the week. They are a great cohort and have taken their homework seriously. One of their projects was to creatively present ideas about Volcanoes. Some projects were very elaborate but the most memorable one was Annabelle's who added too much bicarbonate of soda to her design and vinegar exploded everywhere!



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Year 4 & Year 6 took part in a First Aid course held in school. They learned how to apply plasters and bandages, as well as learning CPR.



Year 2 participated in the Multi-Skills Festival at Bishop Grosseteste University. The pupils had a fabulous time, taking part in various sporting activities, whilst having plenty of fun along the way. One of our teams came 3rd!

Meanwhile Year 5 have had an exciting week. Three days ago, the Happy Chick Company dropped off a hatcher and the children have loved watching the eggs wobbling and listening out for the cheeping. There was great excitement when the first chick emerged. Year 5 pupils also enjoyed learning about constellations during their experience in a mobile planetarium, provided by Star Lincs. Florence said that 'it was really cool' and it inspired Chase to become an astronaut.

Every time I go into the Reception class, the children enthusiastically show me their caterpillars. They cannot wait for them to become butterflies.

We are now actively engaging with our prospective Reception Class 2024/25 families, inviting them to join us in our transition programme to familiarise the new children with our school. We are excited about getting to know each and every one of them.

We will also be supporting our Year 6 pupils as they prepare to transition to secondary school in the autumn.

Over the next few weeks, the children will be practising their athletic skills, in preparation for our annual Sports Day. This is a real highlight in the school calendar, as well as a wonderful family event.

Upcoming Events:

5 Jun – Year 6 Church Schools Festival at Lincoln Cathedral



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10 Jun – PE Enrichment Day – Athletics

12 Jun – Year 3 Mini Olympics at Grantham

13 Jun – Sports Day

Finally, one of my most recent personal highlights was when I joined six new Headteachers of church schools with my family and the congregation of Lincoln Cathedral for my commissioning service. It was an opportunity to make vows to faithfully serve St Chad's school and the local community. The service was part of evensong and it was a very special and memorable event that I will never forget.

For our latest news, you might like to check out our website <https://www.dunholme.lincs.sch.uk/>

Mrs K Appleby Headteacher