



Starting Primary School:
A Parent / Carer's Guide to
St Chad's C of E Primary School



From our Headteacher

I am truly proud to be the Headteacher at St. Chad's and we are delighted that you have chosen our wonderful school for your child.

We are passionate about a strong sense of community, and the importance placed on relationships is evident in how we work school families, local community, our local Church and local schools through the Northwest cluster. One of school families summed up the sense of community at St. Chad's during our **Ofsted, July 2024 stating "St Chads is a wonderful school; its ethos and the sense of community is incredible."**

During a recent **SIAMS Review (October 25)** it was noted, **"Staff and pupils describe the school as warm, inclusive and values-led. Relationships across the school reflect mutual respect and compassion."**

Effective partnerships with our parents and carers are vital, and we know that this starts now. Whether you are new to our school, or your child has attended our nursery, we are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the new few months before they join us in reception from September. In the meantime, we hope you find the information in this booklet and on our website helpful in preparing you and your child for September.

We know that this is an important time for you and your child, and that there may be a whole mix of emotions. Whilst we have a number of events planned to support with this, please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything else we can do to support.

It is our absolute privilege to welcome you and your child to our school family. I never tire of talking about St. Chad's or showing 'it off' and so look forward to doing this and meeting you at one of our forthcoming events.

Mrs Gina Marsland
Headteacher



From our Abbey Multi Academy Trust CEO

Welcome to St Chad's CofE Primary School.

At Abbey Multi Academy Trust we are passionate about making a difference to the lives of all our children. They are at the heart of everything we do and we strive to inspire learners and change their lives as a result of our educational provision. We are committed to our Trust vision to work '**In Partnership to Educate, Nurture and Empower**' our community, so that everyone can flourish and live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

We want all our schools to be the best they can be and for each child to discover the skills, abilities, talents and interests that lie within them as well as giving them safety, security and the skills they will need to be active, responsible citizens and happy, caring adults in the future. Our aim, quite simply, is to do the very best for children and recognise their individuality and uniqueness. Childhood is a special and wonderful time and no-one gets a second chance at it.

St. Chad's is a welcoming school, where children benefit from an ambitious curriculum that not only develops their academic knowledge and understanding, but encourages personal development of the whole child. Through strong partnership across the whole school community, including parents, staff and the local church, St. Chad's is a school where all are supported to flourish and live out their vision, "In the light of God, we care, we share, we laugh, we learn".

Working alongside the other primary and secondary schools within Abbey Multi Academy Trust, St. Chad's is prepared to truly collaborate. All our academies have a desire to question, change and innovate to ensure that what we provide enables our children to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

I welcome you to explore our Trust website, where you can find out more about the benefits of St. Chad's being a part of our Trust.



Mrs Helen Pratten
CEO

Vision and Values

In the light of God, we care, we share, we laugh, we learn.

Our special Bible story upon which our vision is based is the Parable of the Lamp (Matthew 5:14 – 16).

.....

We know and support every adult and child to shine brightly and to be the best versions of themselves, **recognising that for some this requires intentional adaptation, additional support and relational care in order for their light to be seen and sustained.** We encourage all in our school community to be a positive influence and let their good deeds and character shine for others to see. We support our young people to recognise the value of their own light, be proud of their achievements and to value and respect themselves and know how loved they are by God and others.

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We want our school to be shining light in our community and beyond, now and in future.



Transition Timeline

Your child's transition to primary school is broken down into phases to be as manageable as possible. Here are the key dates that you should know:



April

Starting Primary Guide shared with families.



June/July

Stay and Play session as part of the transition process.



September

Starting school is staggered over two weeks. You will be given a specific start date and time for the first week, where children attend school for mornings only.

In week 2 children attend school for mornings and leave after lunch.

In week three they will be in school for the full day.



June

Teddy Bear Picnic
(Children & families welcome)

Please note, the dates for the Teddy Bear Picnic events are provisional and dependent on the number of attendees.



July

Teachers will visit children at their Nurseries/at home.

Getting Ready for September

Preparing for your child to go to school for the first time can be daunting if you are unsure of what to expect. We have organised some tips to help your family to get ready for September and make the transition as easy as possible.

Get prepared for the practical aspects of starting school by:



Practising the school run.



Finding out what items your child will need to bring with them.



Making a note of important dates in the school year.

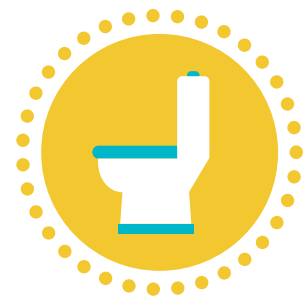
Help your child to build independence by encouraging them to:



Put on their own coat and shoes.



Use a knife and fork on their own.



Go to the toilet on their own.



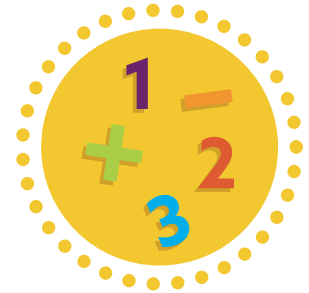
Help your child with learning words and numbers by:



Displaying their name around the house to encourage them to recognise it.



Listening to your child read as much as possible.



Bringing maths into everyday life - by identifying shapes around the house, for example.

Create a good atmosphere around the thought of school by:



Making the first morning as relaxed as possible.



Establishing a consistent morning routine.



Being positive about school and your child's learning.



Asking positive questions: "What was good about your day?"



Keeping in touch with school - reading letters sent home will keep you in the loop.

Uniform

Wearing a uniform helps pupils to feel a sense of pride in their school and a sense of belonging. We ask that you encourage your child to wear their uniform proudly and properly, and clearly label all items of clothing with your child's name.

Our uniform consists of:



- Grey skirt/pinafore dress/smart school trousers/shorts
- Gold or bottle green polo shirt (with or without logo) or white blouse/white Shirt worn with a tie
- Bottle green jumper or cardigan (with or without logo)
- Black sensible school shoes (flat heels)
- Summer: Green or yellow check/stripe dress
- Hair accessories should be simple and in school colours if possible

Name
label all
items of
clothing



Branded school items can be purchased from School Trends via their website.

Non-branded items can be purchased from many high street stores, supermarkets and online shops.

Second hand school uniform is also available from our PTA, Friends Of St Chad's.

✉ pta@stchadsprimary.net

PE Kit

PE will not start immediately, though its important to note that for PE lessons, children are asked to wear:



Name
label all
items of
clothing

- Black PE Shorts or black jogging suit bottoms
- Plain round necked t-shirt in team colour (with or without school logo)
- Plain sweatshirt in team colour, bottle green or black (no branded items please)
- Trainers

You will find out your child's team colour before they start school.



Equipment

As well as their uniform, please ensure that your child comes to school with:



A name and filled water bottle (water only please).



Their green book bag (these are provided as a welcome gift!).



A pair of wellies.



Spare change of clothes including underwear.



A coat (every day, even when sunny!)

Attendance

Good attendance from the start of primary school sets the foundation for **success both socially and academically**.

Establishing good attendance habits will help your child **develop good routines, build better relationships with their friends, and help them feel more secure and confident.**



Visit our website to view our **School day & term dates page**.

To promote good attendance throughout the school, we ask that:



Children only take time off for illness and exceptional circumstances. We cannot authorise time out of school for family holidays or leisure purposes. We would also be grateful if GP and dentist appointments were arranged outside of school hours where at all possible.



School times:

Children arrive at school in good time for the start of the school day.

Our gates open at **8:35am** ready for children to head into their classrooms at **8:45am**.



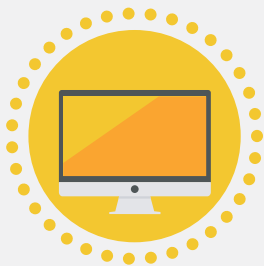
Contact us:

You let us know if your child is unable to attend school as soon as possible by calling **0113 274 7110**.

Communication

We value partnerships with our school families and know that communication is vital to making the school-home relationship work. We hugely value input from parents and carers, and use a variety of communication methods to suit different needs.

Communication can be made through:



Tapestry - the online portal we use to share information with families.



Email - every class teacher has an email address so you can contact the class teacher if required.



Phone - our office staff are happy to answer any queries during the school day.



Face-to-face communication - there are opportunities to speak to school staff at drop-off and pick-up times.



Letters home - please read all letters carefully as they include important information.



Newsletters - there will be a weekly whole school newsletter and a half termly year group newsletter.

Communication

Events

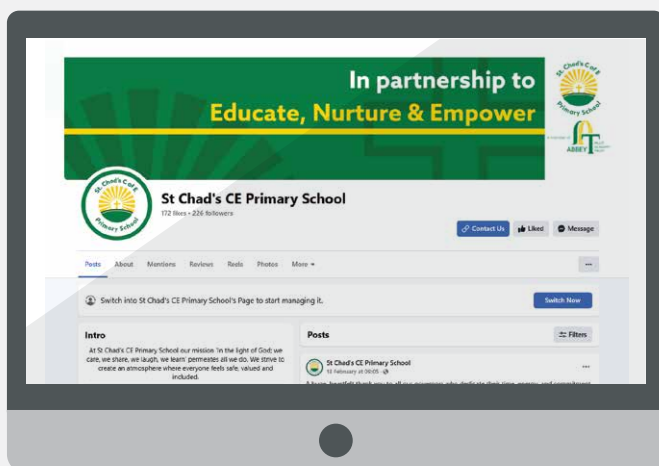
We know how important it is for you to feel part of the school, and of your child's education. We have regular opportunities to engage in school activities, such as:

- Stay and play sessions
- Parent story time
- Educational support sessions - such as phonics and maths workshops
- Family collective worship/celebration assemblies
- Attending a class trip as a parent helper
- Informal drop-ins/open classrooms to celebrate and share your child's work

Social Media

We know it is also important to see the school in action. We regularly share messages, images and videos of activities in school on social media. Please do feel free to take a look so you can get a sense of what is happening in school at the moment and how wonderful our children are.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram.



www.facebook.com/stchadsce



@stchadsce

www.instagram.com/stchadsce

Other Expectations

We greatly appreciate your support in your child's education. To ensure consistency between school and home, we ask that you:



Instil the importance of good behaviour choices, sharing and turn-taking.



Read aloud to your child daily.



Establish a good sleep routine so that your child arrives for school on time and ready to learn.



Enhancing School Time

Our Buddy System

Our year 6 children are buddied up with one of our new pupils from reception. This means that your child will have an older child in school who can support them to settle in. This year our year 6 pupils have:

- Supported our reception children at lunchtimes
- Walked to Church with their buddies for our Harvest, Christmas and Easter services
- Shared story time
- Led sports activities and events
- Shared visits to the local park

Before your child starts school, they will receive a letter from their buddies introducing themselves.

"We love spending time with our buddies and helping them."

Year 6 Pupil

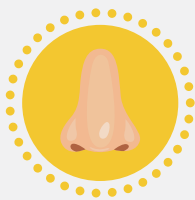


Wellbeing

We are devoted to supporting the physical, social, emotional and mental wellbeing of all our pupils and staff.

We have outlined a few things you can do with your child if they are feeling worried about starting school or anything else.

Take a moment to breathe:



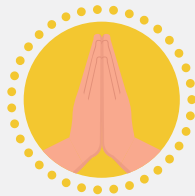
Breathe in slowly through the nose for four counts, then breathe slowly out of the nose for four counts.

Take a moment to breathe:



Breathing buddies: Lay on the floor with a teddy or pillow on their tummy will help them to focus their breathing as their breath moves the teddy up and down.

Mindfulness meditation:



Meditation can help your child to relax and focus on something else. Try searching 'Peace Out Guided Relaxation' on YouTube.

Mindfulness activities:



Fill a jar with ideas of things you'd like to do together on the weekends or school holidays.

Mindfulness activities:



Create a memory box together.

Getting to School

The school has clearly marked entrances from **Northholme Avenue** and **Thornfield Road**.

Driving to school:

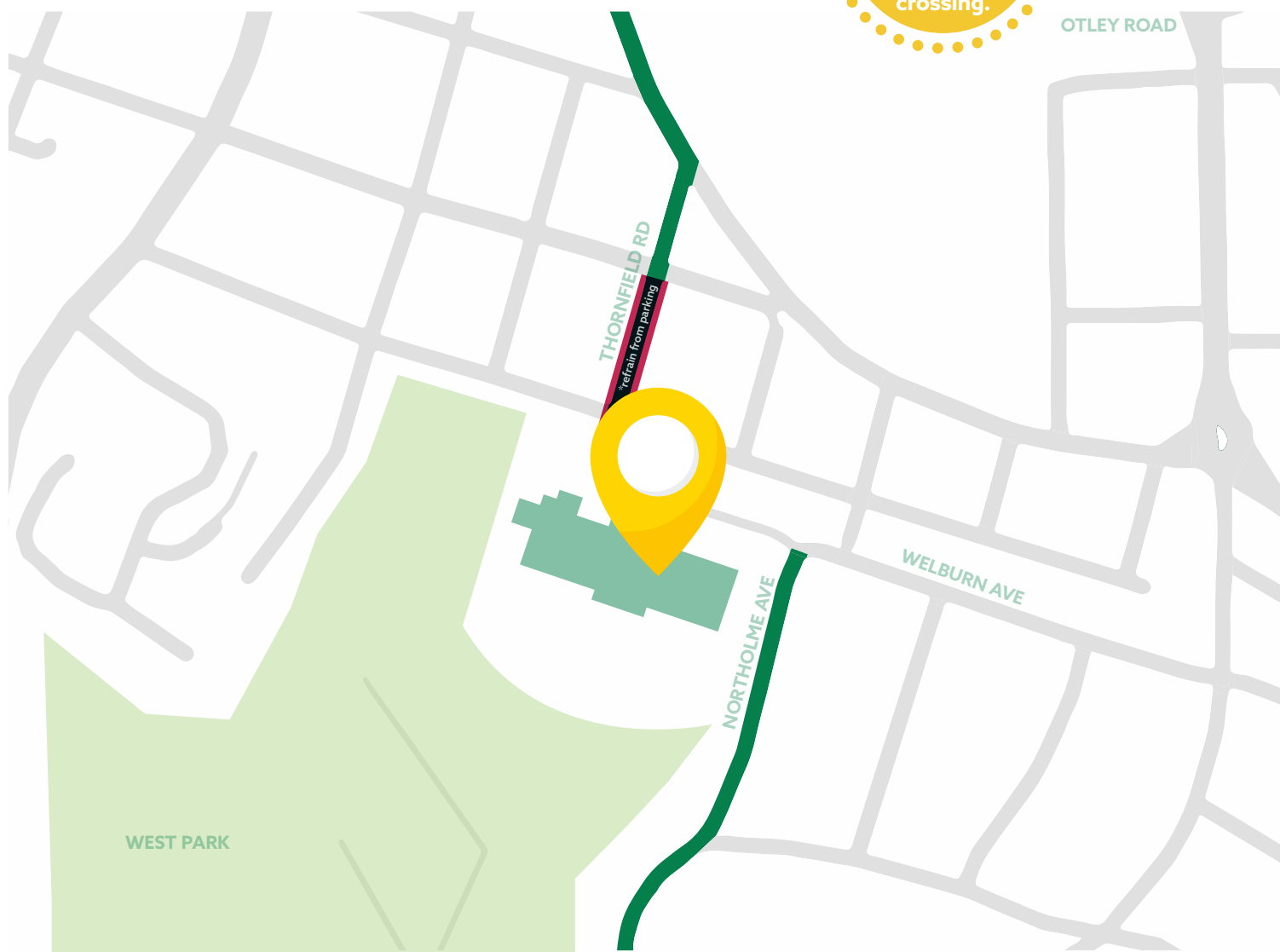
If you are driving to school, we politely ask that cars are parked legally and considerately of our neighbours.

We also ask all our school families to refrain from parking on the Thornfield Road cul-de-sac (which is marked on the map*) for the safety of our children. There is parking available close by on the streets in the area.

Our staff:

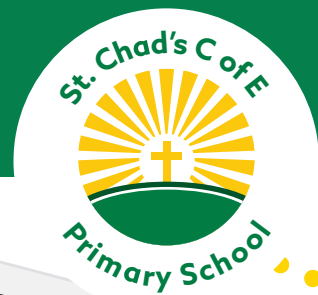
Staff are available at the start and end of the school day to support families as they arrive and leave the school site

The roads near to school can be busy, so please take care when crossing.



St Chads C of E Primary School, Northholme Avenue, West Park LS16 5QR

Wraparound Childcare



Discover What's On!

The OOHA Club



Breakfast & After School

Our affordable breakfast and after school club provides childcare for pupils from **Nursery to Year 6**.

Childcare

Breakfast OOHA Club:

We offer childcare for pupils from **7:30am to 8.45am**. Children who arrive before 8:30am will be provided a breakfast to fuel their day ahead.

After School OOHA Club:

We offer childcare **until 6:00pm**, and a small snack is provided to keep the children happy and refreshed.

OOHA Club runs on some training days.



Holiday Clubs

OOHA Club offers school holiday childcare:

Easter - 1 week

Summer - 3 weeks



...and so much more!



How to Book!

Fill in the OOHA form online

<https://tinyurl.com/OOHAclubenrol>

or collect a form from the school office.

There will be an opportunity to visit the OOHA Club and speak with their staff during the Parent's information evening.

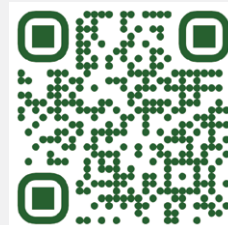
Open term time only.

School Calendar

We know that life is busy, so we aim to issue provisional calendars in september and try to give plenty of notice for school events as well as adding reminders into our weekly newsletter. Our calendar is always evolving, so please keep an eye on it.

Look out for:

- Autumn Term parents' evening
- Autumn Term parents' workshops on phonics and maths
- Reception and KS1 Christmas Nativity
- Church services at St Chad's
- Spring Term parents' evening
- Sports Day
- Various school trips
- Friends of St Chad's (FOSC)



Visit our website to view up to date calendar, letters and newsletters under '**Latest**' in the menu.

 www.st-chadsprimary.co.uk



Friends of St Chad's

Friends of St Chad's (FOSC) are our incredible PTA who run a host of events and activities throughout our school year. Their calendar includes social events for parents, charity events, second hand uniform sales, Christmas cards designed by the children, lotteries and raffles and so much more.



Follow FOSC on Facebook



facebook.com/stchadsprimaryleeds

 pta@stchadsprimary.net



Our Food

We know great food helps children learn and feel their best!

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Our in-school kitchen prepares **fresh and nutritious dishes every day**, offering a variety of satisfying meals.

Our menus are designed to give children **tasty, appealing and balanced lunches** that support a healthy lifestyle. **Innovate** provides a three-week rotating menu that offers plenty of choice. Each day children can select a hot main meal (meat or vegetarian), filled rolls, baked potatoes and fresh pasta along with sides, salad and homemade bread.

There is also a daily sweet treat or alternatives such as jelly, fruit or yoghurt.

By combining familiar favourites with new options and special theme days, **Innovate** creates an exciting menu that children enjoy.

At lunchtime water is available to drink and staff are on hand to help if needed.

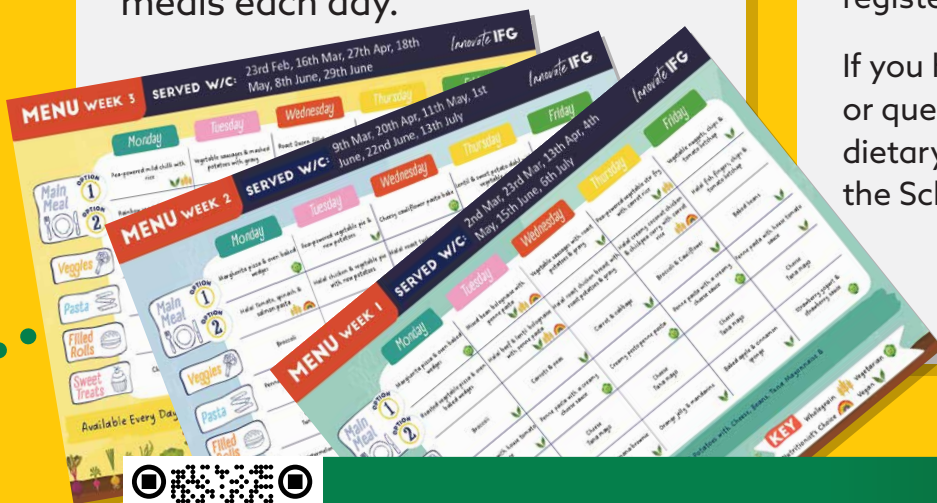
FREE School Meals

All children will get FREE school meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. They can choose from several exciting and nutritious meals each day.

Food Allergies and Intolerances

Innovate are committed to providing suitable meals for all children. Please ensure that your child's allergy or dietary requirements have been registered at the school office.

If you have any questions about menus or queries relating to your child's dietary requirements, please speak to the School Office.



Curious about what's on the plate?
www.st-chadsprimary.co.uk/parents/catering

Term Dates

We know booking holidays and/or planning childcare can present logistical challenges and wanted to share our Term Dates at this point.

School opens after Summer Holiday	Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Last day of school before Half Term	Thursday 22nd October 2026
School opens after Half Term	Monday 2nd November 2026
School closes for Christmas Holiday	Friday 18th December 2026
School opens after Christmas Holiday	Monday 4th January 2027
School closes for Half Term	Friday 12th February 2027
School opens after Half Term	Monday 22nd February 2027
Good Friday - School Closed	Friday 26th March 2027
Easter Monday - School Closed	Monday 29th March 2027
School closes for Easter Holiday	Thursday 25th March 2027
School opens after Easter Holiday	Monday 19th April 2027
School is closed for May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2027
Last day of school before Half Term	Friday 28th May 2027
School opens after Half Term	Monday 7th June 2027
Last Day of school before Summer Holiday	Tuesday 20th July 2027

Training Days

School closed to pupils

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Friday 29th January 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

Thursday 22nd July 2027



SEND at Our School

At St. Chad's, all our staff are passionate about improving the educational and personal outcomes of every child, especially those who are vulnerable or have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

As part of our welcome process, you will be invited to complete forms where you can share important information about your child's needs. There will also be plenty of opportunities to speak with us directly and let us know anything that will help us support your child effectively.

We will liaise with your child's nursery or preschool to gather relevant information and support a smooth and positive transition into school, too.



To find out more, visit our website

SEND page

www.st-chadsprimary.co.uk/parents/send

Useful Contacts

We hope that the information in this guide has been helpful and reassuring. If you do have any further questions, please get in touch:

Chair of Governors

Ian Renard (Chair)

Headteacher:

Mrs Gina Marsland

Deputy Headteacher and SENCO:

Mrs Jackie Matthews

Early Years Leader

Mrs Kathie McMaster

St Chad's C of E Primary School

Northholme Avenue

West Park

LS16 5QR

 0113 274 7110

 office@stchadsprimary.net



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www.facebook.com/stchadsce



@stchadsce

Our School Day & Term Dates



Our Wraparound Childcare

The OOHA Club



Our Uniform

Uniform page



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 [@stchadsce](https://www.instagram.com/stchadsce)

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