



St. Chad's C.E. Primary School

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Wednesday 7th September

An Introduction to Children's University

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have had a lovely summer break and managed to have some quality time enjoying some of the beautiful weather. We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school for the autumn term.

We are proud to be part of the Children's University™ Scheme which aims to raise aspirations, celebrate and boost achievement and foster a love of learning, so that children can make the most of their abilities and interests. We are delighted to invite your child to join the Children's University™ (CU), which is an international organisation that provides children with access to exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside of the normal school day. This week, all children will be provided with their unique login to access the CU portal.



We apologise for the length of this letter, but we wanted to give you as much information as possible and a reference point for you and your child so you can see all elements of CU.

Passport to learning and stamps

On the portal, children will be able to log their additional learning hours by adding stamps to their online *passport to learning*. In school, children have the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities through our range of after school clubs throughout the week and Enrichment on Friday afternoons; every child will be able to collect stamps (Mrs. Hillman and Mrs. Litherland will add these stamps).

Children will be able to collect more stamps by logging their out of school learning and activities, such as Brownies, National Trust Challenges, Rugby Club or Orchestra. Children can collect stamps to demonstrate the number of hours of learning they have achieved in validated Children's University activities. They will also be able to record their hours, give feedback on the activities and look for new *Learning Destinations* on the Children's University website. Please note: Activities must be validated by CU and have an associated stamp to be logged. See further information below about Learning Destinations.

Children are responsible for their own *Passport to Learning* and it is very important that they take care of them as lost records cannot always be accessed. We understand that for our younger children, they may need some adult help at home to keep up to date. Stamps for Enrichment for Friday afternoons, after school clubs, CU newsletter activities and summer reading challenges will be added for the children by Mrs. Litherland and Mrs. Hillman, other out of school activities should be added by children.

Children can earn certificates and badges along the way, as well attending awards celebrations.

There are 3 golden rules to accrediting learning hours:

1) Voluntary



Headteacher: *Mrs J Smith*
Deputy Headteacher: *Mrs E Litherland*



- 2) Above and beyond the curriculum
- 3) Structured learning activity

Learning Destinations

Learning Destinations are places and organisations to which children can 'travel' with their digital 'Passport to Learning'. They provide high quality learning activities and experiences with a 'wow' factor, and have passed the CU's own quality assurance process (Planning for Learning). A Learning Destination can range from a museum to a farm, or from an airport to a university, as long as the learning activity connects with CU learning and follows the **three golden rules**.

Children can collect hours through a mixture of in-school activities, extra-curricular opportunities and Public Learning Destinations, for example: visiting a local National Trust site with family and friends. Our CU ATLP newsletter will also provide opportunities to gain more hours, and will be circulated once every half term.

What happen when a pupil attends a club/ learning destination outside school?

We know that our children attend a range of clubs and activities out of school. We already know that lots of these are registered with CU and already have a stamp assigned. If a pupil goes to a club or learning provider outside of school, teachers have no way of knowing who the providers are if they are not on the CU website and the provider needs to be verified. We have created postcards through which providers can register to become an official CU Public Learning Destination - at which point children can collect hours and claim the relevant stamp from this provider.

If your child needs one of the postcards, they can speak to Mrs. Hillman or Mrs. Litherland who will give one to your child to then take to the provider.

The postcards can be used as per the example below:

- A pupil takes part in a local Scouts club - which is outside of school and is not a registered provider with CU
- The pupil gives a postcard to the lead adult at their Scouts club
- The provider will sign up to become an official Public Learning Destination
- A stamp code for this provider is created
- A pupil can collect hours and get them stamped from this provider going forwards.



The official national Children's University Trust™ Awards

There are three groups: Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctorate, with a number of levels in each one. For example, the Postgraduate group has 4 levels and within each level, there is a bronze, silver and gold award.

The first level children will begin on is called the Award Level, part of the Undergraduate group, which includes:

30 hours = Bronze Award certificate **65 hours = Silver Award certificate** **100 hours = Gold Award certificate**

See the diagram below for the whole award structure.

There are progressive steps leading all the way up to 1000 hours of learning at the top Doctorate level. We ask children to participate in at least 10 hours of 'something new' for each award level above Bronze/Award level. Each child receives:

- A CU login to access their online passport

- Access to CU *Learning Activities* provided by CU quality assured *Learning Destinations*.
- Participation in a prestigious Children's University Graduation ceremony where they will receive a Children's University certificate, dressed traditionally in a graduation cap & gown, with an invitation to parents/carers to attend once they have achieved a Gold Award.

Through participation in fun, high quality learning experiences, we aim to grow inquisitive, confident, independent children and learners. Student's have commented on "trying different activities, making new friends and seeing a reward for their hardwork and commitment at the awards ceremony which was inspiring and motivating". Membership of the Children's University provides each child with access to a range of quality assured learning provision.

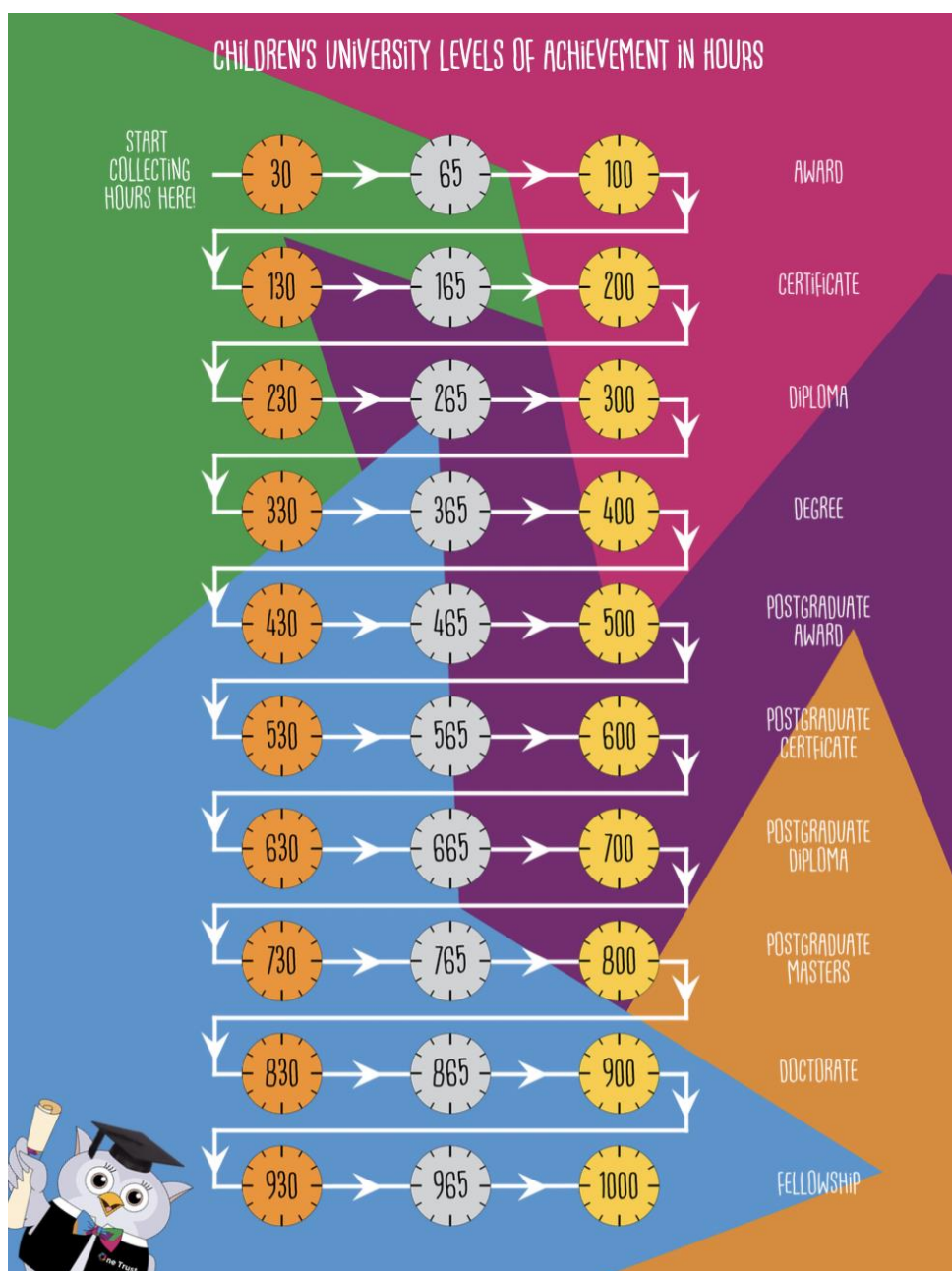
Hours and Awards

Please see below the hours and awards chart, showing how many hours are needed for each award stage. The hours which are earnt will travel with the child throughout their whole school career and **does not** reset for a new academic year.



Headteacher: *Mrs J Smith*
 Deputy Headteacher: *Mrs E Litherland*





As a pupil attains the relevant number of hours, they will receive a certificate according to their bronze, silver or gold status - so if a pupil completes:

- **a bronze level of achievement** - they will be awarded in school celebration worship at the end of a half term
- **a silver level of achievement** - they will be presented with their award in a graduation ceremony at a local secondary school
- **a gold level of achievement** - they will be presented with their award in a graduation ceremony at a university (likely to be the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham)

Further information about ceremonies or awards given will be sent later in the year, as appropriate.

To find out about activities held outside of school, visit <http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk> and click on the Learning Destination section on the front page. Please note that Children's University can only take responsibility for the quality of the learning experience provided by the *Learning Destination* and cannot be held responsible for other matters. We have also attached a copy of the support adult booklet from Children's University.

For more information about Children's University speak to the school's Children's University Co-ordinators, Mrs. Litherland or Mrs. Hillman. This is new for us to, so please bear with us while we get used to the platform and roll it out across St Chad's. We do hope you will support your child in this exciting venture and help them to achieve their Children's University™ awards.

Children will receive printed letters with their logins by the end of the week. When they login for the first time, your child will be asked to change their password. You can also add a parent/carers email if they need to reset their password. If you choose not add an email, your child can let Mrs. Hillman or Mrs. Litherland know who can reset the password instead.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Litherland and Mrs. Hillman

Children's University Co-ordinators



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