



St Silas

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CIDARI**

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Newsletter August 2020

Dear Parent and Carer,

All the staff at St Silas are looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school on Thursday 3rd September. It is nearly six months since some of the children have been to school and we have missed them. I hope they are also excited about coming to school but I realise that they could be anxious and wondering what school will be like. I am sure you are also concerned about what measures the school has put in place to minimise risk. I can assure you that we have all been working hard to ensure that we comply with all the government advice on the full opening of schools. I have put together this FAQ document to help you. If you have further questions please email me on michele.battersby@cidari.co.uk or ring school on 01254698447. Conversations about the full opening of schools continue at national and local levels of government. Any changes to the guidance about full opening of schools will be acted upon and we will update you about any changes.

Regards

Michele Battersby

Frequently Asked Questions

What time will my child start and finish school?

- There is a staggered start and finish timetable at the bottom of this letter.

Will my child have to wear a school uniform?

- Your child needs to wear our usual school uniform. Details can be found on the school website. The uniform can be purchased from Whittakers in Blackburn. Please remember only the jumper needs to have our badge on, other items can be purchased from other outlets.
- Please ensure your child has black school shoes.
- On the day your child has P.E. they will need to come to school in their P.E.Kit.

- The government advises that uniforms are washed regularly as normal and do not need any special treatment.

What does my child have to bring to school?

- Packed lunch, if your child is having one.
- Reading book bag, if given a reading book by their class teacher.
- Coat

What changes has the school made to ensure the school is clean?

- Our site supervisor, Sunny, has done an amazing job ensuring the school building is ready to open and is COVID secure. He has painted floor markings to ensure the children keep 2 metres apart and has created one way systems.
- Our wonderful cleaners, Mrs Lala and Mrs Natha, will be providing additional cleaning during the day as well as cleaning after school.
- There will be an additional four hours a day cleaning during the day to ensure toilets and frequently touched surfaces are regularly cleaned.
- The school has purchased an electrostatic cleaner to ensure deep cleaning of difficult to clean areas.
- Children will have their own resources e.g. pencils, rulers in a plastic zip wallet on their desk.
- Each class has their own playtime/PE equipment. This will not be shared with other classes and will be cleaned regularly.
- Reading books will be quarantined after use and before other children use them.
- Each year group has identified toilets to use to minimise cross contamination.

What routines have been put in place to ensure children wash their hands?

- Children will wash their hands immediately on entry to school. This is shown below in the table detailing start and finish times. Staff will direct the children.
- Class teachers will ensure your child washes their hands regularly throughout the day and, in particular, after playing out, touching equipment and before lunch.
- Hand sanitiser is available around the school.

Where will my child eat their lunch?

- Reception class children will eat in the dining hall.
- All other classes will eat in their classrooms.

If my child is having a school lunch will there be a hot dinner option?

- School lunches will be brought to your child's classroom.
- There will be a hot option available for your child.

What will the classrooms look like?

- Children in Key Stage 2 will sit in rows facing the teacher.
- Children in KS1 classrooms will be designed to minimise face to face contact.
- Reception classrooms will have learning areas, as usual, with any hard to clean equipment e.g. soft toys removed. An electrostatic spray will be used to ensure the learning areas are clean.

How will the school reduce the number of contacts my child will have with other children and adults?

- Your child will only have contact with children in their class. Each class has a different playtime and lunchtime. Lunches will be eaten in their classrooms.
- Midday supervisors have been allocated to classes to reduce the number of contacts.
- The school timetable has been designed to keep the number of staff your child has contact with to a minimum. A full curriculum will be provided and specialist teachers used, if appropriate, in line with government advice.
- Reception children will only have contact with the children in the Reception unit and Reception staff.

- Additional spaces for members of staff have also been created so that they can avoid close contact which would compromise our COVID secure classrooms.

What role do parents have in keeping our children safe?

- Do not bring your child to school if they are ill, particularly if they have symptoms of a cough, temperature and a loss of taste and smell.
- Ensure your child, and everyone in the household, gets tested for COVID, if anyone in your house has symptoms, in line with government policy.
- Self isolate if required to do so by Test and Trace and in line with government policy.
- Follow the lockdown advice for the local area. At the time of writing there can be no social interaction, inside or outside, with anyone who does not live with you.
- Keep a distance from other parents when you are bringing your child to school and when you are collecting them. Please do not greet each other with handshakes etc.
- Do not enter the school grounds.
- Ring school if you need to pass a message on to your child's teacher instead of entering the school grounds.
- Ensure the school has up to date contact details in case your child becomes ill at school. A letter will be sent out in the first week to check contact and medical details.
- Try to walk to school and avoid public transport where possible.

What is going to happen to assemblies?

- Whole school assemblies will be online so that the children do not have contact with other classes.
- Friday celebration assembly will be online and unfortunately we will not be able to invite parents. If your child receives an award the class teacher will email you a photograph if you wish.
- Most assemblies will be led by your child's teacher and will be in their classroom.
- There will be no singing in assemblies but children may listen to music and they may do actions to the music.

What will happen to my child's education if they have to self- isolate?

- Your child will continue with their education at home.
- Teachers will set home learning online, or on paper if preferred, that matches the learning the other children in class will be doing.
- We will continue to use Purple Mash to set remote learning but will also be introducing Google Classrooms. This will enable teachers to record their lessons for children isolating.

What will happen if there is a positive case in school?

- The school will take immediate advice from the Public Health and act immediately on this advice.

Arrangements for September 2020

Class	Year	Teacher	Arrive	Leave	Entrance	Handwashing on arrival	Exit	Toilet block
Elm	R	Leanne Melia	9.30	2.30	Green gate and then the Blue door	Classroom	Blue door and green gate	classroom
Ash	R	Michelle Owens	9.30	2.30	Green gate and	Classroom	Blue door and	classroom

					then the Blue door		green gate	
Oak	1/2	Safiyya Ghadiyali	9.00	3.20	Green gate and then straight to the classroom	Classroom	Green gate at the back of the school	classroom
Willow	1/2	Melissa Matthews	8.50	3.10	Green gate and then straight to the classroom	Classroom	Green gate at the back of the school	Toilets near the dining hall
Cherry	1/2	Rachel Maddock	8.55	3.15	Green gate and then straight to the classroom	Classroom	Green gate at the back of the school	Toilets near the dining hall
Hazel	3	Kaera Raja	8.40	2.50	Green gate and then straight to the classroom via back staircase	Sinks at the bottom of the back stairs	Green gate at the back of the school	Toilets at the bottom of the back stairs
Birch	3	Hayley Smith	8.45	2.55	Green gate and then straight to the classroom	Classroom	Green gate at the back of the school	Toilets at the bottom of the back stairs
Rowan	4	Alison Morgan	8.40	2.50	Front door	Sinks near office area	Front door	Toilets near the office area
Elder	4	Paul Ellis	8.45	2.55	Front door	Sinks near office area	Front door	Toilets near the office area
Beech	5	Yasmeen	8.30	3.00	Green	Sinks at the bottom	Green	Year 5

		Abbas			gate Back stairs to classroom	of the back stairs	gate Back stairs to classroom	toilets
Alder	5	Jessica Capewell	8.35	3.05	Green gate Back stairs to classroom	Sinks at the bottom of the back stairs	Green gate Back stairs to classroom	Year 5 toilets
Hornbeam	6	Laura Payne	8.30	3.00	Front door	Sinks near office area	Front door	Year 6 toilets
Hawthorne	6	Andrew Burcher	8.35	3.05	Front door	Sinks near office area	Front door	Year 6 toilets

