



St Silas

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of CTDARI

Newsletter 12.2.21

Safer Internet Day

Thank you so much for joining in with our Safer Internet Day competition. We were amazed at the engagement on Twitter and on the Google Form.

Congratulations to Mrs Butt on winning the Chromebook.

Parent Survey

Thank you for completing the parent survey. We had 40 responses. The vast majority of responses were positive. These are some examples of the responses:

Overall I am extremely grateful for all the hard work the teachers at St Silas are doing to ensure my child gets the best possible education. I would like to thank you all.

I must say we are quite impressed with how well the school is coping and how well organised they have been. It's been a tough ask for the teachers and they have done well.

Very happy so far.

75% of parents report that their child is willing to engage with home learning and 80% report that their child can usually complete all their home learning. However teachers do realise how hard this is to do, particularly if you are working from home as well, so we are changing our recording system to give your child more time to submit their work before they are contacted by the school. Hopefully this will give you more flexibility which may reduce stress a little bit.

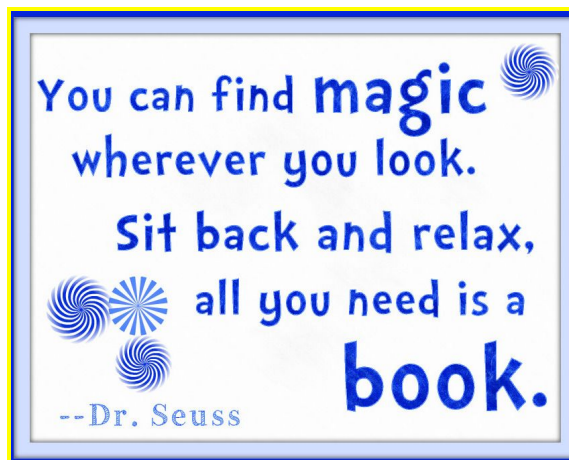
90% of parents believe the live lessons are going well.

A small number of parents are concerned about the amount of screen time their children are having. The teachers are going to try and plan more non screen activities ,where this is possible, without compromising the quality of your child's education. The teachers are also finding that they are on screen for a long time so it will help them too.

Parents Evening

Our planned Parents Evening for the 24th February is postponed until the children are back in school as we are hoping the government will allow this soon. We will inform you of the date and the delivery method when we have a new date.

Reading



We have two more children who have completed the bronze reading challenge and have received their special badges. Well done to Saara and Amelia in Rowan class. Well done. Keep up the good work. It would be great to see more children receiving reading challenge badges.

Half Term Holiday

School closes for half term on Friday 12th February and will reopen on Monday 22nd February. There will be no online learning during half term.

An email has been sent to parents explaining the system for reporting a positive case over the holidays.

Please contact:

By Telephone: Call 01254 314032

By Email: covidreport@cidari.co.uk

Please note:

After Wednesday 17th February, if a child tests positive for coronavirus, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Children entitled to Free School Meals will receive a voucher for Blackburn market for the half term holiday. This is arranged by Blackburn with Darwen Local Authority and the school has no choice in this. Our usual vouchers will start again after half term .

New Advice re Symptoms in Blackburn

A NEW warning about the need for a coronavirus test even if you don't have the three classic symptoms of the disease was issued.

Blackburn with Darwen's director of public health Professor Dominic Harrison had said there are 11 other milder signs of Covid-19 infection.

They include a runny nose, a persistent headache, shortness of breath and vomiting. The classic three symptoms which the NHS advises people to look out for are a high temperature, a new persistent cough and a loss of smell or taste.

Prof Harrison issued his alert following new guidance from the World Health Organisation.

He is advising people who display any of the raft of milder symptoms to get a coronavirus test as soon as possible.

Prof Harrison said: "At the moment, national instruction is for people to get tested if they are showing the three main symptoms: a high temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of smell or taste. However, many other countries advise residents to seek a test if they have any one of 11 known principal symptoms. They include: diarrhoea, a persistent headache, fever and chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, and nausea or vomiting. Across Lancashire we've seen reports of residents who have only experienced, for example, diarrhoea or a persistent and unusual headache lasting more than 24 hours who later turn out to have a confirmed Covid-19 case. With that in mind I am now advising anyone in Blackburn with Darwen who is worried or has any doubts about their possible Covid symptoms to get tested as soon as possible. When you are booking a test, if you don't have the classic symptoms, simply say you don't.

A few clicks later on the website, you can then choose the option which says: 'My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms'. Alongside the vaccination programme, testing continues to be one of the most vital tools to help us reduce the spread of infection."

Professor Harrison advises our community to follow self isolation national guidance until the PCR test is confirmed.

Children's University

Half Term Online Activities

If your child has signed up to any of the online activities during February half term please look out for the link which will be sent out no later than 24 hours before each activity. If you have any questions please contact Sara Burton on 07805929965.

Blackburn Children's University Challenges

There are some new challenges for February half term from Blackburn Children's University. As full list and further details have been emailed. Remember if your child is a member of Children's University and they complete any of the challenges they can collect stamps in their passport. Please remember to send Sara Burton the evidence.

BwD Safety Net - Get Involved

Blackburn Children's University is working with the NSPCC, Youth Action and Blackburn with Darwen Council looking at internet safety. They are asking parents / carers if they could help them with a short online survey? We are asking for parents / carers to complete this brief survey to let us know about their views on online safety. 3 winners will win prizes!* (winners drawn at random). Please click the link to start the survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/BwdSafetyNet> or copy and paste into your web browser. If you do have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Sara Burton on 07805929965 or s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk.

Internet Safety Poster Competition

An email has been sent with details about this. There are some fantastic prizes including a tablet for the winning poster! The deadline for entries is 26th February. If you have any questions please contact Sara Burton on 07805929965.

Dates for the Diary

- School closes at 3pm on Friday 12th February
- School opens on Monday 22nd February



Family Point Winners

The table shows first, second, third and fourth for this week. The winning family is highlighted in yellow.

Famil y/We ek	22.1 .21	29.1 .21	5.2. 21	12.2 .21		
Love	4	4	1	2		
Belo nging	2	2	3	4		
Than kfuln ess	3	1	2	3		
Servi ce	1	2	4	1		

S.A.M. Star of the Week and Sports Star of the Week

Class	S.A.M. Award	Sports Star of the Week
Hawthorn	Hussaina	
Hornbeam	Aleena	
Beech	Harris	

Alder	Saleha	
Elder	Maryam	
Rowan	Omar	
Birch	Hadi	Amina
Hazel	Rayhan H	
Cherry	Ali Raza H	
Willow	Abdullah	
Oak	Tamim	
Elm	Fayzaan	Fatima
Ash	Haroon	

Twitter

Please follow our Twitter account. https://twitter.com/StSilas_Primary to keep up to date with events in our school.

Virtual Tour

Please follow this link to see our new virtual tour:

<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=gqjTag2MDSY>

We are really pleased with it and hope you like it.

Support for our Families

Free School Meals

Children whose parents receive the following support payments are entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit (PCGC) support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by Inland Revenue that does not exceed £16,190
- Universal Credit and have an income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue that does not exceed £7,400.

If you receive Working Tax Credit you will not be entitled to free school meals.

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals please apply on

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-meals>

St Silas Emergency Supplies

Our Value in Action-Service.

The staff in our school have collected together some emergency supplies for families who may find themselves in need of food in an emergency. Please contact school and speak to Mrs Rehana Patel or Mrs Nas Khan. It is intended that these supplies are just for emergencies for families who have no food until we can direct them to food banks etc. to get help.

BwD Help Hub for residents

Partners in the BwD Help Hub are working together to support local residents to move forward with their lives in a variety of ways. The local partnerships set up to support people during the coronavirus crises can help people with:

- finance, benefits and debt management
- mental health support
- wellbeing and loneliness
- learning, training and employment
- getting online and using technology
- access to food and essentials.

You can call on 01254 588111 Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 17:00 or use the link on the following website:

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/helphub>

Supporting Children with Mental Health during COVID

In addition to the resources shared by email yesterday, the following websites have ideas to support your child's mental health:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/the-redeemer-church-of-england-primary/UploadedDocument/1def415885c442a88c3bf39486902dc7/self-care.pdf>

[Own It - A place to help you boss your life online - Own It - BBC](#)

[Five ways to structure your day when you're stuck at home - Own It - BBC](#)

[Eight ways to support your anxious child during the coronavirus pandemic - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Six ways to support your children as lockdown eases - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Seven techniques for helping kids keep calm - CBeebies - BBC](#) (For Foundation and KS1 Children)



Loving God and each other, we work together to be the best that we can.