



Newsletter 15.1.21



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

The pandemic and the lockdowns have demonstrated that St Silas School Family is a strong community that extends far beyond our school walls. Our school is not the building but the pupils, their families and members of staff. All the children and their families, who are learning from home, are still very much part of our school family and we hope you feel you belong. Particularly as one of our school values is belonging. Hopefully we all feel that we are living our vision and working together to be the best that we can be.

In order to celebrate our successes as a school family, starting on Friday 22nd January at 9am, there will be a whole school celebration assembly. Class teachers will share a logon with children via Google Classrooms. This will be in the same format that children have been used to since September and will include:

- Star Learner Awards (These will be posted to the child if he/she is not in school.)
- Attendance Awards (These will be based on attendance in live lessons.)
- Family team points (Teachers will continue to award these to children in school and children learning from home.)

Remote Learning

Thank you to everyone for making a supreme effort with our remote learning and attending the live lessons. Attendance has been around 95% and sometimes higher on our live lessons, particularly in KS2 as the children are familiar with Google Classrooms. Obviously the format of the remote learning is adapted to suit the age of the children as we do not want our younger children sitting watching live lessons for long periods of time. They would not be sitting on the carpet for long periods of time in school either.

The school has now distributed over 70 devices to support remote learning. If you are struggling with learning at home, please contact school as we can help. Mr Hadwin is very good at explaining how to login and how to use Google Classrooms.

If teachers are ill, there will be no live lessons on those days unless it is for an extended period. Mr Ellis is having planned surgery. During his isolation, prior to his surgery, he will teach live lessons from

home. When he has had his surgery, Mr Hadwin will teach the live lessons and organise Elders' remote learning alongside Miss Morgan.
To see examples of our remote learning and share the success of our children please follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/StSilas_Primary

Reading

The school has invested in **Oxford Reading Buddies**. The website will enable your children to continue to read their reading scheme books. Please see [Oxford Reading Buddy](#) for more information. Class teachers will be sending the logons to you in the next few days. Please encourage your child to read everyday as they normally would as it is very important. Children in Reception and Year 1, whose home reading books are RWInc, not the Oxford Reading Scheme, will receive their reading books from their teachers via the normal platforms.

Please encourage your child to use the online library. There are lots of brilliant books to read. It is a good habit for children to read quietly for about 30 minutes a day. Our Reading Challenge has been adapted for remote learning. Your child has to read:

- 15 books for the Bronze Award
- 30 books for the Silver Award
- 75 books for the Gold Award

To provide evidence for the reading of the books, the children have to complete at least 1 book review for every 5 books and send it to their class teacher. The children receive metal owl badges in the appropriate colour and their photograph can go on our Reading Challenge display on the wall near the Headteacher's office to celebrate.

Silas and Me Awards

Please remember that the Silas and Me (S.A.M.) awards are continuing. The list of challenges is on the website and has been adapted for remote learning. Some teachers have been setting a weekly challenge for the children to complete. Again examples of these can be seen on Twitter. Children have started to receive badges when they have completed the challenges. It would be lovely to have more children receiving badges during this lockdown period. Badges would be posted to their home and celebrated in our celebration assembly.

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>

Free School Meals Vouchers

Children who are entitled to Free School Meals (not universal free school meals in reception and KS1) will receive a voucher for food today. Please contact the school office if you do not receive it.

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>

Dates for the Diary

- Whole school Celebration 9am every Friday starting 22.1.21
- Governors 10th Feb 21
- School at 3pm on Friday 12th February
- School opens on Monday 22nd February
- Parents Evening 24th February



Twitter

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



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