



Warton St Paul's

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CIDARI**

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Dear Parent/Carer,

A Welcome Letter from the Head Teacher 2026-27

Welcome to Warton St. Paul's CE Primary Academy Foundation Stage. We are really excited to write to you about your child starting at their new school.

In this pack we hope to briefly outline some of the key things that we think you as parents need to know.

I would like to take this wonderful opportunity to introduce myself to you as your Headteacher. It is a privilege to lead and work in a school with such dedicated staff, Governors and Trust. As a Christian School Family, we want to inspire children to develop a love of learning and have amazing memories to build a solid foundation on in the future.

Communication and relationships between teachers and parents/carers is something we believe is really important, and essential to your child's learning and overall school experience. Your support and help towards your child's learning makes such a BIG difference and we want to work with you as much as possible.

As it's probably a few years since you were last at school things may have changed quite a lot and there may be some things that your child is coming home with that you don't understand and we want to try and help you, so you can help your child.

In this booklet we hope to introduce you to the statutory early learning goals which establish expectations for most children to reach by the end of the EYFS. The phonics scheme we use in school and how you can support your child at home will be supplemented throughout the year. This curriculum provides the basis for planning throughout the EYFS, so laying secure foundations from birth for future learning. By the end of the EYFS, some children will have exceeded their goals. Other children, depending on their individual needs, will be working towards some or all of the goals.

We will endeavour to equip you as best we can with resources, websites and advice. If there is anything else that you are unsure of or have a question about please don't hesitate to email me or come and see me. I will do everything I can to help and support you. I look forward to getting to know you and to working with you for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Laura Hodgkinson
Headteacher



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'Believe, Belong, Be the Best that you can Be'

"Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of
the Lord." Colossians 3:17

Welcome to Opal Class

We are so excited to welcome you to the St. Paul's School Family. We are looking forward to meeting you and your family.

Opal is the Reception class at St. Paul's. We believe our children are God's treasure so we named our classes after precious gems.

Being a small school we benefit from a friendly, family atmosphere where children are known by name by all members of staff. In the Infants, Opal and Emerald Class often share learning experiences together so the youngest children are supported by older children. This also helps our younger children with making friends who they can play with on the playground.



Meet the Team

Mrs Hodgkinson - Head Teacher



Mrs Fisher - Opal Class Teacher



Mrs Sharon Smith - Opal Class Teaching Assistant

Mrs Kirsty Hastwell - Opal Class Teaching Assistant

Induction Sessions

Our induction sessions are a great way to prepare your child for their move to school. We offer stay and play sessions in June and July where we encourage parents to drop off their child for a play giving them the opportunity to get to know the adults and children who will be in their class. We then end our sessions with a Coffee Morning with Paul the Bear for all of the parents and children to spend some time getting to know each other.

Date and time	Activity
Thursday 7th May 2026 4:30pm	New Parents' Meeting - Parents only
Thursday 18th and 25th June 2026 Thursday 2nd July 2026 1:30-2:15pm	Stay and Play for children only
Friday 10th July 2026 10:00am - 10:30am Meet Paul the Bear sharing coffee and cake	Parents/Carers and new starters to attend with Paul the Bear* <small>*Paul the Bear will be distributed prior to the event</small>

Prior to induction sessions Mrs Fisher will be contacting pre-school or nursery settings to arrange a visit. This allows us to prepare for your child's arrival by finding out their interests and help them to feel comfortable during induction days.

First Day at School

Date	Times
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	All children arrive at 8:45am on the back playground.

A typical school day

8:45am Registration and snack time

9:05am Phonics

9:30am Free Flow Learning and Literacy Activities

11:00am Free Flow Learning and Maths Activities

12:00pm Lunchtime

1:00pm Free Flow Learning and Topic Activities

3:00pm Story Time

3:15pm Home Time



School Dinners

All children are entitled to free school dinners until the end of Year 2. Children are given a choice of meal and a pudding. They are supervised in the dinner hall by members of staff who ensure that all children enjoy their meal. We encourage all children to have school meals, not only as they are free but also a healthy choice.

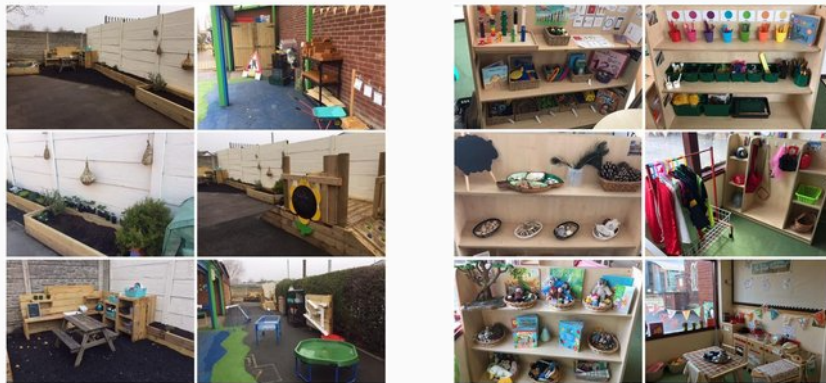
Milk and Fruit

Every child under the age of 5 qualifies for free school milk. Children are offered a piece of fruit at snacktime every day.

Learning and the Curriculum

Reception is where a love of learning begins! In Opal Class, we have access to a wide range of resources both in our indoor and outdoor classrooms. We are very lucky to have a large amount of space and we encourage the children to make the most of it.

Predominantly in Reception children learn through play and real-life experiences. Our teaching is delivered through carefully planned tasks and challenges in the classroom. Learning is recorded through observations and pictures.



Rainbow Room

This room is used for lots of different groups and activities. It has a quiet space for children who need some time to calm down and regulate themselves. There are sensory resources such as lights, sounds and textures.



Forest School

We visit our Forest School at least once a week, on the school field. We have developed the area with new resources and equipment to support learning.



At Forest School our learning is child led, we follow our interests and learn about the world around us. We enjoy looking at the pond, making dens, painting, building and playing.

We go to Forest School in all weathers - rain or shine you will find us down there.



This is only possible if we are dressed appropriately so all children will need to have a waterproof suit, welly boots and a change of clothes in school each week.



Early Learning Goals

Children are assessed against the Early Years Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals at the end of the Reception year. There are three prime areas and four specific areas.

Prime areas

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development

Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

RE

As we are a Church of England Primary School, daily worship is an important part of the school day. We follow the Blackburn Diocese curriculum for Religious Education, which is mainly Christian in context, but includes studies of other World Religions.



Parents as Partners

At St. Paul's we recognise the important role that parents and carers play in their child's education and development.

As a primary care provider, you are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

To support this, each child has an online learning journal through 'Tapestry'. Parents will be invited to create an account where photos and comments can be shared about what your child has been learning each week.

As a school, we use Class Dojo to share information with Parents and Carers. When your child starts with us you will be given a parent code that you can use to access your account. We will then be able to send information about events in school and messages about your child directly to you during the school day.



ClassDojo



We also provide other opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education.

These include:

- Weekly celebration worships
- Class assemblies each term
- Parents' evening
- Nativity performance
- Church Services
- Weekly Newsletters
- PTFA events
- End of the Year Celebrations
- Sports day
- Parent workshops

Preparing your child for school

As your child will now be part of a class they will need to become more independent. It will make starting school much easier and happier if they are able to do as many things for themselves as possible.

What should my child be able to do?

Can they ...

Dress and undress themselves?

Put on and fasten their own coat?

Use the toilet independently?

Tidy up after themselves?

Feed themselves?

Recognise their name?



School Uniform

Our uniform consists of;
a plain blue polo shirt (purchased from any shop),
a school jumper or cardigan (purchased from the uniform shop),
grey trousers, skirt or pinafore,
grey socks or tights,
a red summer dress can be worn in the summer term,
and black school shoes.



Our PE kits consists of;
a white t-shirt,
burgundy/black shorts,
plimsolls,
black joggers or leggings,
black or school jumper

On PE days children will get changed for the lesson in school. Please make sure your child has a PE bag labelled with the appropriate items inside.

As our learning environment is both indoors and outdoors, children should have a coat with them every day and can bring a change of shoes for when they are accessing the outdoor provision e.g. wellingtons.



Things to bring to school

All children are given a book bag when they start school, this should come to school with them every day. Home reading books need to be returned to school every day so that they can be changed or children can be read with at school.

Children can also bring a water bottle.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

At St. Paul's we offer wraparound from 7:45am until 5:00pm each day in school. For more information about the cost and availability please contact the school office on 01772 632364.

At St. Paul's we offer a number of after school clubs that children can participate in across the year. These run from 3:15pm until 4:00pm. More information will be provided each half term.



General Information

Attendance

Please arrive on time for school at 8:45am so your child does not miss registration. If your child is late please bring them to the office so they can be registered for the day. If your child is not attending school, please ring school before 8:45am to inform us of the reason for the absence.

Illness

If your child is ill during the school day, then they will need to be collected as soon as possible. Please make sure the office has up to date contact details. Please keep your child off school if they are unwell. In the case of sickness, your child should remain at home for 48 hours after the last occurrence.

Medical appointments

It is helpful to know in advance about any medical appointments. Please inform the office if your child will be late or leaving early for an appointment.

Photographs and videos

We often use photographs and videos to record your child's learning and these are occasionally used on the school website or other forms of media. If you do not wish your child's photograph to be used please let the school know in writing.

SEND

At St. Paul's we are committed to the equal inclusion of all pupils in all areas of primary school life. We recognise the diverse and individual needs of all of our pupils and take into account the additional support required by those children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We aim to provide a secure and accessible environment in which all of our children can flourish. We recognise the importance of working together to achieve the best outcomes for your child.

The Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator or SENDCo is Mrs Fisher.

Class teachers can also be approached if you have any concerns.

Open Door Policy

We operate an open-door policy at St. Paul's where parents and carers are encouraged to come and speak to staff when they have any worries or concerns. A member of staff is on the playground every morning and these are the first point of contact for any messages at the beginning of the school day. Alternatively, a message can be left at the office. At the end of the school day, class teachers are available to speak with parents and carers. Alternatively, parents and carers can be contacted by telephone if that is more convenient. It is important that any worries or concerns are shared with school so that we can resolve them as soon as possible.

And finally...

We are really looking forward to you starting at Warton St.
Paul's with us.

If you have any questions or would like to come and visit
school again before the new school year please contact the
school office on 01772 632364 or wspoffice@cidari.co.uk
to arrange an appointment.

Every day is an open day!