



**Starting Primary School:**  
**A Parent / Carer's Guide to**  
**Christ Church Upper Armley**  
**CE Primary School**



# Welcome!



## From our Head of School

Welcome to Christ Church Upper Armley Primary School, situated in a vibrant and diverse community, less than a mile from Leeds City Centre.

We are a warm and welcoming school, steeped in 150 years of history. Our past pupils include the writers Alan Bennett and Barbara Taylor-Bradford, and we continue to celebrate and nurture the talents of all our pupils.

I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher at Christ Church, as I believe it to be a very special place where 'Hand in hand, we learn'. Our children are at the heart of everything we do and we strive to work with parents, carers and the local community as we believe that the development of our young people requires committed support from all the adults in their lives.

Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens. As a Church school, we can take our inspiration from –

*'The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22–23)

We look forward to meeting you.

**Ms S Collier**  
**Headteacher**





## From the Abbey MAT CEOs

### Welcome to Christ Church Upper Armley CE Primary School.

At Abbey Multi Academy Trust we are passionate about making a difference to the lives of all our children. They are at the heart of everything we do and we strive to inspire learners and change their lives as a result of our educational provision. We are committed to our Trust vision to work 'In Partnership to Educate, Nurture and Empower' our community, so that everyone can flourish and live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

We want all our schools to be the best they can be and for each child to discover the skills, abilities, talents and interests that lie within them as well as giving them safety, security and the skills they will need to be active, responsible citizens and happy, caring adults in the future. Our aim, quite simply, is to do the very best for children and recognise their individuality and uniqueness. Childhood is a special and wonderful time and no-one gets a second chance at it.

Christ Church Upper Armley is an inclusive and welcoming school, at the heart of their community, and a place where the children are at the centre of everything they do. CCUA offers a calm

and purposeful learning environment, where children are celebrated, talents nurtured and sanctuary offered to those in need.

Working alongside the other primary and secondary schools within Abbey Multi Academy Trust, CCUA is prepared to truly collaborate. All our academies have a desire to question, change and innovate to ensure that what we provide enables our children to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

We welcome you to explore our Trust website, where you can find out more about the benefits of Christ Church Upper Armley being a part of our Trust.



***Mrs Helen Pratten,  
co-CEO & Director of Operations***



***Ms Catherine Garrett,  
co-CEO & Director of Education***

# Our Core Values

**Demonstrate Christian values of respect, care and tolerance.**

**Understand and live by defined British values.**

**Care for themselves, each other and the environment.**



# Transition Timeline

Your child's transition to primary school is broken down into phases to be as manageable as possible. Here are the key dates that you should know:



**April/May**  
Contact parents



**June/July**  
Presentation to Parents,  
sharing of information



**May, June & July**  
Home visits



**September**  
Donaldson Class:  
First 2 weeks half day stay and  
play/sessions, gradually moving  
to full-time depending on the  
child's individual needs

# Getting Ready for September

Preparing for your child to go to school for the first time can be daunting if you are unsure of what to expect. We have organised some tips to help your family to get ready for September and make the transition as easy as possible.

## Get prepared for the practical aspects of starting school by:



Practising the school run.



Finding out what items your child will need to bring with them.



Making a note of important dates in the school year.

## Help your child to build independence by encouraging them to:



Put on their own shoes.



Use a knife and fork on their own.



Go to the toilet on their own.



# Helping Your Child

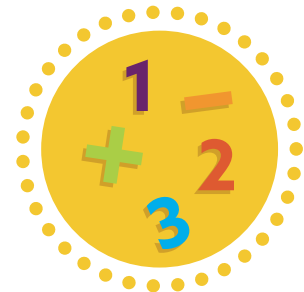
Help your child with learning words and numbers by:



Displaying their name around the house to encourage them to recognise it.



Listening to your child read as much as possible.



Bringing maths into everyday life - by identifying shapes around the house, for example.

Create a good atmosphere around the thought of school by:



Making the first morning as relaxed as possible.



Establishing a consistent morning routine.



Being positive about school and your child's learning.



Asking positive questions: "What was good about your day?"



Keeping in touch with school - reading letters sent home will keep you in the loop.



Our **YouTube channel**, has a number of videos with tips on how you can help your child with early reading, phonics and numbers.

@christchurchupperarmleypri4409

# Uniform

Wearing a uniform helps pupils to feel a sense of pride in their school and a sense of belonging. We ask that you encourage your child to wear their uniform proudly and properly, and clearly label all items of clothing with your child's name.

## Our uniform consists of:



We don't have a PE kit in reception

- School sweatshirt / cardigan with logo.
- White or burgundy polo-shirt / white shirt or blouse.
- Black or grey trousers / grey skirt, or pinafore dress.
- Sensible black or brown shoes.
- **In summer:** black or grey shorts / red and white school dress.

Name  
label all  
items of  
clothing



**Branded** school items can be purchased from MyClothing, who give a 5% donation to school on every item purchased.

**Non-branded** items can be purchased from many high street stores, supermarkets and online shops.



**Free/Second hand** school uniform may also be available from Leeds Uniform Exchange online or on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/groups/leedsschooluniformexchange](http://www.facebook.com/groups/leedsschooluniformexchange)

# Equipment

As well as their uniform, please ensure that your child comes to school with:



A filled water bottle  
(water only please).



Burgundy  
book bag.



A coat.



Spare underwear.

## SEND at Our School

We believe all pupils have a right to a first class education, and we work hard to support all student's needs and ensure that, no matter what, they are able to engage with our curriculum.

As part of our welcome process, you will receive some forms where you can share important SEND information with us. You'll also have plenty of opportunities to talk to us and let us know anything that will help us support your child.

We will also speak to your child's nursery or preschool so we can gather helpful information and make their transition as smooth as possible.



To find out more, visit our website

SEND page

[www.ccuprimary.co.uk/parents/send](http://www.ccuprimary.co.uk/parents/send)

# Our Food

We know great food helps children learn and feel their best!

.....

Our in-school kitchen prepares **fresh and nutritious dishes every day**, offering a variety of satisfying meals.

Our menus are designed to give children **tasty, appealing and balanced lunches** that support a healthy lifestyle. **Innovate** provides a three-week rotating menu that offers plenty of choice. Each day children can select a hot main meal (meat or vegetarian), filled rolls, baked potatoes and fresh pasta along with sides, salad and homemade bread.

There is also a daily sweet treat or alternatives such as jelly, fruit or yoghurt.

By combining familiar favourites with new options and special theme days, **Innovate** creates an exciting menu that children enjoy.

At lunchtime water is available to drink and staff are on hand to help if needed.

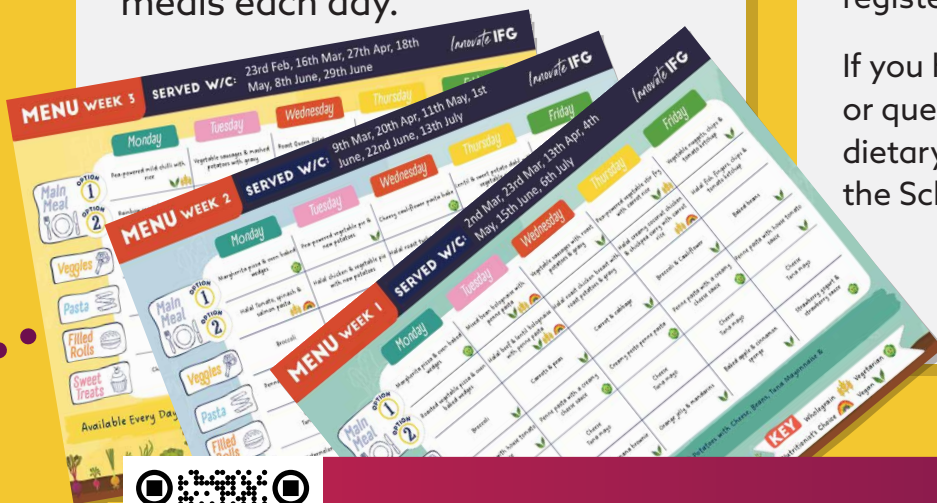
## FREE School Meals

**All children will get FREE school meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.** They can choose from several exciting and nutritious meals each day.

## Food Allergies and Intolerances

**Innovate** are committed to providing suitable meals for all children. Please ensure that your child's allergy or dietary requirements have been registered at the school office.

If you have any questions about menus or queries relating to your child's dietary requirements, please speak to the School Office.



**Curious about what's on the plate?**  
[www.cccprimary.co.uk/parents/catering](http://www.cccprimary.co.uk/parents/catering)



# Attendance

Good attendance from the start of primary school sets the foundation for **success both socially and academically**.

Establishing good attendance habits will help your child **develop good routines, build better relationships with their friends, and help them feel more secure and confident.**



Visit our website to view our **School day & term dates page**.

To promote good attendance throughout the school, we ask that:

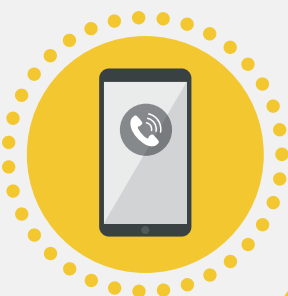


Children only take time off for illness and exceptional circumstances. We cannot authorise time out of school for family holidays or leisure purposes. We would also be grateful if GP and dentist appointments were arranged outside of school hours where at all possible.



## School times:

The doors open at **8.40am**, beginning lessons at **8.50am**.



## Contact us:

You let us know if your child is unable to attend school as soon as possible by calling **0113 263 8606**.

# Communication

We value partnerships with our school families and know that communication is vital to making the school-home relationship work. We hugely value input from parents and carers, and use a variety of communication methods to suit different needs.

## Communication can be made through:



**Email** – Your email will be diverted to the appropriate staff member from the school office email.

✉ [CCUA-office@ccuaprimery.co.uk](mailto:CCUA-office@ccuaprimery.co.uk)



**Phone** – our office staff are happy to answer any queries during the school day.

☎ 0113 263 8606



**Face-to-face communication**  
– meetings with school staff can be arranged on request to discuss any matters.



**Letters home** –  
please read all letters carefully as they include important information.

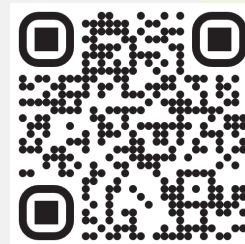


# Events & School Calendar




We try to give as much notice as possible for school events. We will be sharing a calendar for the year in September. Look out for:

- Autumn Term parents' evening.
- Autumn Term parents' workshops on phonics and maths.
- Reception and KS1 Christmas Nativity.
- Christmas Service at Christ Church Armley.
- Spring Term parents' evening.
- Easter Service at Christ Church Armley.
- Various school trips.



Visit our website to view the **'Latest'** menu for Letters, Newsletters and school calendar.

 [www.ccuaprimary.co.uk](http://www.ccuaprimary.co.uk)

## Social Media

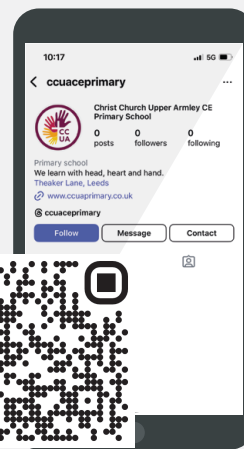
We know it is also important to see the school in action. We regularly share messages, images and videos of activities in school on social media. Please do feel free to take a look so you can get a sense of what is happening in school at the moment and how wonderful our children are.

**Find us on Facebook and Instagram.**



[/CCUACEPrimary](https://www.facebook.com/CCUACEPrimary)

[www.facebook.com/CCUACEPrimary](https://www.facebook.com/CCUACEPrimary)



[@CCUACEPrimary](https://www.instagram.com/CCUACEPrimary)

[www.instagram.com/CCUACEPrimary](https://www.instagram.com/CCUACEPrimary)

# Other Expectations

We greatly appreciate your support in your child's education. To ensure consistency between school and home, we ask that you:



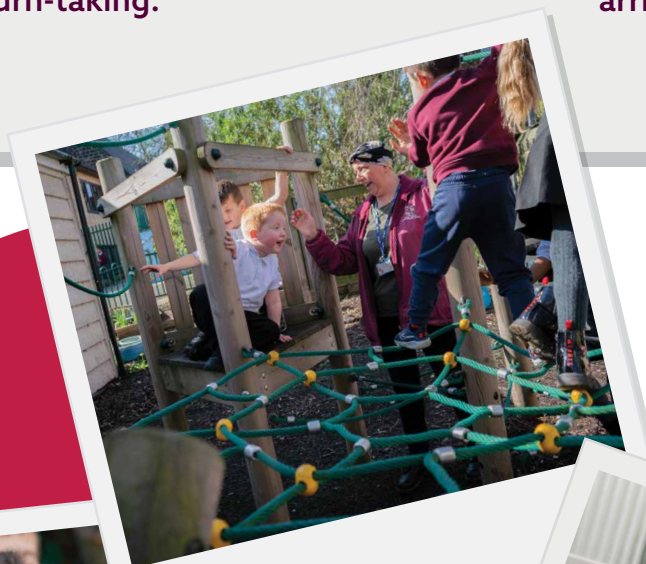
Instil the importance of good behaviour choices, sharing and turn-taking.



Read aloud to your child daily.




Establish a good sleep routine so that your child arrives for school on time and ready to learn.



## Character Education at Christ Church

At Christ Church, we want every child to learn with **head, heart, and hand**.



**Head**  
Developing knowledge and understanding.



**Heart**  
Growing in kindness, empathy, and values.



**Hand**  
Putting learning into action to make a positive difference.

### What We Aim For

- Show respect, kindness, and fairness.
- Be confident, resilient, and ready to make good choices.
- Work together and care for others.
- Become responsible citizens who help make the world better.

**A**

### Aspire

We aim high, dream boldly, and strive for excellence in all we do.

**S**

### Service

We lead with compassion and commitment, supporting others with purpose.

**P**

### Partnership

We build strong, collaborative relationships rooted in trust and shared goals.

**I**

### Intrepid

We are courageous advocates, speaking up and taking action to help to positively shape the world around us.

**R**

### Respectful

We value every voice, honouring the dignity and worth of all.

**E**

### Equity

We ensure fairness, inclusion, and opportunity for everyone.

Together, we **ASPIRE** to make a difference.

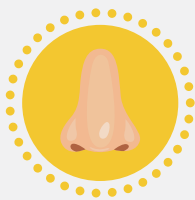
In Partnership to  
**Educate, Nurture and Empower**

# Wellbeing

We are devoted to supporting the physical, social, emotional and mental wellbeing of all our pupils and staff.

We have outlined a few things you can do with your child if they are feeling worried about starting school or anything else.

## Take a moment to breathe:



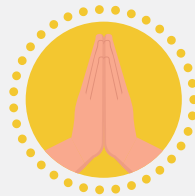
Breathe in slowly through the nose for four counts, then breathe slowly out of the nose for four counts.

## Take a moment to breathe:



Breathing buddies: Lay on the floor with a teddy or pillow on their tummy will help them to focus their breathing as their breath moves the teddy up and down.

## Mindfulness meditation:



Meditation can help your child to relax and focus on something else. Try searching 'Peace Out Guided Relaxation' on YouTube.

## Mindfulness activities:



Fill a jar with ideas of things you'd like to do together on the weekends or school holidays.

## Mindfulness activities:



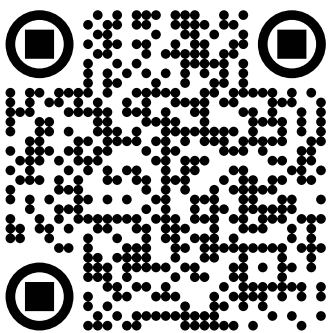
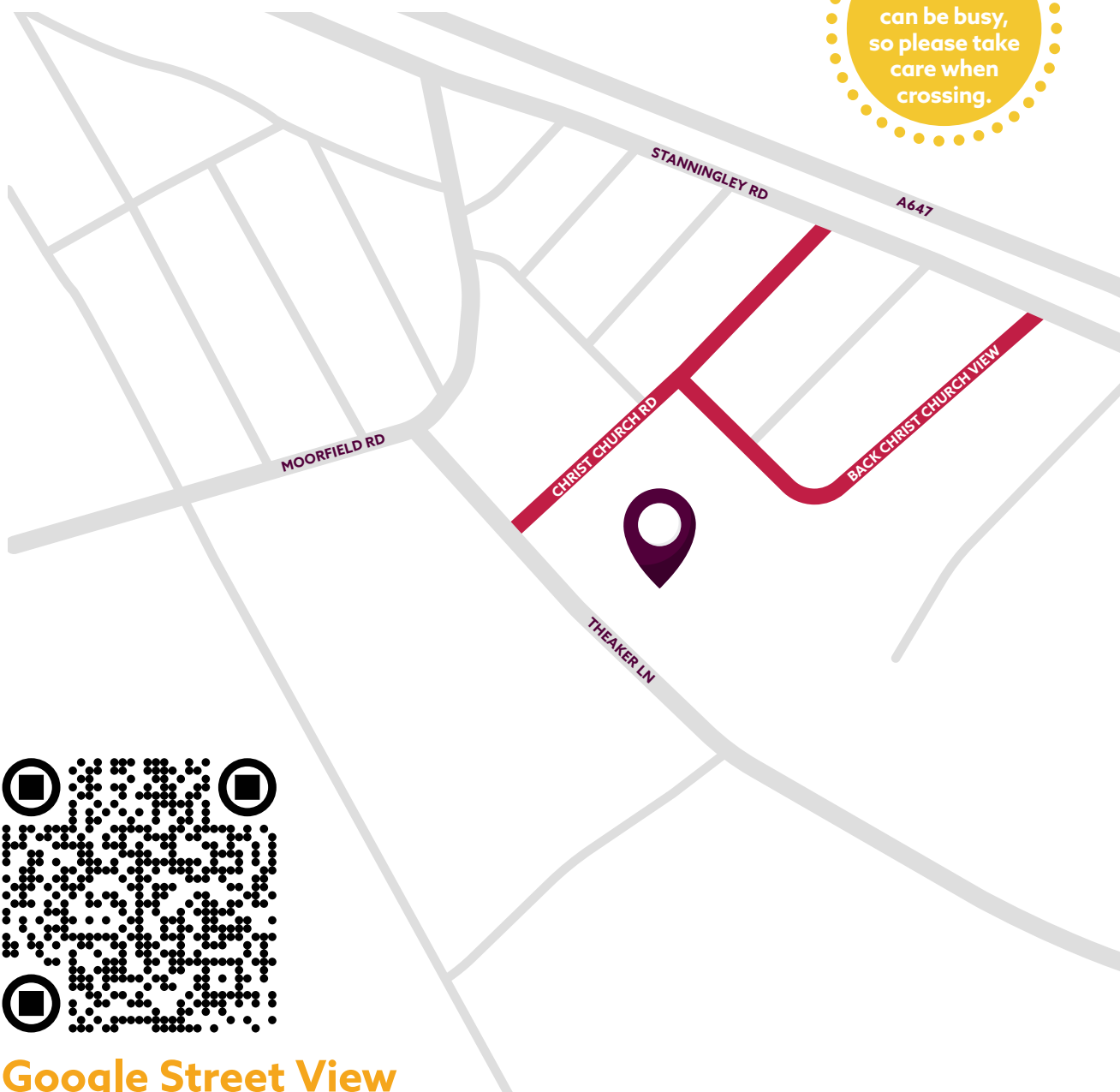
Create a memory box together.

# Getting to School

The school has clearly marked entrances from Christ Church Road.

Each class has its own entrance, which can be found by following onsite signage. Staff will also be available to support families on entrance to the school site.

Our site is fully accessible. If you drive to the school, we politely ask that cars are parked legally and responsibly.



## Google Street View

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/bg8SbtvrLfJckVaz9>

Christ Church Upper Armley C of E Primary School, Theaker Lane, Leeds LS12 3NU

# Term Dates

We know booking holidays and/or planning childcare can present logistical challenges and wanted to share our Term Dates at this point.

<b>School opens after Summer Holiday</b>	Wednesday 2nd September 2026
<b>Last day of school before Half Term</b>	Thursday 22nd October 2026
<b>School opens after Half Term</b>	Monday 2nd November 2026
<b>School closes for Christmas Holiday</b>	Friday 18th December 2026
<b>School opens after Christmas Holiday</b>	Monday 4th January 2027
<b>School closes for Half Term</b>	Friday 12th February 2027
<b>School opens after Half Term</b>	Monday 22nd February 2027
<b>Good Friday - School Closed</b>	Friday 26th March 2027
<b>Easter Monday - School Closed</b>	Monday 29th March 2027
<b>School closes for Easter Holiday</b>	Thursday 25th March 2027
<b>School opens after Easter Holiday</b>	Monday 19th April 2027
<b>School is closed for May Day Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 3rd May 2027
<b>Last day of school before Half Term</b>	Friday 28th May 2027
<b>School opens after Half Term</b>	Monday 7th June 2027
<b>Last Day of school before Summer Holiday</b>	Tuesday 20th July 2027

## Training Days

School closed to pupils

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Friday 29th January 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

Thursday 22nd July 2027



# Useful Contacts

We hope that the information in this guide has been helpful and reassuring. If you do have any further questions or concerns, please get in touch:

**Chair of Governors**  
Sarah Coltman


**Headteacher:**  
Ms S Collier

**SENCO:**  
Mrs A Green

**Assistant Headteachers:**  
Mrs D Murfin and Ms K Smith

**Christ Church Upper Armley CE Primary**  
Theaker Lane  
Leeds  
LS12 3NU

 0113 263 8606

 [CCUA-office@ccuapprimary.co.uk](mailto:CCUA-office@ccuapprimary.co.uk)  
FAO Mrs Wainwright



 [www.ccuapprimary.co.uk](http://www.ccuapprimary.co.uk)



 [www.facebook.com/CCUACEPrimary](https://www.facebook.com/CCUACEPrimary)



 @CCUACEPrimary

**Our School Day  
& Term Dates**



**Our Uniform**  
Uniform page



MyClothing



**Branded school** items can be purchased from MyClothing.

**Non-branded** items can be purchased from many high street stores, supermarkets and online shops.

**School Meals**





The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”

- Galatians 5:22-23

**Christ Church Upper Armley CofE Primary School**

Theaker Lane

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