

# Back to School

→ with God ←



## Responsive Prayer

Before the service invite children, young people and adults to take part:

- A parent who will pray for nursery schools
- A child who will pray for primary schools
- A teenager who will pray for secondary schools
- A church member who will pray for the community.

Pass them a copy of the prayer below, indicating which prayer you wish them to lead. Encourage them to practice reading it over several times in the week before the service. If possible, gather everyone together before the service starts just to make sure everyone is there and knows when they are speaking. Support those who are nervous!

### Responsive prayer

**Leader:** On this Back to School with God Sunday we want to pray for our children, teachers, and local schools. Would those who have been invited to take part and lead in prayer please come up front?  
**All come forward.**

It is a privilege to be able to support schools in prayer, particularly as we all know they have been through a difficult time. I would invite you to stand if you are someone who is connected with a nursery, primary or secondary school in any way – as a pupil, staff member, SU Group leader, parent, grandparent, governor or parent council member. Or even if you attended a school!

(*Mention names*) will lead us in prayer. However, so we can all take part – at different points when we hear the words “Lord, hear our prayer,” we will respond by saying together the words on the screen:  
**Thank you, God, that you are close to us when we pray.**

**Parent:** **Let us pray.** (*Pause*)  
Father God, we pray for our nurseries and those who work in them. Thank you, Lord, for watching over our little children. Thank you that you love them. We pray you will help nursery staff in the amazing job they do, creating happy places where our children can be safe and cared for well. Please help the children to settle, make friends, and learn to love and help one another. Lord, hear our prayer.

**All:** **Thank you, God that you are close to us when we pray.**

**Child: Let us pray** *(Pause)*

Father God, thank you for our primary schools and all those who work in them. Thank you that we are able to get back to school again, and we remember in prayer all the children in the world who have no school to go to. Please encourage our school staff, who do such a brilliant job of running our schools. Help them to adjust to a new routine. Please help all the boys and girls who are starting school for the first time, or who are nervous about returning to school. Help them to settle quickly and know that you are with them. When we are worried like Daniel, remind us that we can turn to you and ask for help. Lord, hear our prayer.

**All: Thank you, God that you are close to us when we pray.**

**Teenager: Let us pray** *(Pause)*

Father God, thank you for the Bible story of Daniel and for his good character, shaped by prayer. Lord, we pray the same might be said of those who work or study in our secondary schools. We pray that we may be people who can be trusted; who work hard; are respectful and kind. Lord, we are grateful for our education. Help us to appreciate those who teach us. As we go back to school please help those who are anxious or afraid. Strengthen our school community, so that we might help and support one another. Lord, hear our prayer.

**All: Thank you, God that you are close to us when we pray.**

**Adult: Let us pray** *(Pause)*

Our heavenly Father, thank you for this service today and for the reminder that prayer shapes, prayer saves. Remind us to pray for our schools, those who work in them, and the children and young people who attend them. We pray for the SU Groups that meet in them, asking that pupils will grasp what a great God you are. We lift our children to you. We love them, and we want to see them flourish at school. Lord, thank you for sustaining them through the months spent at home. Help them now to readjust and to gladly benefit from being part of a church and school family once more. We ask you to bless our community and our role as a church within it. May our prayers make a difference! Lord, hear our prayer.

**All: Thank you, God that you are close to us when we pray. AMEN.**