



**PRAY AT  
HOME**

**BACK TO**

**SCHOOL**

**LISTEN TO/WATCH:**

The Blessing Aotearoa

- Youtube
- Spotify

**ASK:**

How can these words help us as we head back to school this week?

**PRAY:**

Use these words from the Bible as your closing prayer:

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

(Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

You could also pray these words over your children each night.

**YOU WILL NEED:**

- Access to the internet
- a large piece of paper
- strips of paper
- felt pens
- a stapler

**TALK TOGETHER:**

What words stuck out for you? Using the felt pens, write these words on the large piece of paper. Add illustrations if you like. Each person chooses some words or phrases they like and write them on strips of paper and use the stapler to link the strips together to form a chain. You could make individual prayer chains or one chain for the whole family. Display the large piece of paper where everyone can see it, on your fridge or the back of your front door.



**PRAY AT  
CHURCH**

**BACK TO**

**SCHOOL**

**FIND OUT:**

Find out from the children what school they're at and what year they're in. If you do this ahead of Sunday you could present this information on a map of your town/city. Pray for the range of schools and year groups represented in your church.

**PRAY:**

Christ be with me, Christ be within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in face of friend or stranger.

(Based on St Patrick's Prayer, from Common Prayer for Children and Families, Gamber & Seamans, 2019)

**INTERVIEW:**

Interview some school students, making sure you have a range of ages, about their hopes and their fears for the coming school year. Pray for them and all students in your church.

**BACKPACKS:**

Create backpacks containing the following items and talk about each item representing different aspects of school. Eg:

- Pencil case: learning and creativity
- Lunch box: social times
- Drink bottle: brain fuel
- Sunhat: fun times outside and sports
- Reading book: an invitation to dream

Just as your backpack is your constant companion at school, so Jesus is with us always.