

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
Earl Street
Blackburn
BB1 8EG

01254 698 335

office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

Date: 10th October 2025



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Can you believe there are only two weeks left until half-term? Time really does fly when you're having fun!

As we approach the half-term break, I would just like to remind you that our first parents' evenings of the year will take place after school on Tuesday 21st October and Thursday 23rd October. We always look forward to welcoming you into school.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be available in both buildings throughout both nights should you need to speak to us, but any questions about how your child is progressing at school should be directed to their class teacher.

Whilst the vast majority of our parent/teacher meetings are a very pleasant experience for everyone involved, I just wanted to remind you about the need to be respectful throughout – even if there are disagreements. Our staff give up their own time to attend parents' evenings and miss out on time with their own families to ensure that they are able to chat to you about how your child is doing this year. So please remember that and to remain

polite. I would also ask that you stick to the ten minutes allocated for your appointment as over-running can mean that some parents may have to wait an additional half an hour for their appointment. If you need another appointment to discuss a more complicated issue at length, please arrange this with the school office and we can plan for it to ensure parents' evening runs smoothly and efficiently (and our teachers get to see their own children before they go to bed!).

As always, there will be a selection of our wonderful school meals to look at (as long as I remember not to eat them whilst I'm stood in the KS2 hall!), and we will be on hand to answer any more general questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks!

Have a lovely weekend.

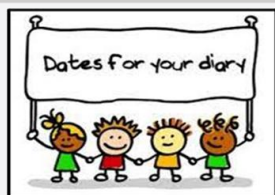
Yours sincerely,

Mr. D Stitcher



St James' C of E
Primary School

Headteacher: Mr D. Stitcher BA (HONS), PGCE (Dist), NPQH, NPQEF
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BED (HONS), NPQH
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Tuesday 21st & Thursday 23rd October

Parents Evening

Thursday 16th October

6V Parents Evening
2pm - 4:30pm

Friday 17th October

6V Parents Evening
9am - 11:30am

Friday 24th October

School Closure at 3:05pm

Monday 3rd November

School re-open

Wednesday 26th November

Reception Open Day @ 9:00am

Wednesday 3rd December

Christmas Lunch

Monday 8th December

Reception & Year 1 Carol Concert
@ 2:15pm in KS2 Hall

Tuesday 9th December

Year 3, 4 & 5 Christmas Carol
Concert @ 2:15pm in KS2 Hall

Wednesday 10th December

Y2 Nativity @ 2:15pm
in KS2 Hall

Thursday 11th December

Y6 Pantomime in KS2 Hall @ 2:15pm

Friday 12th December

EYC Christmas Carol Concert @ 11:00am
EYC Christmas Carol Concert @ 2:30pm



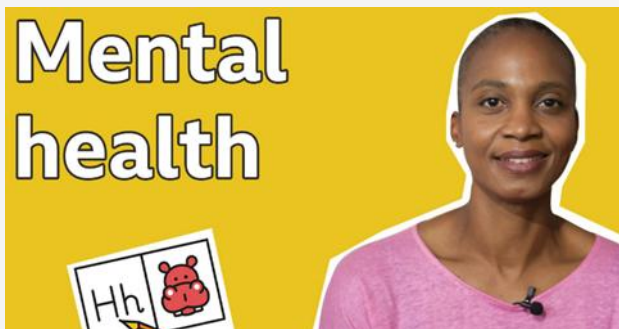


Poppies will go on sale in school from Monday 13th October. If your child would like to buy a poppy, or any of the other items on sale, please send a minimum of 50p donation. Snap bands, wrist ribbons, keyrings are on sale for £1 each.





Mental health



Child psychologist Laverne Antrobus offers her tips to help you support your child's mental health while they're at primary school.

Friday 10th October is World Mental Health Day and we have been talking about this in school.

This is a great opportunity to reflect on our mental well-being as we settle into the school year.

Remember, taking care of your mental health is a strength – not a weakness!

This QR code will take you to a short BBC Bitesize video with tips about how to help your child look after their mental health.





BLACK HISTORY DAY

16TH OCTOBER

Halal Chicken *or* Quorn
Jollof Rice
with
Flatbread & Mixed Salad
or
Southern Soul
Mac 'n' Cheese
with
Sweetcorn & Pepper
Medley
~
Pineapple
Upside-Down Cake
or
Tropical Jelly Cup



Lancashire
County Council



LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE



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Tuesday 21st October and Thursday 23rd October 2025

Appointment slots for the Autumn term parent meetings have been released on the School Spider App. Please remember to book in your parents evening appointments.

6V Parents Evening

Thursday 16th October @ 2pm - 4:30pm

Friday 17th October Evening @ 9am - 11:30am

Parents will be met by Mrs Vali at the Main Office.



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

We would love to celebrate the many talents our students have here at school! If your child plays a musical instrument at home, we would be delighted to hear from you. We would love to give them the opportunity to share their skills with their teacher and peers, and to celebrate their achievement together.





Ahead of the Autumn Term Final Headcount



Have you validated all your working family codes?

The code start date must be before 31st August 2025 to be eligible for the term

A child CANNOT take up a new place in a Grace period

If a child attended your provision last term and have entered their grace period - they will be funded for the Autumn Term and MUST reconfirm before 31st December to be eligible for Spring

If you would like any codes validating by the team - please send through the parental eligibility Validation form, these children will be added to your headcount for you

Free Early Years Education

HOW MANY FREE HOURS YOU CAN GET PER WEEK

	2 year olds	3-4 year olds
* Working families	30 hours	30 hours
*Families receiving additional Government support	15 hours	N/A
All families - Universal offer	N/A	15 hours

*eligibility criteria applies

some eligible families of 2 year olds will be eligible for 15 hours Government support AND 15 hours working families

www.blackburn.gov.uk/free-early-education



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Applying for a Primary school place

You must apply for a primary school place a year before your child can start school. The school starting age is 4.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-primary-school-place>

Your child will be 3 or have just turned 4 when you apply.

Applications open in September each year and close on 15 January 2026.

Applying for a Secondary school place

Applications usually open on 1 September 2025. You must apply for a secondary school place by 31 October 2025

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-secondary-school-place>

Your child is less likely to be offered a place at their chosen schools if you miss the deadline for applications.

Councils will send offers of school places for:

Primary schools on 16 April 2026

Secondary schools on 1 March 2026





PE DATES

These are dates your child will have PE this term. It is important your child wears the correct PE kit for their lesson. As your child will be doing DANCE this half term, they will need to wear suitable clothing, including pumps. Also, a polite reminder children should NOT wear earrings on their PE days.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Reception RW and RG		Friday 12th Sept	Friday 19th Sept	Friday 26th Sept	Friday 3rd Oct	Friday 10th Oct	Friday 17th Oct	Friday 24th Oct
Year 1 1M and 1F		Monday 8th Sep Thursday 11th Sept	Monday 15th Sept Thursday 18th Sept	Monday 22nd Sept Thursday 25th Sept	Monday 29th Sept Thursday 2nd Oct	Monday 6th Oct Thursday 9th Oct	Monday 13th Oct Thursday 16th oct	Monday 20th Oct Thursday 23rd oct
Year 2 2A and 2K		Tuesday 9th Sept Wednesday 10th Sept	Tuesday 16th Sept Wednesday 17th Sept	Tuesday 23rd Sept Wednesday 24th Sept	Tuesday 30th Sept Wednesday 1st Oct	Tuesday 7th Oct Wednesday 8th Oct	Tuesday 14th Oct Wednesday 15th Oct	Tuesday 21st Oct Wednesday 22nd Oct
Year 3 3L and 3S		Wednesday 10th Sept	Monday 15th Sept Wednesday 17th Sept	Wednesday 24th Sept	Monday 29th Sept Wednesday 1st Oct	Wednesday 8th Oct	Monday 13th Oct Wednesday 15th oct	Wednesday 22nd Oct
Year 4 4A and 4R		Thursday 11th Sept	Monday 15th Sept Thursday 18th Sept	Thursday 25th Sept	Monday 29th Sept Thursday 2nd Oct	Thursday 9th Oct	Monday 13th Oct Thursday 16th Oct	Thursday 23rd Oct
Year 5 5B and 5M		Monday 8th Sept Friday 12th Sept	Friday 19th Sept	Monday 22nd Sept Friday 26th Sept	Friday 3rd Oct	Monday 6th Oct Friday 10th Oct	Friday 17th Oct	Monday 20th Oct Friday 24th Oct
Year 6 6V and 6H		Monday 8th Sept Tuesday 9th Sept	Tuesday 16th Sept	Monday 22nd Sept Tuesday 23rd sept	Tuesday 30th Sept	Monday 6th oct Tuesday 7th Oct	Tuesday 14th oct	Monday 20th Oct Tuesday 21st Oct





How to get your code

- 1 Visit ChildcareChoices.gov.uk** to check your eligibility.
- 2 Speak to your provider** to understand their arrangements and to see if they can offer your child a place.
- 3 Apply for your code online.** You'll need your National Insurance number (or unique taxpayer reference if self-employed), the date you started or are due to start work, details of any government support or benefits you receive, and your child's UK birth certificate reference number (if available).
- 4 Give your code to your provider.** You may find out if you're eligible straight away, but it can take up to 7 days to get your code.
- 5 Reconfirm your details** on your childcare account every 3 months.

Application deadlines

To get your 30 hours childcare code, apply by:

- **31 August 2025** to use it from 1 September 2025.
- **31 December 2025** to use it from 1 January 2026.
- **31 March 2026** to use it from 1 April 2026.



See what support you could get

You can find out using the eligibility checker on our website. Simply scan the QR code or search 'Childcare Choices'.

Using your childcare hours

- If you meet the criteria, you can **start using your hours the term after your child reaches the right age**. Terms start on 1 January, 1 April, and 1 September.
- **Check or update your details every 3 months** to keep getting your childcare hours. Don't worry, you'll get a reminder when it's time.
- **You can use your hours alongside other schemes** like Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare. You can mix and match between nurseries, childminders and pre-schools.
- **You may be asked to pay for certain optional additional services on top of your entitlement hours**, although these must not be a condition of accessing your government-funded place. Speak to your provider for more information.
- **Different providers might have their own rules** for using childcare hours. Check that their hours work for you.

Use our **online eligibility tool** to check what options are available to you.





Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'
Delivered by ELCAS
tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT



Enter the word "ELCAS" as the first name and "drop in" as the second
name followed by your date of birth.

You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 1st October 25
Wednesday 8th October 25
Wednesday 15th October 25
Wednesday 22nd October 25

1pm – 3pm
3pm – 5pm
5pm – 7pm
1pm – 3pm



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ST JAMES' SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY PATTERN 2025/2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025 INSET 1 & 2 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on INSET 3 Number of openings 75	Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd September 2025 Wednesday 3 rd September 2025 Friday 24 th October 2025 Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 (inc) Monday 3 rd November 2025 Thursday 18 th December 2025 Friday 19 th December 2025
SPRING TERM 2026 INSET 4 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on Number of openings 55	Monday 5 th January 2026 Tuesday 6 th January 2026 Friday 13 th February 2026 Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February 2026 (inc) Monday 23 rd February 2026 Friday 27 th March 2026
SUMMER TERM 2026 Re-open on May Day Closure Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school INSET 5 Number of openings 65	Monday 13 th April 2026 Monday 4 th May 2026 Friday 22 nd May 2026 Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May 2026 (inc) Monday 1 st June 2026 Friday 17 th July 2026 Monday 20 th July 2026



attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 2K WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	92.0%
RW	94.2%
1F	94.8%
1M	87.4%
2A	99.0%
2K	99.5%
3L	95.3%
3S	98.0%
4A	99.3%
4R	95.7%
5B	97.2%
5M	97.0%
6H	97.7%
6V	98.7%



95%
and
above

90% -
94.9%

Below
90%

If your child is absent due to illness, the office must be informed before 08:35 on that day.





St. James' Stars of the Week!

Well done everyone, we are very proud of you. Who will be receiving a certificate next week?

Pre-School & Nursery		Aima B, Liyanah W, Inaya H, Eliza H, Khadijah P	
RG	Ayaan P. & Ahmed L.	RW	Musa H & Azaan Y
1M	Maryam H & Sadiyah S	1F	Ahmed C & Aisha Kothia
2A	Zoya Q & 2A	2K	Haleema A & Khadijah A A
3S	Faiza M & Fathima Norah SH	3L	Abu-bakr V & Muhammad Isa A
4R	Faris.C & Sakeena Noor.R	4A	Aaminah P & Rumaisa R
5B	Zara A & Seyar H	5M	Zainab & Zahra
6V	M.Zayn B & Malaika H	6H	Alexandru P & Ayesha Q





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"We've had a fantastic week of learning and discovery as part of our Black History Month celebrations! The children have been truly inspired while exploring the achievements of remarkable individuals who have made lasting contributions to the world. This week, we focused on three significant figures: ● Garrett Morgan – Inventor of the traffic light and a pioneer in safety innovations. 🌀 Alfred Cralle – The mind behind the ice cream scoop, making serving treats quicker and easier! 🚀 Mae Jemison – The first Black woman to travel to space, who showed us that the sky is not the limit. The children engaged in lively discussions, creative activities, and role play activities. 👍 Please take a moment to ask your child about what they've learned."

Action

Please book your Parents' Evening slots before the last week of half term.

Reception

The children have been making repeating patterns this week. They have used colour, objects and natural materials to do this. We have talked about what patterns we can see throughout the day. In the discovery area we pulled up all the carrots, tomatoes and sweetcorn we planted last year. The children really enjoyed the carrots, describing them as 'sweet, juicy and delicious!'

Action

Please make sure book bags, reading records and books come back daily so they we can change these as and when we need to. PE day is Friday so please only send your child in trainers on this day. Thank you.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

This week in Maths, we have been looking at part, part, whole models. Where the children have given a whole number for example 7 and look at what two numbers can make up the parts. For example; 2 is a part. 5 is a part. The whole is 7. We have also taken a stroll through the deep dark woods. We have learnt to retell the story of the Gruffalo through drama and the children have been able to use this to plan their own innovated story. Please ask your child to see if they can retell their story to you."

Action

Please remember to sign your child's reading planner and practise their spellings through the week.

Year 2

This week in Religious Education we have been learning about the Muslim Holy book the Qur'an. We discussed how the Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and why it is special to Muslims. 2A also presented their amazing parent worship explaining all about the Jewish festival Sukkot. We are extremely proud of all their hard work.

Thank you to all the parents.

Action

Please continue to read with your child at least three times a week and complete the set homework for maths.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

This week we have been working on our core strength in PE using plyometrics. We have continued to learn about ancient civilisations in history and compared French phonics to English phonics in our languages lesson. In maths we have begun a new unit about addition and subtraction and in science we have planned a healthy balanced meal.

We have been focussing on our mental health and taking time to do activities for our wellbeing.

Action

Please read at home with your child 3 times each week. It will support your child's reading fluency if they read their book more than once. You should record each read in their planners which will usually be checked on Wednesdays.

Thank you

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week this week! In Maths we have been learning different ways to subtract with exchange. In English we have been reading 'The trapper.' The children enjoyed making push switches for their topic in science this week!

Action

Please ensure children are reading regularly at home.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week, Year 5 have started to look at the complexities of multiplication and division. We have also started to create our own non-fiction book all about weather. Soon we will be starting our national bulb project which will last all year.

Action

Listen out for any news on the bulb project and how you can help.

Year 6

"We've had a busy and productive time in class recently! The children have now completed the first drafts of their flashback stories and have been working hard on editing them in preparation for writing their final versions. Editing is such an important skill — we're encouraging the children to take ownership of their writing by spotting their own mistakes and looking for ways to uplevel their sentences, vocabulary, and structure. In Maths, we've been exploring division in depth. We've covered short division, long division using factors, and the drop-down method. The children have been developing their understanding of when and how to apply each method and building confidence in solving more complex problems."

Action

Homework is due every Wednesday. Please encourage your child to read regularly at home and practice their times tables. Make sure your child arrives on time and is wearing the correct school uniform each day. Thank you for your continued support!





Prayer for the Week

Dear God

Help us to love the world we live in.
Help us to have the courage to be exceptional in all we do.
Help us to respect the people around us
Thank you for making our school your home.

Amen



WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL

Follow the school on social media to keep up to date on what is happening in and around school!

Facebook: [@StJamesCofEBlackburn](#)

Twitter: [@st_blackburn](#)

Please note that you don't need to have an account to view our social media pages.

