

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: 17th October 2025



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe we're almost at half-term already!

The children have worked incredibly hard this half-term and we're so proud of the enthusiasm, effort, and kindness they've shown since September.

There's a lovely buzz around school at the moment - the kind that only comes from children who are happy and thriving.

Next week will be a busy one with our **Parents' Evenings** on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. We're really looking forward to welcoming you into school to talk about how your child has settled in and the fantastic progress they've made so far. Please remember to keep to your ten-minute slot so everything runs smoothly for everyone – and so our teachers can still get home in time to say goodnight to their own children!

After the half-term break, we'll also be supporting the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** once again. Poppies and related items will be on sale in school, and children will be able to

make a small donation if they wish to take part.

Here are a few key dates to keep in mind:

Friday 24th October – School closes at **3:05pm**

Monday 3rd November – School reopens at **8:40am**

Wednesday 26th November – **New Reception Open Day** at **9:00am**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and encouragement – it really means a lot to all of us. Have a wonderful weekend, and we'll see you at Parents' Evening next week!

Have a lovely weekend.

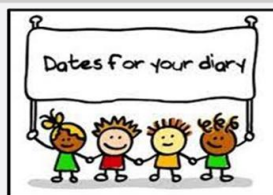
Yours sincerely,

Mr. D Stitcher



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Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (HONS), NPQH
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Tuesday 21st & Thursday 23rd October

Parents Evening

Friday 24th October

School Closure at 3:05pm

Monday 3rd November

School re-open at 8:40am

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





School Meals – Don't Forget to Order!

A reminder to please order your child's school meals in advance via the School Spider app. The menu is now available to order until 16th January 2026.

Meal Costs:

- All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children receive a free school meal.
 - Meals are £2.60 per day for other year groups, unless your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, in which case meals are free.
- All children are welcome to join in with our special meal days – they're a fun way to try something different! Keep an eye on the newsletter for the next special menu.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep lunchtimes running smoothly.





BONFIRE NIGHT

5th November

**Fawkes
Fire Cracking
Halal Chicken
Hot Dog
&
Tomato Ketchup**
or
Catherine Wheel Pizza
served with
**Smokey Ridge Fries
Sweetcorn**
or
Baked Beans
~
Sparkler Cupcake

Lancashire
County
Council



**LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE**



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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.





Blackburn with Darwen

ADULT LEARNING

Packed Lunch Power

Make lunchtime fun, nutritious, and stress-free! This engaging session is designed for parents and carers who want to create healthy, balanced packed lunches that kids will eat and enjoy.

What we will cover:

- 📦 Easy lunchbox ideas that meet NHS eat well advice
- 🍎 Creative ways to include fruit, veg, whole grains, and protein
- 📋 Healthier swaps for crisps, chocolate bars, and sugary snacks
- 👤 Fun presentation tips to make food appealing for little ones
- 📋 Safe storage and packing tips for all seasons

We only have a few sessions available, so, act fast

Day	Date	Time
Wednesday	05/11/2025	09:15 – 11:15am
Thursday	06/11/2025	09:15 – 11:15am
Wednesday	12/11/2025	09:15 – 11:15am



For more information contact Marie on
01254 222153 or marie.coleman@blackburn.gov.uk



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Path is a peer support groups for families who are worried about the children's mental and wellbeing and there is drop in sessions to discuss different topics on zoom or the family hubs.

Levi Hall (she/her)

Area coordinator for young carers, PATH and SPRING

CANW Head Office

01204 369130 07384110722

ljhall@canw.org.uk





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





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





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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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 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Wednesday 3rd September 2025 Friday 24th October 2025 Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 (inc) Monday 3rd November 2025 Thursday 18th December 2025 Friday 19th 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 5th January 2026 Tuesday 6th January 2026 Friday 13th February 2026 Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 (inc) Monday 23rd February 2026 Friday 27th 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 13th April 2026 Monday 4th May 2026 Friday 22nd May 2026 Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026 (inc) Monday 1st June 2026 Friday 17th July 2026 Monday 20th July 2026





attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 5B WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	92.6%
RW	82.1%
1F	90.8%
1M	79.6%
2A	94.3%
2K	92.4%
3L	94.7%
3S	96.0%
4A	96.0%
4R	97.9%
5B	99.7% 
5M	98.7%
6H	96.0%
6V	97.3%

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		Muhammad Zuhaib S, Mohmed Rayyan P, Sarah J & Romaisa A	
RG	Yakub N. & Mohammed Adam. I	RW	M. Hussain A & Muhammad Sheth
1M	Meela B & Mohammad Ali S	1F	Muhammad Zakaariya A & Ahmed C
2A	Nasr A & Abeer S	2K	M Aashir A A & M Adam B
3S	Dulnitha E & Aaysha C	3L	Hamza F & Humaira M
4R	Maryam.K & Abdhullah Mohamed.A	4A	M. Eisa A & All of 4A
5B	Haniya H & Hosino S	5M	Farhan A & Saba I
6V	Hareth J & Halima S	6H	Fuzail S & Norhan H





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"A Magical Week of Learning and Fun! 🧙‍♂️ ✨ This week, our Nursery class enjoyed a spellbinding time as they read Room on the Broom! Inspired by the story, the children got creative making their very own magical wands and potions. They also spent time talking about what makes each of them special—celebrating individuality and building confidence. Music time was full of energy and sensory exploration as the children sang new songs using colourful sensory scarves and a giant scrunchie. They also discovered how scarves move in the wind, combining movement with curiosity and outdoor play. It's been a week full of imagination, creativity, and joyful learning!"

Action

Please remember to attend your booked Parents' Evening appointments next week.

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, to have explored the seasonal changes. We have discussed the 4 seasons and we have used our observations to say which season we currently in. What observations can you make at home? Next week, Friday 24th, we are going to the Art Museum in Blackburn. We will be walking there, weather permitting, so please ensure the children have a suitable coat and foot wear. We will be going in the morning and we will be back after lunch. We have looked at different textile art/artists and we want to explore other types of art to inspire our creatively. If you have any questions please let a member of Year 1 team know."

Action

Please remember practise the spelling for the Friday spelling test throughout the week and please sign the children's diary once you have read with them.

1M Class Parent worship
Wednesday 22nd October.
Please arrive at 8:55am

Year 2

This week the children have enjoyed our story 'The Gruffalo'. They have drawn characters, settings and even made the Gruffalo out of play doh! They used clues scattered outside to go on a scavenger hunt and find the characters. During the discovery area session we pulled up all the tomatoes and sunflowers and picked out all the seeds ready to plant in Spring.

Action

Next Tuesday and Thursday evening is parents evening and we look forward to seeing you all then. We hope all the children that have been poorly this week are starting to feel better ready for the last week of term.





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 English we have been writing a newspaper report and in Maths we have started a new topic called 'Area.' The children enjoyed testing different materials to test if they are conductors or insulators in Science.

Action

Please ensure children are reading 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

"Year 6 have been working hard to complete their learning on long division. They have learned to divide multi-digit numbers by one- and two-digit numbers, work with remainders. The children have practiced following a clear step-by-step method: fact box, divide, multiply, subtract, and repeat. Year 6 have recently started reading *Heroes* by David Long, a powerful non-fiction book that shares extraordinary true stories of real-life bravery. Each chapter introduces a different hero, who has shown remarkable courage in the face of danger or adversity. Through this text, pupils are exploring how factual information can be presented in an engaging and inspiring way."

Action

All homework should be completed and returned by Wednesday. Thank you for supporting your child with their home learning.





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



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.

