

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
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Date: 7th November 2025



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all had a lovely half-term. Welcome back to the daily routine of school-life as we head into the last two months of the calendar year.

Next week is our Armistice Day service, and I'm sure you know that poppies and related merchandise are available to purchase in school to help raise funds for the Royal British Legion.

This year, our service will be held in school as the church is unavailable. Unfortunately, that does mean that we won't have room to accommodate parents. But rest assured, we will be honouring all those who have fallen or been injured in conflict at 11 am on Tuesday.

Next week is a very busy week for me personally as I am needed at various different locations in Blackburn and beyond; I wouldn't normally share my diary with you – I'm sure you're not that interested! But I just wanted to make you aware so that if there are any issues, and you require a response from me, there may be a slight delay in me getting back to you.

You will have seen this week that the government have announced the outcome of the curriculum review. And you may be wondering what this means for your child and what they will be learning at school. At the moment, there will be no changes. The plan is for schools to move to the new curriculum in 2027–2028, so over the coming two years, we will work with various partners to review our curriculum to be in line with the new requirements and we will, of course, communicate this changes to you.

And finally, just a reminder that our Open Day for new starters for next September is coming up on **Wednesday 26th November at 9 am**. Please tell anyone you know who may be looking for the right school for their child to come along. We'd love to meet them (and maybe show off a little bit about how amazing our school is!)

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, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (HONS), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



Your Harvest donations:

A Big **Thank You**

St James CE Primary School

For your donation of 99KG to Blackburn Foodbank for Harvest 2025.

Your donation will help us support the people of Blackburn with Darwen who need it the most.



Registered Charity number 1190517 | Registered in England & Wales



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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



RENEW YOUR CODE!

Please remember to renew any free childcare codes by signing into your childcare choices account and reconfirming your details to ensure your child remains eligible for their free early years education entitlement. Statutory guidance requires all parents to reconfirm their entitlement for each term. We cannot accept codes that have not been reconfirmed and approved by BwD. For further information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/free-childcare-if-working/confirm-details-up-to-date>

Thank you for your support.





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.





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>

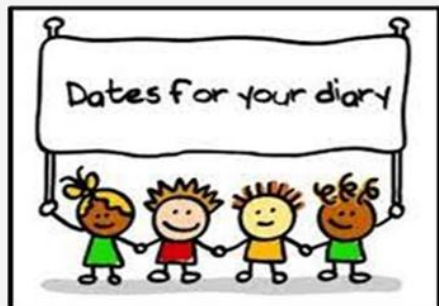
Your child will be 3 or have just turned 4 when you apply.

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

Applying for a Secondary school place

Applications for Secondary are **now closed**. Deadline was 31st October 2025. For Late applications contact Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, The Admissions Team.





Wednesday 26 th November	Reception Open Day @ 9:00am
Wednesday 3 rd December	Christmas Lunch and Jumper day
Monday 8 th December	Reception & Year 1 Carol Concert, 2:15pm in KS2 Hall
Tuesday 9 th December	Year 3, 4 & 5 Christmas Carol Concert, 2:15pm in KS2 Hall
Wednesday 10 th December	Y2 Nativity, 2:15pm in KS2 Hall
Thursday 11 th December	Y6 Pantomime in KS2 Hall @ 2:00pm
Friday 12 th December	EYC Christmas Carol Concert, 11:00am EYC Christmas Carol Concert, 2:30pm
Thursday 18 th December	KS1 Church service, 9:30am KS2 Church service, 10:00am



1M Phonics Club

Monday 10th Nov - Monday 8th Dec 3:10pm – 3:50pm

Year 2 Maths Club

Tuesday 11th Nov - Tuesday 9th Dec 3:05pm – 3:50pm

Year 6 Maths Club

Tuesday 11th Nov - Tuesday 9th Dec 3:05pm – 3:50pm



CHRISTMAS Lunch

Wednesday 3rd
December

Roast Halal Chicken &
Vegetarian Sausage
or

Roast Quorn Fillet
& Vegetarian Sausage
Served with Sage &
Onion Stuffing,
Roast & Mashed
Potatoes, Seasonal
Vegetables & Gravy

~
Iced Vanilla Sponge
~

Christmas Cracker
with every order



lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire
County
Council



01753 600000



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





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
Reception RW and RG	Friday 7th November	Friday 14th November	Friday 21st November	Friday 28th November	Friday 5th December	Friday 12th December	Friday 19th Dec
Year 1 1M and 1F	Monday 3rd November Thursday 6th November	Monday 10th Nov Thursday 13th Nov	Monday 17th November Thursday 20th November	Monday 24th November Thursday 27th November	Monday 1st December Thursday 4th December	Monday 8th December Thursday 11th December	Monday 15th Dec Thursday 18th Dec
Year 2 2A and 2K	Tuesday 4th November Wednesday 5th November	Tuesday 11th Nov Wednesday 12th Nov	Tuesday 18th November Wednesday 19th November	Tuesday 25th November Wednesday 26th November	Tuesday 2nd December Wednesday 3rd December	Tuesday 9th Dec Wednesday 10th Dec	Tuesday 16th Dec Wednesday 17th Dec
Year 3 3L and 3S	Monday 3rd November Wednesday 5th November	Wednesday 12th Nov	Monday 17th November Wednesday 19th November	Wednesday 26th November	Monday 1st December Wednesday 3rd December	Wednesday 10th Dec	Monday 15th December Wednesday 17th Dec
Year 4 4A and 4R	Monday 3rd November Thursday 6th November	Thursday 13th November	Monday 17th November Thursday 20th November	Thursday 27th November	Monday 1st December Thursday 4th December	Thursday 11th Dec	Monday 15th Dec Thursday 18th Dec
Year 5 5B and 5M	Friday 7th November	Monday 10th Nov Friday 14th November	Friday 21st November	Monday 24th November Friday 28th November	Friday 5th December	Monday 8th Dec Friday 12th Dec	Friday 19th Dec
Year 6 6V and 6H	Tuesday 4th November	Monday 10th Nov Tuesday 11th November	Tuesday 18th November	Monday 24th November Tuesday 26th November	Tuesday 2nd December	Monday 8th Dec Tuesday 9th Dec	Tuesday 16th Dec





attendance **MATTERS**



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

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

95%
and
above

90% -
94.9%

Below
90%

RG	84.7
RW	87.4
1F	87.6
1M	75.3
2A	84.8
2K	73.9
3L	90.5
3S	89
4A	87.7
4R	92
5B	99
5M	78
6H	90
6V	92



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 Hisham, Muntaha H, Hafsa A, Abo Baker H	
RG	Victor R. & Mustafa S.	RW	M. Burhan A & Khadija S
1M	Haniya B & Polina H	1F	Daniela A & Hisham K
2A	Rafia Z & Amna S	2K	Muhammad P & Rayaana I M
3S	Faiza M & Zareesh W	3L	Aaminah G & Amyra M
4R	Ahmed I & Arsalan K	4A	M Haashir A & M Isshaq A
5B	Ulfah R & Yahya S	5M	Yusuf V & Farhan A
6V	Areeba S & Sulayman H	6H	Amaan M & Muhammad G





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a fantastic first week back!

We have read stories about firefighters, made firework pictures and learnt a new dance with Mrs Bristol.

Action

Please continue sending your lending library books in every Friday.

Reception

We have had a great week in reception!

We have been creating our own rockets and firework pictures to celebrate bonfire night. Our new topic for the start of this term is 'People who help us.' The children have been enjoying playing in the new role play area, A Doctor's Surgery.

Action

Please continue to read with your child at home.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

Welcome back, as the days are getting darker and colder, please ensure the children bring their coats.

This week we have started reading the book called, 'What the Ladybird heard' by Julia Donaldson.

Listen to the story on YouTube:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=yDRDypQ0IBw&t=34s&pp=ygUXd2hhdCB0aGUgbGFkeWJpcmQgaGVhc mQ%3D>

Action

Please remember to practise their spellings and sign their diary once they have read.

Year 2

Welcome back!

This week we have introduced a new fiction book in English called 'The True Story Of The Three Little Pigs'. The children have enjoyed reading Alexander T Wolf's version of events of what really happened to the Three Little Pigs. We have also started our new dance topic in PE. It has been wonderful to see all the amazing animals the children have been able to create movements too.

Action

A reminder PE is still on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure you are reading with your child at home. Also, completing Maths homework as well as practicing their Year 1 and Year 2 common exception words. Thank you for your continued support.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

We have begun rehearsing for the Year 3 Parent Worship which is on Thursday 13th November at 8.50am (next week). The children are very excited, and we hope you can join us.

In English we are reading George's Marvellous Medicine and have been describing the character of Grandma using powerful adjectives. In Spelling we are adding the suffix -ly to root words to create adverbs, and in Maths we are learning about column addition and subtraction.

Action

Please read with your child at home. Reading is an essential skill which enables your child to progress further in all subjects. Thank you.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic first week back!

In maths we have been continuing with our topic of multiplication, looking at the 3, 6 and 9 times-table. In English we have started our new novel 'Wave Me Goodbye' and we have commenced our new topic of dance in PE.

Action

Please bring in either plastic bottles, empty kitchen roll tubes, empty pringles tube or cardboard boxes to make their torch casing in DT.

Ensure you are continuing to practice the times-table your child has been assigned.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed reading *Street Child* this week! They have become completely immersed in the story, showing great empathy for the characters and a deep understanding of life in Victorian times. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm during discussions and how they've brought the text to life through their writing.

In PE, the children have begun learning a new dance motif inspired by the Victorians. They've shown fantastic teamwork, creativity and expression as they use movement to represent the hardships and resilience of the time. Well done, Year 5 your energy and imagination are shining through in everything you do!

Action

Please remember to complete your Century Tech homework, read at least 3 x per week and remember to sign and date your planners to show a parent / guardian has heard you read.

Year 6

Welcome Back to School Year 6! We're delighted to welcome the children back for another exciting term of learning!

In Maths, the children are learning about equivalent fractions. They're discovering how different fractions can represent the same value and are practising their skills using practical activities and visual models.

In English, the children are exploring poetry. We are studying the famous poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae, learning about its meaning, imagery, and historical context as we approach Remembrance Day. The children will also have the chance to write their own thoughtful poems inspired by themes of remembrance and peace.

Action

Continue daily reading for 10–15 minutes and record it in your child's reading planner.





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



November

IN REMEMBRANCE

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

Facebook: [@StJamesCofEBlackburn](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesCofEBlackburn)

Twitter: [@st_blackburn](https://twitter.com/st_blackburn)

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

