

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: 28th November 2025



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to everyone who came to our wonderful Winter Warmer event! It was lovely to see children, parents, staff and governors having such a good time and spending lots of money! We'll let you know just how much was raised when we've finished counting it all!

Unfortunately, a few parents spoke very rudely to our office staff who were doing their best to manage and organise a far more complicated afternoon than most.

I have told the office to only assist those parents who remain polite and respectful. Even if something goes wrong, our staff do not deserve to be shouted at aggressively. I would also like to remind everyone that we have CCTV in the reception area which records audio. So, please, follow our school value of respect when speaking to the office. If you are unhappy with the response you receive, you can ask to speak with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

In more cheerful news, congratulations to Mrs Jassat, Mr Cameron and Mrs Kalaiwala – all of whom have now worked here for over 20 years! I know, none of them look old enough!

And finally, on Monday, December begins, and our Christmas activities and events start soon after. Please make sure we have your most current contact

information so that you receive any important updates about time-changes, arrangements and weather!

Below are the remaining dates for this year:

Wednesday 3rd December:

Christmas Lunch and Jumper day

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 @ 2:00pm

Friday 12th December:

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

Thursday 18th December: KS1 Church service, 9:30am
KS2 Church service, 10:00am

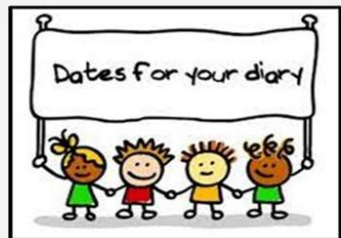
Have a lovely weekend.

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



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

Year 4 Timetables Club

Thursday 13th Nov – Thursday 11th Dec 3:05pm – 3:50pm

KS2 Arts & Crafts Club

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

Year 6 Reading Club

Thursday 13th Nov – Thursday 11th Dec 3:05pm – 3:50pm





Tickets cost £1.00 per person. No late guests will be permitted to enter. Tickets are allocated on a first come, first served basis. As there will be a lack of space to the attendance expected, we will not allow prams into school. If you would like to purchase tickets, please purchase tickets from **Monday 1st December from 8:30am** from the school office.





CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

**SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL BY
JOINING OUR CHRISTMAS RAFFLE!
20P A TICKET - £1 FOR FIVE**

100'S OF FANTASTIC PRIZES! INCLUDING:

**TABLE-TOP FOOTBALL
TABLE-TOP AIR HOCKEY
TABLE-TOP POOL
CHOCOLATES
SURPRISE BAGS**

**TICKETS ON SALE IN SCHOOL
FROM MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

**RAFFLE PRIZE DRAW IN
SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY 17TH
DECEMBER**





Winter

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is a scheme funded by the Government and delivered by local councils, providing healthy food and fun activities to children and young people, with free places available for those on free school meals.

Sessions will include a variety of fun activities, including sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills like meeting new friends, alongside a nutritious meal each day.

For information on how you and your family can get involved this Winter, please visit www.getstuckin.org.uk or call the booking team on 01254 784105 and quote your FSM code.

**FREE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS &
VULNERABLE FAMILIES INCLUDING SEND**





Blackburn with Darwen

**ADULT
LEARNING**

Festive Crafts Open Day

BwD Adult Learning is offering FREE festive crafts sessions for parents and children

Activities include

Sock Penguins

Festive Cracker Making

Badge making

Cake Decorating

Saturday 6th December

10:00 – 11:30am or 12:00 – 1:30pm

Bank Top NLC, BB2 1QP

**BOOK
NOW**



**For more information contact us on
adultlearning@blackburn.gov.uk**



**St James' C of E
Primary School**

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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



Area SEND inspection: Survey information for Parents and Carers

Dear Parent/carers

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are visiting your area, as part of an inspection. We will be looking at arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

We would like to hear your views about the support that your child receives. You can provide your views by completing an online survey at the following link:

<https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10414223>

This survey is for parents/carers of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25.

Your views are important to us and will help inspectors understand your child's experience of the SEND arrangements within your area. The survey will close at 9am on 02 December 2025.

The survey is voluntary, and you do not have to take part. The responses will complement the evidence collected by inspectors during the inspection. We do not ask for your name.

If you complete this survey, you consent to the transfer of your information from SmartSurvey to Ofsted.

For more information about how CQC and Ofsted collect and use data during inspections please see their individual privacy policies:

CQC privacy statement; Ofsted privacy policy

Yours sincerely

Sue Eastwood
His Majesty's Inspector





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.



Child born between

1 Sep 2021 - 31 Aug 2022

1 Sep 2022 - 31 Aug 2023

1 Sep 2023 - 31 Aug 2024

1 Sep 2024 - 31 Aug 2025

Starts primary schools

Sep 2026 Sep 2025 - Jan 2026

Sep 2027 Sep 2026 - Jan 2027

Sep 2028 Sep 2027 - Jan 2028

Sep 2029 Sep 2028 - Jan 2029

Apply





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.





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 in PE this term. It is important your child wears the correct PE kit for their lesson. As you 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.

class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Reception RW and RG					Friday 5 th Dec	Friday 12 th Dec	Friday 19 th Dec
Year 1 1M and 1F					Monday 1 st Dec Thursday 4 th Dec	Monday 8 th Dec Thursday 11 th	Monday 15 th Dec
Year 2 2A and 2K					Tuesday 2 nd Dec Wednesday 3 rd Dec	Tuesday 9 th Dec Wednesday 10 th Dec	Tuesday 16 th Dec Wednesday 17 th Dec
Year 3 3L and 3S					Monday 1 st Dec Wednesday 3 rd Dec	Wednesday 10 th Dec	Monday 15 th Dec Wednesday 17 th Dec
Year 4 4a and 4R					Monday 1 st Dec Thursday 4 th Dec	Thursday 11 th Dec	Monday 15 th Dec Thursday 18 th Dec
Year 5 5M and 5B					Friday 5 th Dec	Monday 8 th Dec Friday 12 th Dec	Friday 19 th Dec
Year 6 6H and 6V					Tuesday 2 nd Dec	Monday 8 th Dec Tuesday 9 th Dec	Tuesday 16 th Dec



attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 6V WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	85.3%
RW	91.5%
1F	88.0%
1M	90.8%
2A	96.2%
2K	99.0%
3L	92.1%
3S	98.4%
4A	88.0%
4R	97.2%
5B	97.6%
5M	97.3%
6H	98.7%
6V	99.3%



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 , Anabia A, Khadijah P & Maryam M	
RG	Rayyan M & Maryam P	RW	Waheeda F & Abeeha R
1M	Sebastian C & Haris Y	1F	Noman A & Liyana R
2A	Zoya Q & Aisha P	2K	Amara A & Amaan P
3S	M. Sarim A & M. Hussain F	3L	Kiswa H & Hamza F
4R	Fatima K & Amreha F	4A	Radwan B & Ayesha P
5B	Yayha S & Hilal J	5M	Layla B & Yusha S
6V	Abubakr I & Amna Mahmood	6H	Fatima P & Fatima V





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a fantastic week, learning about Stickman, singing our Christmas Concert songs and exploring the indoor and outdoor environment. Well done everyone!

Action

Please check the Family app for any updates regarding Christmas events over the next few weeks.

Reception

This week the children have begun to look at Winter. They have enjoyed the animation 'The Snowman', have painted winter pictures with both paint and on the iPads and explored ice. The children were delighted to make observations of the ice and explored picking it up, using tools to break it and how it melted over time.

Action

Please make sure all your children's belongings are labelled. All children now have either a sound blending reading book or sheet. Please practise these daily to support your children with their early reading skills.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"We hope you enjoyed the Winter warmer. We have a lot to look forward to over the next couple of week. We will keep you update with any events at are going on in school. Fire Fire! This week the children have been reading a story based on the event of the Great Fire of London. We have built on what we have learnt in History. We have been looking new vocabulary and the meanings to the words. Listen to the story using the link below <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIQvKSFI4s>"

Action

Please ensure you sign your child's diary once they have read. Thank you

?fl=pl&fe=sh"

Year 2

"This week in English, we have been writing our own innovated versions of The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. The children came up with some fantastic ideas and have really enjoyed putting their own twist on the story. You might like to ask your child to retell their innovated story at home – they can even add actions to make it extra fun! In Maths, we have been learning about the properties of 2D shapes and exploring vertical symmetry. The children have been busy identifying symmetrical shapes and creating their own symmetrical patterns. This afternoon, the Fire Safety Team will be visiting school to talk to the pupils about how to stay safe in the event of a fire. The children will learn important safety tips and have the opportunity to ask questions"

Action

We will be sending out letters soon with details about costumes for the nativity. Please continue to support your child in rehearsing their lines at home. The children are already working hard, and your help makes a big difference.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

This week we have been learning about column subtraction with exchange, testing our lung capacity and rehearsing for the carol concert. We have also begun our autumn assessments.

Action

"Please take earrings out on PE days or tape over them. Please read 3 times per week at home and record it in your child's reading planner. Ask your child to show you the QR code in the back of their homework books for the Top Marks website where they can practise their timestables"

Year 4

It's been a lively and productive week for Year 4! In English, we have been busy writing our historical fiction story, coming up with some alternative endings to our class novel. In maths we have been full steam ahead with some consolidation work and assessments. Meanwhile in PE, we have been working in groups to create our own dances inspired by poetry. The children have been continuing to work hard when practicing their Christmas Carol songs.

Action

Continue to practice your times tables and read at least x3 times a week at home. Lastly, a polite reminder that homeworks are due at the end of the week on Fridays.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

"This week, the Year 5 children have worked incredibly hard to complete their NFER assessments. We are very proud of the focus, resilience and positive attitude they have shown throughout. These assessments provide a valuable snapshot of their progress, and the children approached each task with great determination. Well done, Year 5!

Action

Please continue to read at least 3 x per week and complete your century tech homework. Thank you

Year 6

"We have had a very productive and enjoyable week in class! In Maths, the children have been focusing on multiplying and dividing fractions. They have shown great perseverance as they tackled new methods and applied their understanding to a range of problem-solving activities. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they recognise connections between different fraction operations and work more independently. In Reading, we have completed our STAR assessments, and the children have now received their new ZPD scores. These updated ranges will help guide their reading choices and ensure they continue to make steady progress. We encourage children to explore a variety of texts within their ZPD to develop both fluency and comprehension skills. A highlight of our week has certainly been the pantomime preparations. The performance is really starting to come together, and the children have been full of enthusiasm during our afternoon rehearsals. The singing and dancing have brought lots of laughter and energy into the classroom, and it's been lovely to see everyone participating with such excitement and teamwork. We are looking forward to sharing all their hard work with you soon."

Action

"Please complete homework and century tech on time.





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.

