

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
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Date: 12th December 2025



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What a week it's been! So much has happened, I'm not even sure where to start!

Firstly, on Monday, we had our wonderful Reception and Year 1 Carol concert. It was fabulous to see so many of you there supporting the children who were absolutely brilliant!

Then on Tuesday, Years 3, 4 and 5 performed a concert worthy of the Albert Hall. From the wonderful speaking and beautiful singing to Mr Robinson's professional bell-ringing, it really had something for everyone!

Wednesday was the turn of our Year 2s who performed a mesmerising nativity with some Oscar-winning acting, slick choreography and tuneful singing.

And Thursday saw our Year 6 pantomime – unfortunately, I was needed at another school, so I missed the performance to parents, but I was lucky enough to see another amazing performing when they performed it again on Friday to the rest of the school.

I would like to thank all the staff for putting together these performances. A lot of extra time and effort goes into making them as special as possible for

you and your children. And it is really appreciated – especially at a time of year where the staff are already very tired after a very long term!

I'd also like to thank you for your continued support. All the money we raise with the performances goes straight back into school; helping us buy resources or reduce the cost of trips for everyone – and whilst we would never stop anyone from seeing the performances, we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

As we go into the last week of this term, just a quick reminder that school closes to children at 3:05 pm on **Thursday 18th December** and re-opens to children at 8:35 am on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**.

We now have just one remaining date for this year:

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

We look forward to seeing as many of you as there possible.

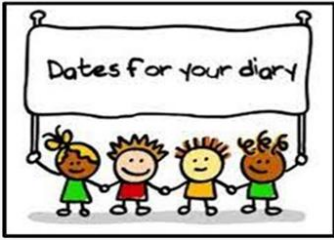
Have a lovely weekend.

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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Thursday 18th December:

KS1 Church service, 9:30am

KS2 Church service, 10:00am

School Closure on **Thursday 18th December @ 3:05pm**

School Re-open on **Tuesday 6th January 2026 @ 8:35am**



**THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOOOL
CLUBS RUNNING NEXT WEEK!**





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





CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

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

100'S OF FANTASTIC PRIZES! INCLUDING:

POKEMON BATTLE ACADEMY GAME

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**





SCHOOL MOVIE AFTERNOON

**ALL CHILDREN WILL HAVE A FUN
MOVIE AFTERNOON IN SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER**

**POPCORN & CANDYFLOSS
WILL BE ON SALE
£1 EACH FOR THOSE WHO
WOULD LIKE A TREAT**

**PLEASE SEND MONEY IN ON
THE DAY - ALL PROCEEDS
GOT TOWARDS OUR SCHOOL
FUND TO SUPPORT TRIPS
AND ACTIVITIES FOR
PUPILS THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR**





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**






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



PE Dates

Please note the upcoming **PE dates** for your child's class. On these days, children should come to school **wearing their PE kit**.

If your child has recently had their ears pierced, earrings must be removed before school.



Class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Reception RK and RW						Friday 12 th Dec	Friday Inset
Year 1 1F and 1M						Monday 8 th Dec Thursday 11 th Dec	Monday 15 th Dec Thursday 18 th Dec
Year 2 2A and 2K						Tuesday 9 th Dec Wednesday 10 th Dec	Tuesday 16 th Dec Wednesday 17 th Dec
Year 3 3L and 3S						Wednesday 10 th Dec	Monday 15 th Dec Wednesday 17 th Dec
Year 4 4A and 4R						Thursday 9 th Dec	Monday 15 th Dec Thursday 18 th Dec
Year 5 5B and 5M						Monday 8 th Dec Friday 12 th Dec	Friday Inset
Year 6 6H and 6V						Monday 8 th Dec Tuesday 9 th Dec	Tuesday 15 th Dec



attendance ~~MATTERS~~




CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 3S WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

95%
and
above

90% -
94.9%

Below
90%

RG	93.3%
RW	99.0%
1F	94.1%
1M	94.8%
2A	91.0%
2K	94.3%
3L	93.7%
3S	100% 
4A	89.6%
4R	94.3%
5B	94.3%
5M	97.3%
6H	98.9%
6V	97.3%

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		Everyone!	
RG	Mohammad Adam I. & Ayaan P.	RW	Shabana A & Ahmad B
1M	Maryam H & Safaa A	1F	Aisha K & Khadijah B
2A	All of 2A & Ibrahim M	2K	All of 2K
3S	Ayesha K & Aaysha C	3L	Emaan F & Inaaya M
4R	Muhammed Eesa P & All of 4R	4A	M. Wasay S & Hasan A
5B	Rayyan G & Rayyan J	5M	Judyta A & Muhammad P
6V	Isma'eel A & Minahil M	6H	Aizah N & Saifan R





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

Well done to all of the children for their wonderful performances in our Christmas Concert! It has been amazing to see their confidence shine through in front of an audience. We are incredibly proud of every single one of you!

Action

Please continue to check FamlyApp for updates.

Reception

"Thank you for coming to watch the reception children perform in their carol concert. We were really proud of their performance. We had an exciting afternoon with a police officer as he explained how he helps people in the community. He also brought along his police car!

Action

Please can you make sure that children bring back their reading books as we are collecting them in. Raffle tickets are still for sale.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"We have had a very busy week. We all hope you enjoyed the carol concert. The children really enjoyed performing the songs for you. Fire, fire. This week the children have been writing a recount about the Great Fire of London. They have written a diary entry about the key events that happened in 1666. Can you ask them to see what they can remember?"

Action

Our raffle will happen next week, there is still time to buy raffle tickets. They are 20p per ticket. Any questions please ask.

Year 2

This week in DT the children have been busy sewing their glove puppets using running stitch or over stitch and adding on any final features. They are so excited about sharing their creations. We also had our Nativity performance on Wednesday and I am sure you will all agree that they were amazing! Thank you all for your continued support.

Action

On Tuesday, Year 2 will be having their Christmas party. Children can come to school in their party clothes on this day. On Wednesday, we will be having a movie afternoon. Popcorn and candy floss will be available for £1.00. Children are to come in their uniform on this day. If you have any questions, please speak with Ms Azam or Miss Kay, we are happy to help.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

We are incredibly proud of Year 3 for their wonderful performance in the Carol Concert this week, especially their delightful rendition of Jingle Bells. This week the children have also been consolidating their understanding of column subtraction and have begun learning some French greetings.

Action

"For our Christmas party on Monday, please send in the items requested on your child's letter. Children should come dressed in suitable party clothes – no high heels. Please also send £1 before or on Wednesday for popcorn. Raffle tickets are still on sale at 20p each, ready for our raffle on Wednesday. Thank you!"

Year 4

It's been a superb week in Year 4 this week! Firstly, the children shone in their KS2 Christmas Carol performance showing great enthusiasm. In English, we have been continuing our non-fiction unit. The class has been researching the Great Fire of London and has begun planning their own information reports using the facts they have gathered. In Maths, we have been building on our work with factor pairs and exploring how to multiply numbers by 10 and 100. In French, the children have been learning new verbs as part of our 'Je peux' (I can) topic.

Action

"Continue to practice your times tables and read at least x3 per week. Lastly, a polite reminder that homework is due at the end of the week on Fridays.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

Our Year 5 pupils shone brightly at this year's Christmas Carol Concert. They sang with confidence, enthusiasm and beautiful harmony, filling the hall with festive spirit. Their hard work during rehearsals truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud of the joy and teamwork they displayed on stage. Well done, Year 5—your performance was a wonderful start to the Christmas season!

Action

Year 5 Christmas party on Monday 15th December (afternoon) - don't forget your party clothes and party food to share with your class! Thank you for all your continued support.

Year 6

"The children had a wonderful time performing the pantomime for family and friends on Thursday, as well as for the whole school on Friday morning. They were so proud to see all their hard work come together, and we are incredibly proud of them too. They have shown that they can achieve anything they put their minds to. The children also loved dressing up as their characters, and we want to thank all parents for helping to organise their outfits. A special thank you goes to Miss Kay for her support with the costumes as well. We hope you enjoyed the performances as much as we did."

Action

"Next week, we will be holding our Christmas party on Monday. Your child will receive a letter with the food item they are asked to bring, and they may come to school in their party clothes. We will also be having a movie afternoon on Wednesday, where children can buy popcorn for £1. 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



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.

