

# St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School  
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Date: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026



*Doug Stitcher*  
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support following the incident on Monday.

At 7:00 am, we were notified that the Key Stage 2 building did not have any water due to a burst water main in the local area. This triggered our procedures in the same way I outlined to you last week. We delayed opening until 10 am but unfortunately, we did not confirmation from United Utilities that the water supply would be reinstated. As a result, we had no choice but to keep the building closed for the day.

I want to thank the staff in school that day for their professionalism and ensuring that Key Stage 1 and Early Years remained open and for accommodating those children already with us from breakfast club!

It was a difficult situation, but everyone coped really well, and we were back to our very busy normal selves by Tuesday!

Hopefully, next week will be quieter!

We are increasingly getting requests from parents requesting information about their children. We are always happy to provide this, but please note

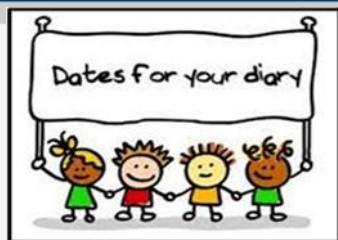
that we can only provide factual information – such as results, attendance information etc. Unfortunately, we are unable to give opinions or write letters in support of any application or as part of any dispute. This is because we must remain impartial and only provide facts. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Please feel free to contact us if you do have further queries about this.

As always, have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February & 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Book Fair

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

Spring Term Parents Evening

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

World Book Day Lunch

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Pancake Day (see attached poster)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Reception School Trip

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Easter Lunch

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**

Earth Day Lunch

**Year 2 Maths Club** Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Jan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 3:05pm-3:50pm



**Year 4 Kurling and Boccia Club** Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Jan – 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 3:05-3:50pm

**Year 2 Reading Club** Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Jan – Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 3:05pm – 3:50pm

**Year 6 Maths Club** Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Jan – 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 3:05pm-3:50pm

**Year 5 and 6 Wellbeing Club** –Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Jan – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 3:05pm- 3:50pm

**Year 6 Reading Club** Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Jan – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 3:05pm – 3:50pm





Parents Evening appointment slots are now available for the Spring term on:

**Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February 2026**

Book your Parents Evening appointments on the School Spider app now.





# Pancake Day

American Style  
Pancake  
with a  
Choice of Toppings  
Cinnamon Sugar  
&  
Chocolate Sauce  
or  
Traditional  
Sugar & Lemon



Lancashire  
County Council

LANCASHIRE  
CATERING SERVICE



*Pancake Day is coming to St James'!  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February*

**We are excited to announce that we are adding a special treat to our lunch menu! In addition to our delicious daily meal, we will be serving American Style Pancakes. We want everyone to join the fun – even if your child usually brings a packed lunch, they are more than welcome to tuck into a warm stack with us.**

**Free for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 & Pupil Premium children.  
£2.60 For Year 3,4,5 & 6**

**Please head over to the School Spider app right now to book your child's meal. Don't miss out on the tastiest lunch of the week!**



**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  
Email: [office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto:office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk)




## 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](http://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](https://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

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





## 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.

Class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Reception RK and RW	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday -No PE  Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January  Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February  Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February
Year 2 2A and 2K	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January  Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan  Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb  Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> Febr
Year 3 3L and 3S	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January  Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Year 4 4A and 4R	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 5 5B and 5M	Monday No PE  Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Monday  Friday
Year 6 6H and 6V	Monday No PE  Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan  Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Monday  Tuesday



# attendance ~~MATTERS~~





CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 6V & 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	93.5%
RW	97.5%
1F	94.5%
1M	89.1%
2A	98.8%
2K	95.2%
3L	89.5%
3S	100.0% 
4A	95.2%
4R	99.2%
5B	95.5%
5M	95.0%
6H	97.1%
6V	100.0% 

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		Fizza S, Emir B, Abo Baker H & Muhammad Rehan M	
RG	Heidi G. & Rayyan M.	RW	Abdullah M & Shabana A
1M	Haniya B & Ayman P	1F	Aasiyah R & Muhammad Asif P
2A	Nasr A & Firdaus H	2K	Khadijah A A & Juwairiyah P
3S	M. Dawood A & Fatimah Zahra H	3L	Kiswa H & Humaira M
4R	Muhammed Eesa P & Raees K	4A	Aiza R & Emaan S
5B	Sana A & Zain D	5M	Zahra R & Zoya H
6V	Malaika H & Isma'eel A	6H	Fatima T & Robyn S





# Year Group Updates

## Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week, the children had a fantastic time comparing the stories The Gingerbread Man and The Chapati Man. They confidently discussed the similarities and differences between the two tales and were able to retell both stories really well. Well done, everyone!

## Action

Please check FamilyApp regularly for updates

## Reception

"The children have been looking at feelings this week. They have made colour monsters and have spoken about their feelings and the feelings of others. In maths we have looked at mass and capacity, exploring how much a container can hold and how heavy and light objects are. The children enjoyed the discovery area this week, looking for signs of winter and jumping in muddy puddles! We will be continuing to explore space next week.

## Action

"Thank you to those that have provided contributions for the school trip. If you have any spare wellies or wetsuits donations would be greatly appreciated."

If you are sending in cash for the Blackpool trip, please ensure it is placed in a sealed envelope with your child's full name and class on the envelope.





# Year Group Updates

## Year 1

This week we have been learning about Egypt. We have located it on a map and looked at the different continents. We have discussed whether Egypt is hot or cold and looked at evidence to explain our answers.

## Action

"Please can you ensure you sign the children's diaries once they have read their books."

## Year 2

"We have had another busy week in Year 2! The children started their Science unit all about 'Plants'. At home this weekend, can the children spot any seeds in the fruits or vegetables they eat? We have had fun starting to learn different balances in Gymnastics. We can't wait to see their creativity shine."

## Action

PE will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Our unit for this term is gymnastics. Please could you ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate PE kit and that any jewellery has been removed for these sessions. Also, please could your child wear socks on these days as these will need to be removed for PE. Reading books will be given out next week when the children have settled into their new reading groups. Thank you for your support.





# Year Group Updates

## Year 3

This week in maths, the children have been developing their skills in finding the difference, using subtraction, counting on, and number lines to compare numbers confidently and explain their thinking. In reading, we have been enjoying the non-chronological report 'Butler-Bot' and have been using our VIPER skills, with a focus on Vocabulary to explore the meaning of new and interesting words from the story, and Prediction to make thoughtful guesses about what might happen next. The children have shown great enthusiasm this week, well done!

## Action

"Please read at home at least 3 times per week. Thank you."

## Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week. In English we have been finishing reading 'A journey to Jo'burg and in Maths we have been multiplying a 2 digit number by a 1 digit number. In Science we have been looking at the different type of teeth we have and their functions.

## Action

Please ensure children are reading their books and their diaries are being signed at least 3 times a week.





# Year Group Updates

## Year 5

"The children this week have read further in "Boy in the Tower" by Polly Ho-Yen. They have explored themes around mental health and created help sheets for those who need help with identifying and supporting people with mental health. The children have started to explore Multiplication of fractions.

## Action

Continue to independently learn on Century Tech. Especially subjects taught so they are not forgetting.

## Year 6

"Year 6 pupils have completed their mock tests in Maths and English, helping them become familiar with test conditions and giving teachers insight into their progress. They are also enjoying gymnastics in PE, developing strength, balance, and coordination. To ensure all children can fully participate in PE lessons, please make sure they are wearing the correct PE kit."

## Action

"Children are encouraged to continue practicing the skills they have learned using Century Tech at home, which supports their learning and builds confidence across subjects. Parents are kindly asked to check that their child has completed their Century Tech homework "





# 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.

