

St James' Weekly News



St James' C of E Primary School
Earl Street
Blackburn
BB1 8EG

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office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

Date: 23rd January 2026



Doug Fletcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we come to the end of another week, I would like to take a moment to focus on two important aspects of school life that have a significant impact on children's success and wellbeing.

Firstly, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of good attendance. Being in school every day allows children to fully access their learning, build strong routines and maintain positive relationships with their peers and staff. Even short or occasional absences can disrupt learning and make it harder for children to keep up, particularly as lessons build on previous work. We understand that there are times when children are genuinely unwell, but we really appreciate your continued efforts to ensure that your child attends school regularly and arrives on time whenever possible.

Good attendance also helps children develop valuable life skills such as resilience, responsibility and commitment. These habits support them not only academically but also socially and emotionally, and they are qualities that will serve them well as they move through school and beyond.

Secondly, I would like to ask for your support in reinforcing the importance of respecting our school environment. Our building, equipment and outdoor spaces are shared by everyone, and looking after them helps to create a calm, safe and welcoming place to learn. Recently, we have reminded children about treating school property with care and taking pride in their surroundings. It would be very helpful if parents could also speak to their children about this at home, as consistent messages between school and home make a real difference.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and cooperation. We are very proud of the positive attitude shown by the vast majority of our pupils, and with your help we can ensure that our school remains a place where everyone feels safe, respected and ready to learn.

As always, I hope you have a lovely and restful weekend.

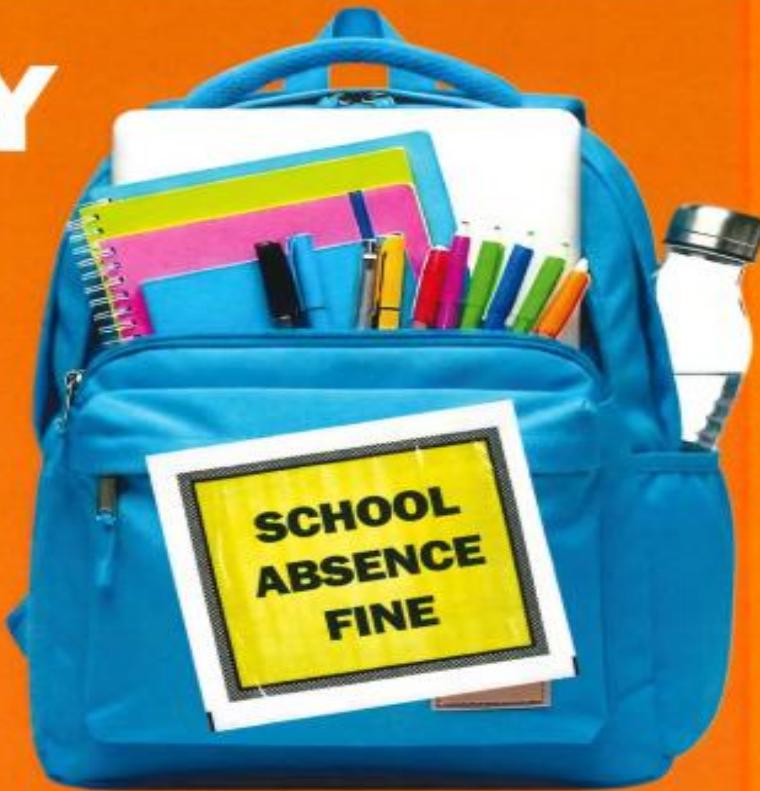
Mr D. Stitcher





PENALTY NOTICE FINES

If your child misses school without authorisation you may be issued a fine



FIRST OFFENCE

If a parent receives a penalty notice for a child, they will need to pay **£160 (within 28 days)**. However, the fee is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days of the notice.

SECOND OFFENCE

If a parent receives a second penalty notice for the same child within three years, it will cost a flat fee of **£160 if paid within 28 days**. There's no option to pay a lower amount.

THIRD/ FURTHER OFFENCES

A parent cannot get a third penalty notice for the same child within three years of the first one. If the parent reaches the limit again within those three years, other actions will be taken instead, like **legal steps or other attendance interventions**.

For further information please visit our website by scanning the QR code or email education.welfare@blackburn.gov.uk

Scan
me





Monday 9th February & 10th February 2026

Book Fair

Tuesday 10th February & Thursday 12th February

Spring Term Parents Evening

Tuesday 10th February

1M Parents Evening 12:40pm- 4:40pm

Thursday 5th March 2026

World Book Day Lunch

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Pancake Day (see attached poster)

Friday 27th February 2026

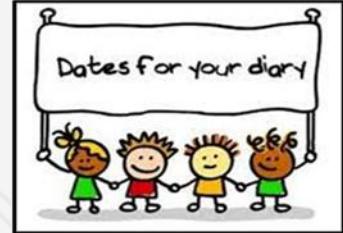
Reception School Trip

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Easter Lunch

Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Earth Day Lunch



Year 2 Maths Club Mon 12th Jan – 2nd Feb 3:05pm-3:50pm



Year 4 Kurling and Boccia Club Tues 13th Jan – 3rd Feb 3:05-3:50pm

Year 2 Reading Club Tues 13th Jan – Tue 3rd Feb 3:05pm – 3:50pm

Year 6 Maths Club Tues 13th Jan – 3rd Feb 3:05pm-3:50pm

Year 5 and 6 Wellbeing Club –Thurs 15th Jan – 5th Feb 3:05pm- 3:50pm

Year 6 Reading Club Thurs 15th Jan – 5th 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.



Parents Evening for 1M

Tuesday 10th February 2026, 12:40am – 4:40pm in KS2
Please arrive at the school office at your appointment time.



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 11th 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.

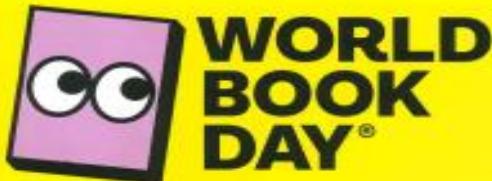
Free for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 & Pupil Premium children.
£2.60 For Year 3,4,5 & 6

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!



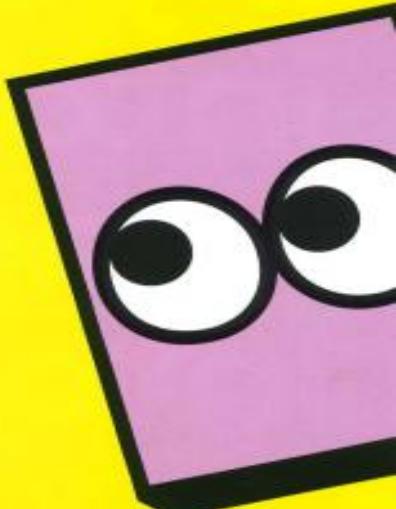
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Headteacher: Mr D. Stitcher BA (HONS), PGCE (Dist), NPQH, NPQEL
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (HONS), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



The reading for fun charity

5 March 2026



**Choose your £1 book
for free!**

with your World Book Day® book token

Books are available in shops from 12 February until 15 March 2026.

Sponsored by



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TODDLERS AND TODDLERS



£1

10am-11:30 AM

Term Time Monday Morning

St James' Church Lounge, St
James' Church Blackburn



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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](https://www.ViewChildcareChoices.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 their ears pierced, earrings must be removed before school.

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





attendance ~~MATTERS~~



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 4A & 4R WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	91.9%
RW	92.5%
1F	93.6%
1M	87.8%
2A	95.7%
2K	95.7%
3L	89.1%
3S	98.7%
4A	100.0%
4R	100.0%
5B	96.9%
5M	92.0%
6H	99.2%
6V	95.4%

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		Amayah B, Fayha I, Sophia P, Jannat A & Sarah J	
RG	Fatima D. & Mohammed Shahzain. S	RW	Haider R & Ahmad B
1M	M. Azaan A & M. Momin J	1F	Mohammed Rayyan M & Khadijah B
2A	Muhsin P & Abeer S	2K	Haleema A & Unaysah R
3S	Faiza M & Aasiya C	3L	Abu-Bakr V & Momina S
4R	Fatima Nalain A & Amreha F	4A	M Umar Z & Musa Z
5B	M.Saad. S & Maariyah P	5M	Hadi A & Judyta
6V	Lubabah B & Muhammad P	6H	Norhan H & Zakariyya F





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"This week has been full of excitement in Nursery and Pre-School! The children had a wonderful time making and eating chapatis after reading The Runaway Chapati. They also loved trying out our new balance bikes and scooters, developing their confidence and coordination outdoors. We were especially lucky to welcome two police officers who came to visit us. The children asked thoughtful questions and learned all about who they can call if they ever have an emergency and need help. Well done to all the children for their enthusiasm and brilliant listening this week!"

Action

Please return your child's reading book every Friday.

Reception

"This week the children have enjoyed going outside to the discovery area and exploring the change in weather and how this has changed the environment. In our topic this week the children have been learning about Mae Jemison and space. They even made their own rocket in class and went on a trip to the moon! We have spent time focussing on our letter formation during our calm handwriting time, ask them to show you at home.

Action

Please can all trip letters be returned as soon as possible. The trip will take place on 27th February so we need to make sure we have enough contributions to be able to attend.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"Bonjour! Last week the children explored the country of France. We discussed where France is and learnt to speak a few words in French. Such as; hello, my name is and we learnt how to say the colours. See what they can remember! Au revoir! (Bye) :)"

Action

Please ensure you sign your children's diary once they have read. Their books get changed every three days.

Year 2

"This week in Computing, the children have been learning about the history of animation and how animations are created. They are very excited to apply this knowledge by creating their own flip book animations next week. In Art, we have been exploring the work of American artist Keith Haring. The children have studied his paintings, sculptures, and murals, and discussed the distinctive style and themes within his artwork. By the end of the unit, the children will use clay to create their own sculptures inspired by Keith Haring's work."

Action

"PE lessons will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct PE kit and that all jewellery is removed on these days. On non-PE days, children should be wearing full school uniform. Please support your child by ensuring they read at least three times a week and that their planner is signed regularly. Thank you for your continued support."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

"This week in English we have been focusing on sentence building, specifically looking at how we can improve sentences to fit their purpose. The children have been practising adding adjectives, conjunctions and expanded noun phrases to make their writing more interesting. In Maths, we have been building upon our Year 2 knowledge of recognising, making and adding equal groups. The children have used practical resources and pictorial representations to support their understanding."

Action

"Please take out or put plasters over earrings for PE. Please listen to your child read and sign their planner at least 3x per week."

Year 4

Year 4 have had a good week this week. In English we have been rewriting 'A journey to Jo'burg' using different sentence types as well as speech. In Maths we have been dividing a 2 digit number by a 1 digit number.

Action

Please ensure children are practising their times tables





Year Group Updates

Year 5

"This week, the children have started writing diaries through the perspective of Ade's Mum who is not feeling well. We have got lots of amazing writing and the presentation has been superb all week. We have also explored multiplication of fractions and learnt the strategies for this.

Action

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

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we have begun our work on fractions, decimals and percentages. This is an important unit, as it makes up a large proportion of the SATs mathematics paper. In English, the children wrote informal letters in role as Stanley Yelnats. Their letters were written to inform, using a warm, humorous and reassuring tone."

Action

Please ensure that your child completes their homework and any additional tasks set by their teacher to support their preparation for SATs. Regular reading is also essential in developing fluency and comprehension.





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.

