

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: 30th January 2026



Doug Fletcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Can you believe it's almost February already! I even noticed a bit of daylight at 7:30 am this morning!

As you will be aware, Parents' Evening is coming up very shortly – with our two evenings being Tuesday 10th February and Thursday 12th February.

A continued focus of our discussions will be attendance. Currently, our attendance has an improving trend, but we know we could do better!

For us, the biggest problem is extended leave. The Government says that children should be in school. But we also know you may have families abroad or want to go on holidays. To help you with this, there are 13 weeks during the year during which school is closed! Please book your trips during this time – it will prevent you being fined and will help your child with their school-work, friendships and overall happiness.

So, once again, please make sure your

child is in school every day and book holidays for the school holidays only!

I'd also like to remind you that unfortunately, we have taken the difficult decision to close our after-school wrap around after the summer holidays.

This is due to a lack of demand. However, we wanted to give you as much notice as possible to ensure you have every opportunity to source alternative childcare. The current provision will remain open until the last day of term in July.

And finally, just a reminder that school closes for the half-term holiday after school on Friday 13th February and will re-open to everyone on Monday 23rd February.

Have a lovely weekend.

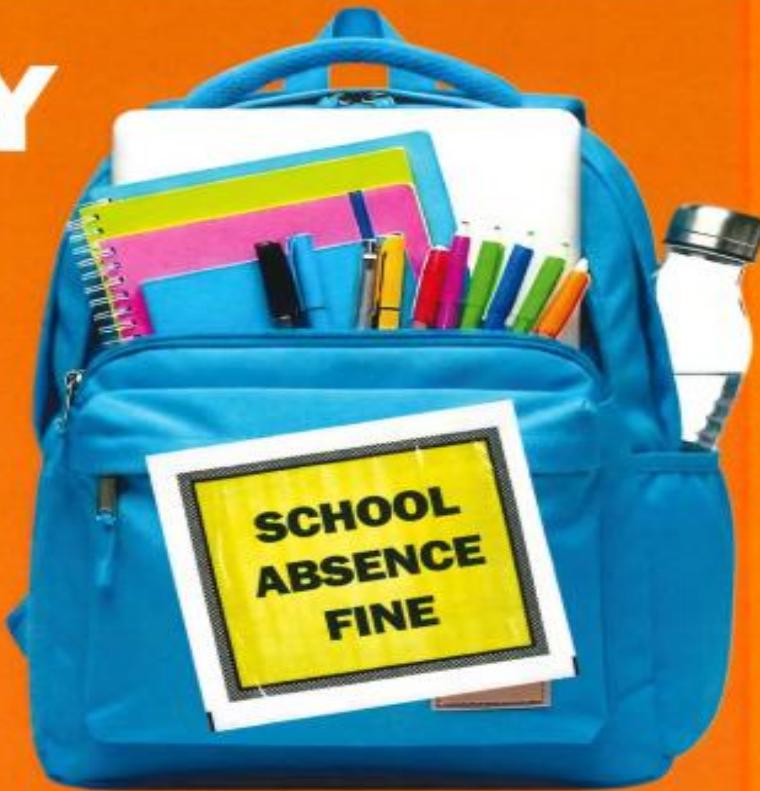
Mr D. Stitcher





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





Please ensure your child brings a standard **school book bag** instead of a rucksack/backpack to school from Monday. Due to limited storage space on classroom hooks, rucksacks are causing health and safety issues. Book bags are required to keep cloakrooms tidy and safe.

Thank you for your cooperation.





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

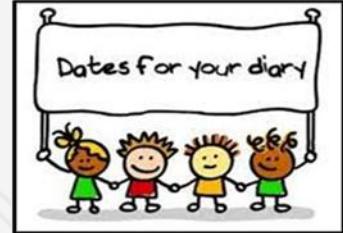
Reception School Trip

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.



Safer Internet Day 2026

Tuesday 10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk



On Tuesday 10th February, we will be celebrating Online Safety day in school. This is a time for open a discussion about how we use the Internet.

How to engage with Safer Internet Day on social media safely

Safer Internet Day is a time to celebrate the safe and responsible use of technology through channels that are accessible and promote positive spaces for children and young people. To accommodate all of our supporters for Safer Internet Day, we will be engaging with schools and other organisations on Safer Internet Day across Bluesky, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn this year. Please remember to follow us and join in the conversation.

Our theme this year is about making smart choices with AI. Following widespread media reporting and public scrutiny of the AI, it is important for schools and other organisations to take proportionate precautions to ensure their communities are appropriately safeguarded. If your organisation does choose to share images across any social media platform, we recommend that images do not show young people's faces. Alternatively, ensure that young people's faces are out of focus or unrecognisable.

Your support to champion good online safety practice will ensure this year's Safer Internet Day is celebrated safely and responsibly..

For more ways to get involved in the campaign please visit

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>



St James' C of E
Primary School

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



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.

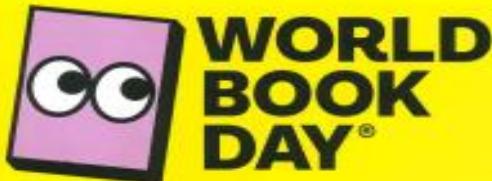
Free for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 & Pupil Premium children.
£2.60 For Year 3,4,5 & 6

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!



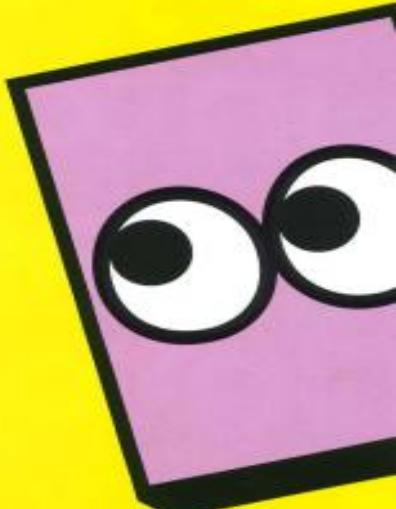
**St James' C of E
Primary School**

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



World Book Day® is a registered charity (no. 1079267) and registered company (no. 03783096) in the UK. World Book Day and the associated logo are the registered trademarks of World Book Day Limited. Peppa Pig © 2026 ABD Ltd/Hasbro/HOPL Ltd. Unicorn Academy © & TM Spin Master Ltd. All rights reserved. © 2026 The Roald Dahl Story Company Ltd.



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

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



TODDLERS AND TODDLERS



£1

10am-11:30 AM

Term Time Monday Morning

St James' Church Lounge, St
James' Church Blackburn



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

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



Early Years SEND Parent Workshop

Supporting children who refuse or avoid food



Are you a parent/carer living in Blackburn with Darwen with a child age 0-5 years with SEND?

If so, come and join our Parent information workshop

Why attend?

- ✓ Gain an understanding of why eating can be difficult for your child.
- ✓ Learn practical things you can do to help your child at home.
- ✓ Know when and where to go for additional support.

Where and When?

- 📍 Livesey Family Hub, Andrew Close, Blackburn BB2 4NU
- 🕒 Thursday 12th March 1pm - 2.30pm

To register your interest please email: eysend@blackburn.gov.uk with your name, contact telephone number, child's name and date of birth.

Please note we will confirm if you have a place via email.





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





attendance ~~MATTERS~~



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 2K & 3S WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	85.7%
RW	90.5%
1F	94.0%
1M	93.5%
2A	97.1%
2K	100.0% 
3L	85.3%
3S	100.0% 
4A	95.7%
4R	98.0%
5B	96.8%
5M	99.3%
6H	97.3%
6V	94.7%

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		Mikael K, Muntaha H, Maryam P, Sara A & Liyanah W	
RG	Aisha Noor B. & Maryam P.	RW	Haleemah M & Abeeha R
1M	Ibraheem A & Polina H	1F	Shayzan K & Zayn Y
2A	Maryam P & Maryam B	2K	Juwarriya M & Anabia I
3S	Shifa P & Zara A	3L	Amna A & Inaaya M
4R	Urwaa R & Sakeena R	4A	Amina S & Maheen M
5B	Inaya M & Haris A	5M	Ibrahim Q & Asra F
6V	Bilal B & Asfa S	6H	Alex P & Fatima T





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a fantastic week whilst learning about The Three Little Pigs. We have focused on retelling the story whilst using new vocabulary and expression. The children have developed their fine motor skills by drawing and painting pigs. Well done everyone!

Action

Please check Familyapp for updates.

Reception

The children have enjoyed the text 'Lost and Found'. They have written postcards, collaged penguins and matched the amount of fish to the numeral on the penguin. This has linked in well with our Topic of 'Hot and Cold'. The children have looked at different environments, weather and what animals might live there. In PE we have been learning about gymnastics, practising different jumps, turns, ways to travel, balances and some rolls. We have many future athletes!

Action

If you have not yet handed in trip consent this needs to be done this week please. PE is on a Friday, this is the only day children can wear trainers. The rest of the week children need to wear school shoes. Reading needs to be completed daily, if you need help with this please speak to a member of staff.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

""Year 1 disco -We are looking at doing some fund raising in Year 1. Please could you use the link below to say whether your child would like to come to a Year 1 disco. There will be music, drinks and lots of fun!This will really help us plan exciting activities in the coming months.We thank you for your support
<https://forms.office.com/e/RPytS1A0Bt>"



Action

Please ensure the children's diaries are being signed.

Year 2

""This week, the children have begun learning about their new non-fiction text, Christopher Columbus. We will be exploring this topic in more detail over the next few weeks, developing our reading skills and learning key facts linked to the text.In maths, we have started our new unit on multiplication and division. The children have been focusing on repeated addition and practising their multiplication facts, showing great enthusiasm as they build their confidence in this area."

Action

"Please continue to listen to your child read at least three times a week and remember to sign their planner.A reminder that PE lessons will now take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct PE kit on these days.If you have not yet booked your Parents' Evening slot, please could you do so as soon as possible.Thank you for your continued support."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

"This week in Year 3 we have been using arrays in maths to support our understanding of multiplication. In English, we have been planning and writing our own fantasy stories, focusing on imaginative settings and characters. In PSHE, we have been developing our listening skills and learning how to listen respectfully to others."

Action

Please remember to book an appointment for parents evening if you haven't already!

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week. In English we have been further exploring the text 'Journey to Jo'burg' and in Maths we have started the topic 'Length and Perimeter' In Science we have been experimenting to see which drink is the worst for our teeth.

Action

Please ensure children are reading at home as well as practising their times tables.



Year Group Updates

Year 5

"We continue to read Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen and use the reading to create exciting writing opportunities. We have also started making pillows by practising our stitching.

Action

Continue to read at home, 3 times a week please.

Year 6

"This week, in Maths, the children have successfully completed their unit on fractions, decimals and percentages. They have worked hard to understand how these concepts link together and have applied their knowledge through problem-solving and reasoning tasks. In English, they have completed writing their letters to Stanley's parents, inspired by our class text. The children carefully edited and improved their work, making sure the tone was appropriate, empathetic and convincing."

Action

"Encourage your child to revise fractions, decimals and percentages using homework tasks or on Century Tech. Support your child in reading regularly at home. 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.

