

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
Earl Street
Blackburn
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office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

Date: 13th February 2026



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, let me begin by apologising once again for having to close the Key Stage 2 building on Monday. Unfortunately, due to the poor local infrastructure, a water leak caused reduced pressure across the area and meant we had no water for cooking or toilets.

I contacted United Utilities who were not a great deal of help and just said they were sorry! However, I can assure you that KS2 children who did not come to school due to the closure will not be marked as absent for the day.

I also notified the Local Authority as this was the second time this term where we have lost a day of learning due to poor services in the area. It also meant we lost a day of our book fair, and again we are very sorry about this.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Parents' Evening this week – it's always nice to see parents in school. And a big thank you to all the staff who stay late for no extra pay to make sure you can have appointments around

your work commitments.

I would also like to thank everyone who spoke to our staff with respect. It really makes a big difference and is much appreciated.

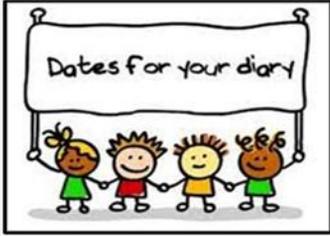
We are now officially half-way through the school year, and we have lots of really exciting things planned for the coming months – including a very big announcement that I hope to make in a few weeks regarding a very special addition to our school...

Have a wonderful half-term – hopefully, the rain will hold off for a day or two. And we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **Monday 23rd February 2026!**

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





Monday 23rd February

School re-open @ 8:35am

Friday 27th February 2026

Reception School Trip

Thursday 5th March 2026

World Book Day Lunch

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Easter Lunch

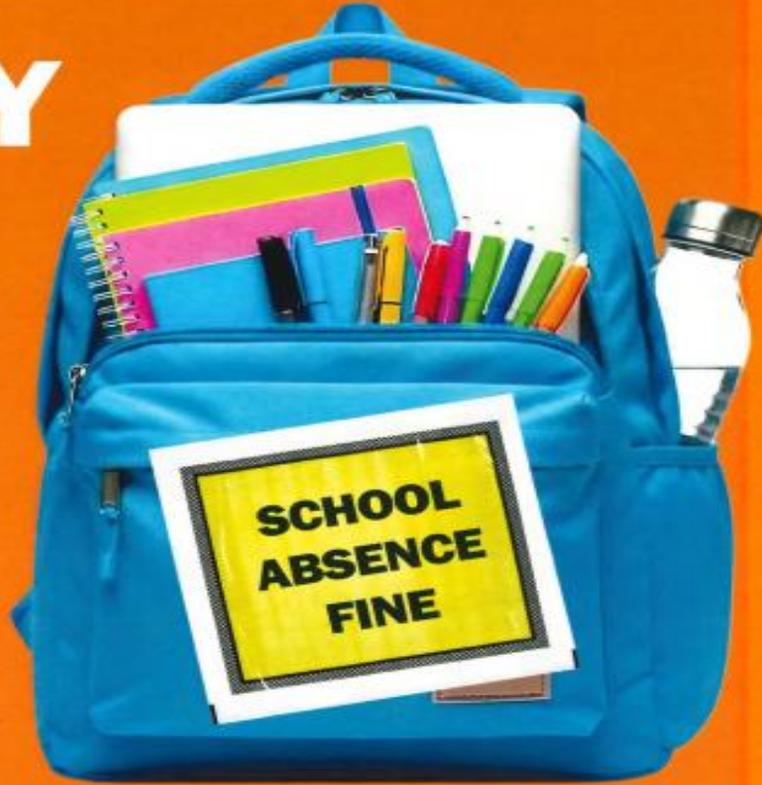
Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Earth Day Lunch



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





Request for Donations Early Years & KS1 Spare Clothing

We are currently in need of donations of trousers and joggers for children in Early Years and Key Stage 1. Our spare clothing supplies are running low, and we regularly need these items for children who may have had a small accident, fallen in a puddle, or simply need to change during the school day.

If you have any old, outgrown, or gently used trousers or joggers (ages 3–7) that you would be happy to donate, we would be extremely grateful. All donated items should be:

- Clean

- In reasonable condition

- Suitable for school wear

Donations can be handed in at the school office.

Thank you for your continued support — it really does make a difference to our children's comfort and wellbeing during the school day.





St James' C of E
Primary School



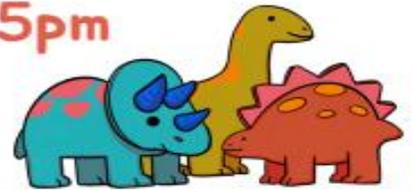
Pre-Loved Toys, Books & Games Sale



Date: Wednesday 25th
February 2026

Venue: KS2 Hall

Time: 2.45pm until 3.45pm

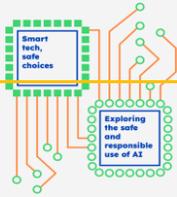


Raising money for a Nursery
trip and St James' School
Council's chosen charities,
SHELTER and UNICEF.



St James' C of E
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Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (HONS), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



Safer Internet Day

Using AI Safely & Responsibly at Home
Parent & Carer Guide – Primary School

Enjoy the Internet Together

Spend time online with your child and take an interest in what they enjoy. Talk regularly about the good and not-so-good parts of being online, and make sure your child knows they can always come to you if something worries them.



Understand AI Technology



AI is already part of everyday life, including voice assistants, search results, photo filters and apps. Help children understand that AI is a computer tool, not a person, and that not everything they see online is real or true.

Promote Safe & Kind Online Behaviour

Encourage children to think about how being online makes them feel, to be kind and respectful to others, and to use technology in ways that help them learn and grow.



Use Parental Controls



Use privacy settings, filters and parental controls on tablets, phones, smart TVs, games consoles and voice assistants. These tools help protect children from upsetting or inappropriate content.



Know Where to Get Help

If something goes wrong, use the reporting tools within apps or platforms and seek advice from school if needed.



Get help and support

There are lots of organisations who work to support families and children. Visit [childnet.com/get-help](https://www.childnet.com/get-help) if you're worried about an online concern.

NSPCC 0808 800 5000
[nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)
Free support and advice for adults concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a child.

 **family lives** 0808 800 2222
[familylives.org.uk](https://www.familylives.org.uk)
Free support and advice on any aspect of parenting and family life.

YOUNGMINDS 0808 802 5544
Fighting for young people's mental health
[youngminds.org.uk](https://www.youngminds.org.uk)
Free support and advice on how to support young people's mental health and wellbeing.

Helplines for children & young people

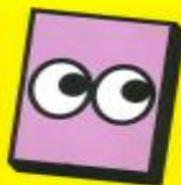
childline 0800 11 11
[childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)
Providing help and support for under 18s.

THE MIX [themix.org.uk](https://www.themix.org.uk)
Providing help and support for 13-25 year olds.

For Parents of 3–7 Year Olds

Sit with your child when they are online and talk about what they see and do. Explain simply that computers are not people and that some content may not be real. Always reassure them that you will listen and help.

 **Remember:** You don't need all the answers. Talking, listening and learning together is the best way to keep children safe online.



WORLD BOOK DAY®

5 March 2026

The reading for fun charity



BEGINNING READERS

Cymeru yn unig
Wales only

Eire aonhán
Ireland only



EARLY READERS



FLUENT READERS

Eire aonhán
Ireland only

Eire aonhán
Ireland only

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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TIDDLERS AND TODDLERS



£1

10am–11:30 AM

Term Time Monday Morning

**St James' Church Lounge, St
James' Church Blackburn**



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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.





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 27 th Feb					
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday 23 rd Feb Tuesday 24 th Feb					
Year 2 2A and 2K	Wednesday 25 th Feb Thursday 26 th Feb					
Year 3 3L and 3S	Wednesday 25 th Feb					
Year 4 4A and 4R	Thursday 26 th Feb					
Year 5 5B and 5M	Monday 23 rd Feb Friday 27 th Feb					
Year 6 6H and 6V	Monday 23 rd Feb Tuesday 24 th Feb					





attendance ~~MATTERS~~



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

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	92.9%
RW	94.0%
1F	95.2%
1M	93.0%
2A	96.8%
2K	99.0%
3L	93.2%
3S	93.7%
4A	98.7%
4R	99.3% 
5B	98.2%
5M	97.3%
6H	96.7%
6V	95.0%

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		Everyone!	
RG	Ayaan. P & Lidya. H	RW	Azaan Y & Fatimah I
1M	Lya C & Muhammad Harris F	1F	Aasiyah R & Muhammad Zakariya A
2A	Ibrahim M & Khadijah I	2K	Hawa I & Alisha P
3S	Zara A & M. Sarim A	3L	Hamza A & Eesha Y
4R	Bareera B & Muhammad Deen H	4A	Aisha C & Maryam I
5B	Abobaker K & Seyar H	5M	Muhammad M & Muhammad P
6V	Joudy A & Hamza C	6H	Veronika H & Tabraiz K





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

Have a lovely half term break!

Action

Reception

Thank you to all the parents who attended parents evening, it was lovely to see so many of you. The children have enjoyed our animation of 'Shaun the sheep' this week. They have continued this into continuous provision, writing menus, making pizzas with a variety of materials and role playing. For children's mental health week the children have enjoyed some mindful activities.

Action

Enjoy half term, spend lots of time with your children, playing games and relaxing together.



Year Group Updates

Year 1

"Thank you so much to everyone who came along to Parents' Evening. It was truly lovely to see you all and to celebrate the fantastic progress your children are making. They have been working so hard, and it was a pleasure to share their achievements with you. Following on from our chat about phonics, please use the link below to help support your child with saying their phonics sounds correctly at home. Your continued support really does make such a difference – thank you!
<http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/77PeQnSC/oYdLoWWX>"

Action

"Please continue to read with your child throughout the week and sign their diary once they have read. Use the link below for tips when reading with your child.
<http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aMY1Kyg8/NXDuzTEh>"

Year 2

"This week has been extremely busy in Year 2! The children have completed their final piece of writing about Christopher Columbus and they have done an amazing job. We are so proud of the effort they have put into their writing. After the half-term break, we will be starting an exciting new text. On Tuesday, we marked Safer Internet Day. The children spent the day learning about online safety, with a particular focus on exploring AI. They discussed the benefits of AI as well as some of the potential risks and important things to be aware of when using this technology. In Science, we have been busy planting beans and bulbs. We are exploring and investigating what plants need to grow and thrive. After half-term, we will continue planting and carrying out our investigations to see how our plants develop. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another exciting half-term ahead!"

Action

"It was wonderful to see so many parents at Parents' Evening this week. Thank you for taking the time to come and discuss your child's progress, it is always greatly appreciated. Please could you ensure that your child is reading at least three times a week at home. Regular reading makes a huge difference to their confidence, fluency and understanding. In Maths, we would really appreciate your support in helping your child learn their 2-, 5- and 10-times tables. Practising these regularly will help them build speed and confidence in their multiplication skills. Thank you for your continued support."



Year Group Updates

Year 3

"This week in Year 3, we have been focusing on the 3 times table in Maths. The children have been learning to represent the 3x table using arrays to help them understand multiplication as equal groups. Please continue to practise the 3x table at home to help build fluency and confidence. In English, the children have been continuing to explore poetry, focusing on using adjectives and similes to make their writing more descriptive and engaging. The children have enjoyed getting creative and have produced some fantastic pieces of work!"

Action

"Have a lovely half-term!"

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week. In Maths we have been looking at the perimeter of a shape and In English we have been looking at what freedom means to us and to characters in the novel we have been reading.

Action

Please ensure children are practising their times tables over half term.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week, the children have finished their newspapers about the Bluchers. We have also been completing more decimals. Focus for this week has been ordering and comparing decimals. Next half term we will rounding to the nearest decimal.

Action

"PE first Monday back.If you would you child to get a head start on rounding to the nearest whole or decimal number, please check Century tech. "

Year 6

"Year 6 have been working hard to complete their unit on area and perimeter for the past two weeks. They have shown a good understanding of how to calculate both and have applied these skills confidently to a range of problem-solving activities.To help consolidate and retain these important skills, we encourage pupils to use Century Tech regularly to recap and practise.In English, have completed a non-chronological report. The children worked hard to structure their writing clearly, using headings and subheadings, formal language, and organised paragraphs to present information effectively."

Action

"For those who will be fasting, during the holidays, it is important to balance learning with adequate rest; however, these suggestions apply to everyone.Light revision might include spending 10–15 minutes on Century Tech to recap key maths skills such as area and perimeter, reading regularly at home, practising times tables, reviewing key spellings, or completing short pieces of writing. Small, consistent efforts will help children retain their learning without feeling overwhelmed.We wish all families observing Ramadan a peaceful and a blessed month."





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



February

Follow the school on social media to keep up to date on what is happening in and around school!

Facebook: [@StJamesCofEBlackburn](#)

Twitter: [@st_blackburn](#)

Please note that you don't need to have an account to view our social media pages.

