

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: 27th February 2026



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely half-term.

As Ramadan begins, we would like to send our warmest wishes to all members of our school community who are observing.

We hope this special month is filled with peace, reflection and blessing for you and your families.

A big thank you to everyone who came to our Toy Sale; we raised over £200! The money will be split between school council's chosen charities and supporting the nursery trips. Thank you also to the staff who helped organise this.

I am delighted to let you know that we have been successful in our bid to open a specialist inclusion base providing support to children across Blackburn with Darwen. This has been something we have been working hard on behind the scenes and will see us become a specialist provision for children with

autism. We are very proud of our inclusive approach to education; and this will provide much needed specialist support to children across the borough as well as giving us increased resources to support the children in our setting.

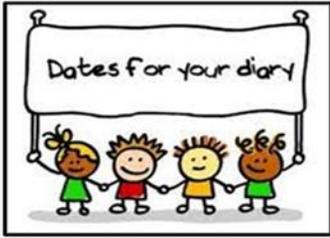
We are still in the planning stages, but our aim is to open in September using the unused space in the building which currently houses our nursery. There will be many developments over the next few months, and I will, of course, keep you informed as it progresses.

If any of you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact the office and we will do all we can to help. A bit nearer the time, we will hold an information evening providing more details for anyone who is interested.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





Thursday 5th March 2026

World Book Day

World Book Day Lunch

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Easter Lunch

Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Earth Day Lunch

Friday 17th April 2026

Year 1 Trip Blackpool Zoo

Monday 1st June – Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Winmarleigh Hall Residential



Year 6 Maths Club

Tue 3rd - 24th March 3:05pm-3:50pm

Year 6 Reading Club

Thurs 5th -26th March 3:05-3:50pm



Thank you to everyone who kindly donated items to the Toy Sale and also to the families who came and bought toys and books on the night. There are a few items left over and so we are having a 50p sale!

At break time on Monday, children in KS1 can choose an item for just 50p.

At break time on Tuesday, children in KS2 can choose an item for just 50p.

There may also be some 2 for 1 bargains!!

The money raised will go towards the charities chosen by the School Council, to support people who have no home. They chose to donate to SHELTER, to support people in Blackburn, and UNICEF, to support those who have lost homes due to war.



WORLD BOOK DAY

THURSDAY 5TH MARCH



Treasure Island Tortilla Wraps

*Mild Chilli Halal Chicken with
Cheese & Cannon Ball Potato
Puffs Golden Corn & Ruby
Pepper Medley or*

Hogwarts House Pasta

*Pasta Spirals & Tomato Sauce
with
Gryffindor Garlic Bread*

Charlie's Chocolate Factory Cake

*Chocolate Sprinkle Cupcake
or*

Matilda's Magical Jelly

*Strawberry Jelly
with Cream & Sprinkles*

*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!*

(Choice of filled Jacket Potatoes also available)

Lancashire
County Council

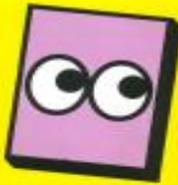


LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE



St James' C of E
Primary School

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



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.



World Book Day® is a registered charity (no. 1079267) and registered company (no. 03793096) in the UK. World Book Day and the associated logo are the registered trademarks of World Book Day Limited. Peppa Pig © 2026 ABD Ltd/Habro/HCPL Ltd. Unicorn Academy © & TM Spin Master Ltd. All rights reserved. © 2026 The Road to Dahl Story Company Ltd.



Cool Milk



Notice regarding Change of School Milk Supplier for KS1 & Early Years Centre

We would like to inform you that from Monday 13th April 2026, the school will be changing our milk supplier to Cool Milk.

This change has been made following a review of our current provision to ensure we continue to offer high quality products while maintaining value for money and reliable service. The milk provided will continue to meet school food standards and will remain fresh, appropriately stored and suitable for children.

Mid- morning milk provides a much-needed nutritional; boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children will receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid morning milk at a subsidised cost.

If you'd like to opt in simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/parents or scan the QR code below to register.

Should you have any questions or need help, send us a message on www.coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below.

Tel: 0800 321 3248





KEY STAGE 1 & EARLY YEARS CENTRE

FUEL YOUR... LITTLE HEROES!



Dear parent/guardian,

As you may be aware your child's school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Mid-morning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised* cost.

If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/parents. Your child(ren) will continue to receive free milk whilst under the age of 5 and Cool Milk will get in touch with further information by email shortly before their 5th birthday.

For children who are already over 5, it's not too late – our scheme is flexible! As well as being able to register and make payment straight away, you can join and cancel the scheme at any time. We offer yearly, termly and half termly payment periods and a recurring payment option to give you one less thing to remember.

If you already have an online Cool Milk account for a sibling, you can manage your account, make payment and add extra children by logging in at www.coolmilk.com/parents.

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at www.coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below – we're here to help!

Kind regards,

Cool Milk

☐ : 0800 321 3248
☐ : www.coolmilk.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

*Milk for under-5s is fully funded by DHSC via the Nursery Milk Scheme. Milk for over-5s is subsidised by Defra via the School Milk Scheme.

Cool Milk at School Ltd | Cool Milk House | Kingsley Park | Kingsley Road | Lincoln | LN6 3TA | ☎ 0800 321 3248 | 🌐 www.coolmilk.com



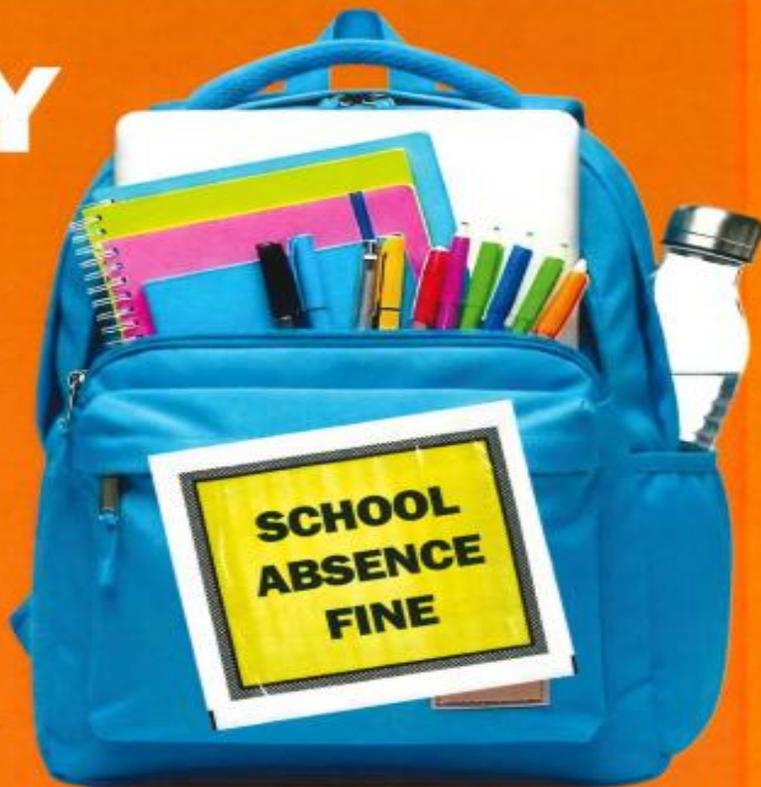
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PENALTY NOTICE FINES

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.





TIDDLERS 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**

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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 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd September 2025 Wednesday 3 rd September 2025 Friday 24 th October 2025 Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October 2025 (inc) Monday 3 rd November 2025 Thursday 18 th December 2025 Friday 19 th 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 5 th January 2026 Tuesday 6 th January 2026 Friday 13 th February 2026 Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February 2026 (inc) Monday 23 rd February 2026 Friday 27 th 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 13 th April 2026 Monday 4 th May 2026 Friday 22 nd May 2026 Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May 2026 (inc) Monday 1 st June 2026 Friday 17 th July 2026 Monday 20 th 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	Friday 6 th March	Friday 13 th March	Friday 20 th March	Friday 27 th March	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday 23 rd Feb Tuesday 24 th Feb	Monday 2 nd March Tuesday 3 rd March	Monday 9 th March Tuesday 10 th March	Monday 16 th March Tuesday 17 th March	Monday 23 rd March Tuesday 24 th March	Monday Tuesday
Year 2 2A and 2K	Wednesday 25 th Feb Thursday 26 th Feb	Wednesday 4 th March Thursday 5 th March	Wednesday 11 th March Thursday 12 th March	Wednesday 18 th March Thursday 19 th March	Wednesday 25 th March Thursday 26 th March	Wednesday Thursday
Year 3 3L and 3S	Wednesday 25 th Feb	Monday 2 nd March Wednesday 4 th March	Wednesday 11 th March	Monday 16 th March Wednesday 18 th March	Wednesday 25 th march	Monday Wednesday
Year 4 4A and 4R	Thursday 26 th Feb	Monday 2 nd March Thursday 5 th March	Thursday 12 th March	Monday 16 th March Thursday 19 th March	Thursday 26 th March	Monday Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5M	Monday 23 rd Feb Friday 27 th Feb	Friday 6 th March	Monday 9 th March Friday 13 th March	Friday 20 th March	Monday 23 rd March Friday 27 th March	Friday
Year 6 6H and 6V	Monday 23 rd Feb Tuesday 24 th Feb	Tuesday 3 rd March	Monday 9 th March Tuesday 10 th March	Tuesday 17 th March	Monday 23 rd March Tuesday 24 th March	Tuesday





attendance ~~MATTERS~~



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 4A & 5M 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	98.5%
1F	96.0%
1M	96.7%
2A	92.7%
2K	95.2%
3L	96.1%
3S	97.9%
4A	99.2% 
4R	91.7%
5B	96.6%
5M	99.2% 
6H	94.6%
6V	93.4%

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		Jannat A, Haider M, Khadijah P & Fayha I	
RG	Mustafa Hussain S. & Maryam P.	RW	Abdullah M & Halima L
1M	Aaima A & M.Talha I	1F	Aisha K & Zohan S
2A	Saarah P & Aaisha P	2K	Zayna MH & Zikra MH
3S	Adn H & Sireen B	3L	Kulsum L & Fatima Y
4R	Fatima K & Aamina M	4A	Haadi F & Anaya M
5B	Sana A & Seyar H	5M	M. Anas & Saba I
6V	Safa M & Waris K	6H	Fuzail S & Alex P





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

Thank you for your support at our Toy Sale on Wednesday. We were delighted to see such a strong turnout and greatly appreciate everyone who came along and made purchases.

Action

Please check Famlyapp for updates about World Book Day.

Reception

The children have enjoyed our text this week 'Tiddler'. This ties in with our 'under the sea' theme over the next couple of weeks. They have enjoyed role playing in a submarine, finding different sea animals in the water and the sand, and painting their own fish! We are looking forward to our trip to the Sealife Centre to end our week. We look forward to sharing all about this with you next week.

Action

"Please remember to sign your child's reading planner daily. We will change books on Monday next week due to our school trip taking place this week. Have a look on our social media page to see our submarine!"



Year Group Updates

Year 1

Letters have gone out regarding our school trip to Blackpool Zoo in April. Please could you return the slips as soon as you can. We are really looking forward to learning about the different type of animals the zoo have to offer.

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

"Welcome back! This week the children started to read their new fiction text 'Traction Man is Here'. They have also started to make props in Computing, for their Stop Motion Video. We have seen some amazing astronauts in space, bouncy balls in the park and fantastic flowers in a garden."

Action

Please have a look at the letter sent home with child about World Book Day. If you need any support with anything, please come and speak to your child's class teacher.



Year Group Updates

Year 3

"This week in Year 3, we have continued developing our confidence in the 4 times tables in Maths. The children have been practising quick recall of multiplication facts, spotting number patterns and using strategies such as doubling the 2 times table to support their understanding. We have also applied our knowledge to solve reasoning and word problems involving multiples of 4. In English we have been looking at a non-chronological report about volcanoes. We have been exploring precise, subject-specific vocabulary and identifying the key features of this type of text. To help embed our understanding of the different stages of a volcano, we created actions and used drama to represent each part of the eruption process!"

Action

"Please read with your child and sign their planner at least three times per week to support their learning and progress."

Year 4

It's been an eventful first week back in Year 4 this week! In maths we have been working hard on mixed fractions and using number lines to help. In English, we have been continuing with our class novel 'Journey to Jo'burg', where the children have been writing a setting description about a riot in one of the chapters. Meanwhile in science, we have started our new topic of the human digestive system, identifying and exploring different parts and their functions.

Action

"Continue to practice timetables at home using Hit The Button and Ur brainy MTC. Ensure homework is complete and read at least three times a week. Lastly world book day is next Thursday the 5th where the year group theme is as follows: Year 4 – Descriptive Words for Imagery - Examples: dazzling, jagged, shimmering, ancient, - Costume ideas: Glitter/foil for shimmering, zigzag paper for jagged, toga for ancient"



Year Group Updates

Year 5

Welcome back and Ramadhan Mubarak to all those who are celebrating. Year 5 have completed their DT cushions, confidently using the blanket and over stitch to join their fabric neatly and securely (thankfully keeping most of the stuffing inside!) In English, they have been exploring balanced arguments, turning their opinions into well-developed pieces using formal language, clear reasoning and thoughtful explanations (future debaters in the making!). In Maths, they have been converting decimals into percentages and fractions, and comparing and ordering them using inequality signs proving that numbers really can be greater than, less than, or equal to the challenge!

Action

"Please continue to read 3 times per week and complete your homework. Thank you!

Year 6

"Ramadan Mubarak to all of our families who are observing and fasting. This week in Maths, the children have been exploring line graphs, dual bar charts and pie charts. They have been developing their skills in interpreting data by asking thoughtful questions and drawing as much information as possible from the charts provided. In English, we have begun learning about the key features of a diary entry and how to write in a personal and reflective style. We are continuing to read Holes, which the class is thoroughly enjoying, and the children are engaging really well with the story and its characters. In Science, we have been learning about the circulatory system, exploring how the heart and blood vessels work together to transport oxygen and nutrients around the body." "In Maths this term, Year 6 have begun an exciting new unit on Statistics. The children are learning how to collect, interpret and present data using line graphs and bar charts. They are developing their skills in reading scales accurately, plotting data carefully, and analysing information to draw conclusions. In English, Year 6 have been exploring figurative language and are developing a strong understanding of how it enhances writing. They can now identify and use techniques such as similes, metaphors, personification and powerful imagery to make their work more engaging and expressive."

Action

"Please ensure that your child is reading regularly at home, completing all homework that is set, and logging on to Century Tech each week. Even if no specific homework has been assigned, they can still access Century Tech and work through the 'Recommended Path'. This is a valuable revision tool that will help them prepare for their SATs."



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.