

# 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: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026



*Doug Stitcher*  
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone has had a good week.

I have been at another school most of this week providing some support which has meant that I was very sad to miss our World Book Day fun!

I hear it was a great day and the variety of words everyone came dress up as really was incredible! Thank you for helping your child get involved and helping us to keep the profile of the importance of reading as high as possible!

On a sadder note, this week again we have had to deal with inappropriate behaviour from parents. I need to be clear that we will not tolerate any behaviour from parents that could upset or endanger any members of our school community.

I am very grateful to the majority of parents and guardians who conduct themselves politely and appropriately. It helps us create the safe and welcoming environment St James' is known for!

Let's please keep it that way!

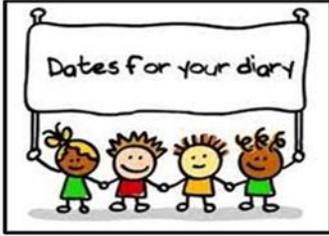
It's hard to believe there are only 3 weeks left of the Spring term! Summer really is on the way.

We have quite a few changes on the way with the new Specialist Inclusion Base I talked about last week as well as some other exciting developments as we keep looking ways to make sure St James' is a school of which we can all be proud.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





**Monday 23rd March 2026**

Eid Lunch

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Easter Lunch

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

Earth Day Lunch

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Year 1 Trip Blackpool Zoo

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026**

**Winmarleigh Hall Residential**



**Year 6 Maths Club**

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> March 3:05pm-3:50pm

**Year 6 Reading Club**

Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> March 3:05-3:50pm

**There will be no Wellbeing Club this term. It will recommence in Summer 1**





Please ensure your child brings a standard **school book bag** instead of a rucksack/backpack to school. 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.





# Cool Milk



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

We would like to inform you that from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.coolmilk.com/parents).

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at [www.coolmilk.com/contact](http://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](http://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](http://www.coolmilk.com)



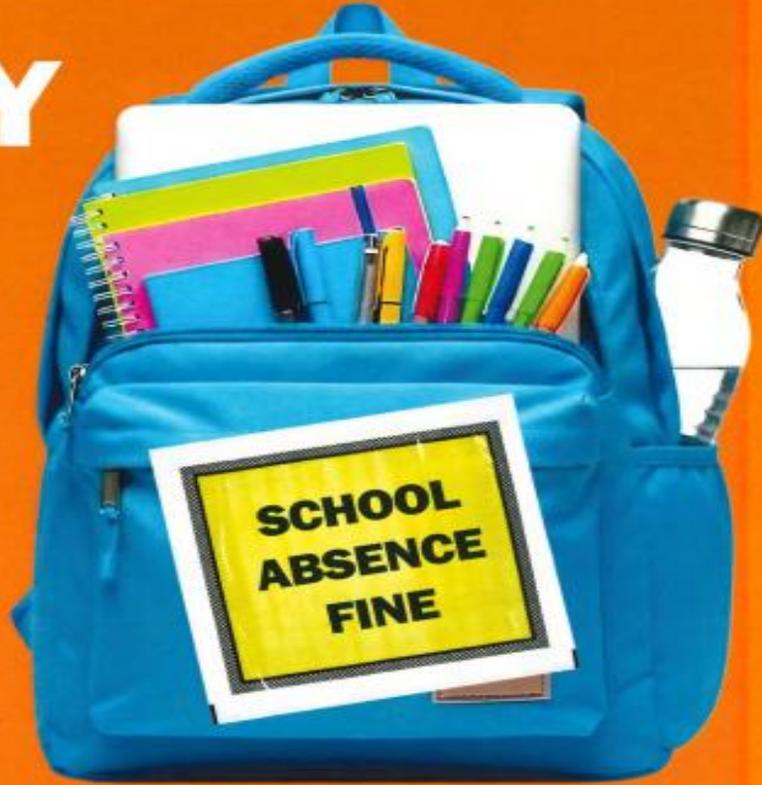
**St James' C of E**  
Primary School

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



# 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](mailto: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**

Headteacher: Mr D. Sticher BA (HONS), PGCE (Dist), NPQH, NPQH  
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (HONS), NPQH  
Email: [office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> March 1pm - 2.30pm

To register your interest please email: [eysend@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto: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](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.





## 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	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025 Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025 Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025 (inc) Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025 Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
<b>SPRING TERM 2026</b>  INSET 4 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on  Number of openings 55	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 (inc) Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026 Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<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	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026 Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 (inc) Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026 Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb  Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March  Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March  Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March  Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday  Tuesday
Year 2 2A and 2K	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb  Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March  Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March  Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March  Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March  Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday  Thursday
Year 3 3L and 3S	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March  Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday  Wednesday
Year 4 4A and 4R	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March  Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March  Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday  Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5M	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb  Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March  Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March  Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday
Year 6 6H and 6V	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb  Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March  Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March  Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday





# attendance ~~MATTERS~~



**CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 2K WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!**

**WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?**

95%  
and  
above

90% -  
94.9%

Below  
90%

RG	97.3%
RW	98.8%
1F	97.0%
1M	99.0%
2A	92.0%
2K	99.4% 
3L	92.1%
3S	94.7%
4A	95.4%
4R	99.2%
5B	97.4%
5M	95.0%
6H	92.9%
6V	99.2%

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		Minhal A, Amayha B, Muhibullah M & Emir B	
RG	Victor R. & Lidya H.	RW	M. Musa H & M. Shaheer
1M	Harris Y & Abdullah M	1F	Zayn Y & Abdul Qadir A
2A	Zoya Q & Amnah H	2K	Zoya N & Rayaan IM
3S	Huda A & Amaya S	3L	Hassan A & Aaminah G
4R	Faris C & Fatima Nalain A	4A	Shehryaar S & Tayyab S
5B	Muhammad M & Zoya A	5M	Ayaan A & Zahra R
6V	Hareth J & Areeba S	6H	Alishba. A. H, & Umar K





# Year Group Updates

## Forest Pre-School & Nursery

Thank you for all of your efforts for World Book Day!

### Action

Please check Famlyapp for updates about World Book Day.

## Reception

The children had a fabulous time at the Sealife Centre and the Gruffalo experience last Friday. They got to experience life in the deep dark wood and looked for Tiddler fish everywhere, but our favourite was the stingray! We have continued work 'under the sea' this week at school. We loved seeing all the of the children's effort on World Book Day yesterday, what fantastic adjectives you all were.

### Action

"Please continue to read at home, we can see a huge difference in those that do practise. Please make sure planners are signed daily. Thanks for your support.





# Year Group Updates

## Year 1

It's been a hectic week in year 3 but we've had a lot of fun whilst learning. We have been studying ancient artefacts and the Stone Age, challenging ourselves to recall synonyms of common words, and turning, balancing and leaping in gymnastics. Everyone enjoyed World Book Day and we will be continuing the theme into our future work.

## Action

Please continue to promote the love of learning at home and sign their diaries once they have read.

## Year 2

"This week, the children have been really enjoying our new class book, Traction Man Is Here! They are very excited about creating and writing their own versions of the story and have already begun sharing some fantastic ideas. We also had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day. The children came to school dressed as a powerful verb, and their costumes looked amazing! It was lovely to see so much creativity, and the children enjoyed talking about the verbs they had chosen."

## Action

"Please continue to encourage your child to practise their 2, 5 and 10 times tables at home, as this will really help build their confidence and fluency in maths. Thank you, as always, for your continued support."



# Year Group Updates

## Year 3

"It's been a hectic week in year 3 but we've had a lot of fun whilst learning. We have been studying ancient artefacts and the Stone Age, challenging ourselves to recall synonyms of common words, and turning, balancing and leaping in gymnastics. Everyone enjoyed World Book Day and we will be continuing the theme into our future work.

## Action

Please read with your child at home at least 3 times a week. Encourage your child to practise 3, 4 and 8 times tables on the Hit the Button website. Thank you.

## Year 4

What a week it has been in Year 4! In English, we finished Journey to Jo'burg, explored persuasive language for a dream job application, and wrote poetry about hope. We also analysed new vocabulary on World Book Day and used it to describe the Great Storm Cat with imagery. In Maths, we focused on fractions, specifically converting mixed numbers to improper fractions. Lastly, we began our new PE topic on tennis, practicing the ready position and recovering to a stable stance to receive the ball during a rally.

## 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.

"



# Year Group Updates

## Year 5

This week the children have been developing their understanding of how to present a balanced argument. They have explored how to consider both sides of an issue, thinking carefully about different viewpoints before forming their own opinion. We have discussed the importance of using clear reasons and evidence to support each side, and the children are now beginning to plan and structure their own balanced arguments. We are looking forward to seeing them apply these skills independently in their upcoming writing. In Maths, the class has successfully completed their unit on decimals, percentages and fractions. They have worked hard to understand the links between these concepts and have shown great confidence in converting and solving problems involving all three. We have now moved on to our new unit on area and perimeter, where the children are beginning to apply their multiplication knowledge to calculate the area of rectangles and explore how to measure and compare different shapes. In Art, the children have started an exciting project inspired by The Great Wave by Katsushika Hokusai. Using everyday materials, they are creating their own interpretations of this famous artwork. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and problem-solving skills shine as they experiment with texture, shape and form to bring their waves to life.

## Action

Please complete century tech homework

## Year 6

"This week in Maths, Year 6 have successfully completed their Statistics unit. The children worked hard interpreting and presenting data using a range of graphs and charts, including line graphs and pie charts. They also developed their skills in analysing data and drawing conclusions from the information presented. We are very proud of the progress they have made. We have now begun our new topic on Ratio. So far, the children have been exploring the concept of ratio and how it can be used to compare quantities. Over the coming weeks, they will apply this understanding to solve a variety of reasoning and problem-solving questions. In English, the class have completed their diary entries based on characters from Holes. They worked thoughtfully to capture the characters' voices, thoughts and emotions, showing a strong understanding of the text."

## Action

Please ensure that all Century Tech homework is completed by the assigned deadline. The platform will automatically set follow-up tasks based on your child's progress, so it is important that any recommended actions are also completed.





# 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](#)

Twitter: [@st\\_blackburn](#)

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

