

# 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: 19th March 2026



*Doug Stitcher*  
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to wish everyone in our school community celebrating a very peaceful and blessed Eid. We look forward to celebrating with you on Monday as we have our Eid Celebrations in school.

At last, the warmer weather seems to be here so just a quick reminder to make sure your child comes to school prepared for the weather. If it is going to be sunny, you may want to apply long-lasting suncream before they come into school; and send them with plenty of water to drink as well as protective clothing for the sunshine when outside. It's much better than hats and scarves!

As some of you may be aware, we have been asked to allow the Local Authority to use our Nursery building as a polling station on Thursday 7th May 2026. As much as I would rather not close the nursery, unfortunately, I'm not legally allowed to refuse! So

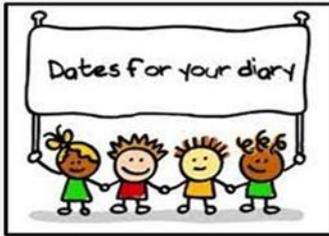
please remember that the nursery will be closed on Thursday 7th May. The rest of the school will be open as usual. I am really sorry for the inconvenience this will cause.

And finally, on Monday, we are into the last week of the Spring Term! Time has just flown by this year. But we have a packed summer term ahead of us including our competitive sports' day, Year 6 tests, performances and trips! So much to look forward to (well, apart from the tests!).

Have a lovely weekend; and if you are celebrating, Eid Mubarak,

Mr D. Stitcher





### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

SATs Parent's Meeting @ 3:15pm KS2 Hall

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

Eid Lunch & Eid Party

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Easter Church service

### **Friday 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

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Polling Day

### **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**



We would like to say a huge thank you for your donations with the cake sale. We managed to raise just over £230! The money raised will go towards Water Aid, a charity which will provide communities with access to clean water.





## EID PARTY CELEBRATIONS



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are pleased to share that the children will be celebrating Eid in school with a special party on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 in the afternoon.

Children are invited to come to school wearing their **party clothes** for the celebrations.

Please provide your child with pre-packed food (no nuts, please).

Children should wear sensible footwear to ensure they can take part safely in all activities.

We are looking forward to a joyful day of celebration with the children.

Thank you for your continued support.





# Happy Eid Al Fitr

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

**Celebration Lunch**

Halal Chicken Biryani,  
Vegetables Samosa with Raita  
or

Pasta Spirals & Tomato sauce  
or

Baked Jacket Potato with a choice of Filling.  
Special Eid Treat

*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!*



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



# Easter Lunch

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

**Halal Chicken & Pineapple  
Pizza**

*or*

**Homemade Pizza  
Margherita & Baked Chips**

*or*

**Harry Ramsden's Crispy  
Battered Fish with Oven  
Baked Chips**

**Choice of Easter Treat  
Desserts**

**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 this tasty lunch!



**LANCASHIRE  
CATERING SERVICE**





# WALK FOR WATER WEEK

The Worship Committee wants to raise money for WaterAid after learning that some girls must walk 5 km to collect fresh water instead of attending school.

*696 million people in the world – almost one in ten – don't have clean water close to home. For women and girls, the burden is even greater, with many walking for hours every single day to fetch water – denying them the opportunity to go to school, earn a living, and take control of their futures.*

All classes will walk up to 5 km over the week beginning 20th April.

Please bring in a £1 donation to help raise funds for WaterAid.

# Walk For Water



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Primary School



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## NURSERY POLLING STATION – PARENT INFORMATION

Dear Parent/Guardians,

We would like to inform you that the Early years Centre will be used as an official Polling Station for the upcoming local election on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026**.

The nursery will not be opened to children on this day. This is due to safeguarding and site requirements.

The rest of the school will continue to operate as normal.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.





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)



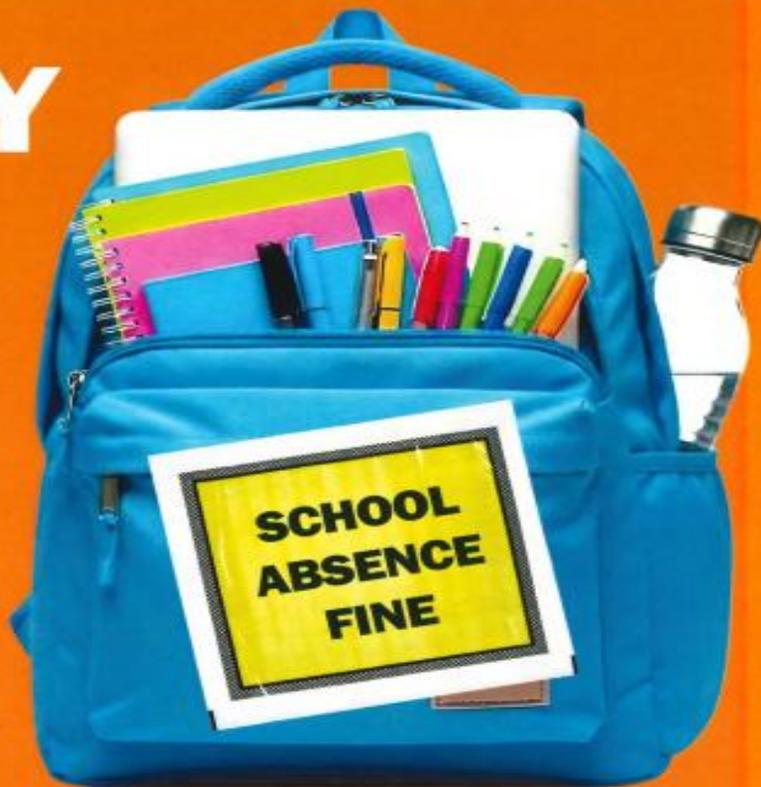
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# PENALTY NOTICE FINES

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](mailto:education.welfare@blackburn.gov.uk)





# TIDDLERS 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](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 4R & 6H WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!**

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

RG	<b>98.1%</b>
RW	<b>93.0%</b>
1F	<b>97.6%</b>
1M	<b>96.7%</b>
2A	<b>94.5%</b>
2K	<b>94.8%</b>
3L	<b>96.8%</b>
3S	<b>98.9%</b>
4A	<b>93.7%</b>
4R	<b>99.3%</b> 
5B	<b>96.6%</b>
5M	<b>98.3%</b>
6H	<b>99.3%</b> 
6V	<b>96.0%</b>

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.





# Year Group Updates

## Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"🌙🌟 Eid Mubarak to all our wonderful nursery families!  
🌟🌙 Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Eid filled with love, laughter, and special moments with your loved ones. Thank you for being such an important part of our nursery community. It is a privilege to share in your children's early learning journey. May this Eid bring happiness, good health, and blessings to you all. We look forward to welcoming everyone back and hearing your lovely Eid stories!"

## Action

"We would love to see how you're celebrating! Please feel free to share your special Eid photos with us via FamilyApp 📷 We can't wait to see your lovely moments!"

## Reception

Reception have continued with their theme of 'under the sea' by looking at the book Octopants. They have also looked at, how we can stay healthy, doubling numbers and seasons. We enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits as an Eid treat in the discovery area.

## Action

We wish all those who are celebrating a Happy Eid!



# Year Group Updates

## Year 1

Eid Mubarak to all those who are celebrating! We hope you have a lovely time spending it with your family.

## Action

Just a reminder about the Year 1 trip. If you have not already please can you bring in the letter and money for the trip. If you have lost the letter we can give you a new one.

## Year 2

"We have had a fantastic and busy week in class! On Tuesday, we celebrated Science Week. This year's theme was "Curiosity: What's your question?" The children explored how the environment affects plants by comparing growth in different conditions. They asked thoughtful questions and showed great curiosity throughout the investigation. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning! In Art, we began creating our own 3D clay sculptures inspired by Keith Haring. The children have really enjoyed shaping their figures and are very excited to complete their final pieces."

## Action

"Please continue to listen to your child read at least three times a week. On Monday, we will be having our Eid party. Children are welcome to come to school in their Eid or party clothes. Thank you for your continued support."



# Year Group Updates

## Year 3

"This week, Year 3 have continued to make excellent progress. In Maths, pupils have been learning to divide two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. They have explored a range of strategies, including the use of part-whole models and place value charts, to support their understanding and develop confidence in their calculations. In English, pupils have been focusing on planning a non-chronological report. They have been learning how to structure their writing effectively whilst including clear, factual information."

## Action

Warmest wishes for a joyful and blessed Eid to all those celebrating.

## Year 4

Year 4 have continued to work hard this week across a range of subjects. In English, we have continued to learn about Rosa Parks, looking at how she fought for justice and what she achieved in her later life. Additionally, we have been developing our skills of using formal language which we will be putting to use in a biography write next week. In maths, we have been finishing up our fractions topic by subtracting in a variety of ways. Lastly, in RE, we have looked at forgiveness quotes from a mixture of faiths and discussed how we can carry out this value in our own lives.

## 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, Year 5 have shown fantastic enthusiasm and creativity in their learning. They thoroughly enjoyed writing their imaginative fantasy stories, using a washing machine as a magical portal to other worlds. It was wonderful to see their ideas come to life through rich descriptions, exciting plots, and unique characters.

In Geography, the children demonstrated great curiosity while analysing population density maps of Scotland and Peru. They developed their skills in interpreting data and began to understand how physical and human factors influence where people live.

## Action

Overall, Year 5 have worked incredibly hard this week and should be very proud of their efforts. Well done!

Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating!

## Year 6

"In Maths, the children have now completed their topic on ratio. They have worked hard to understand how to compare quantities and solve ratio problems, and it has been great to see their confidence grow. In English, we are beginning a new unit on adventure stories based on the text Holes. The children will be exploring the themes, characters, and setting of the story, and using this as inspiration to plan and write their own exciting adventure narratives. Alongside this, we are continuing to strengthen their reading skills to support their understanding and help them feel more confident as they prepare for their SATs tests."

## Action

Finally, we would like to wish all children and families who will be celebrating Eid this week a joyful and peaceful time. Eid Mubarak to those celebrating!



# 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.

