

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 March 2026



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Well, here we are on the last day of the Spring Term 2026!

I hope everyone celebrating had a wonderful Eid – we continued the celebrations in school on Monday.

Our attention now turns to Easter and this week saw our Easter service, Easter dinner and Easter raffle – a big thank you to everyone who came to our service yesterday.

I would just like to remind parents that posting negative comments about school on social media is not a productive way of resolving issues. Unfortunately, this week, we have been made aware of some posts that were put up before our staff were even given an opportunity to investigate the issue raised.

We ask all parents to sign a home/school agreement and, as part of that agreement, we expect that parents avoid from posting comments about us online. Instead, come and speak to us – we have a robust system in place to deal with complaints or issues, and we

find most issues can be resolved by discussion and working together. Posting negative comments about staff can put you at risk of legal action if the statements are defamatory and untrue so, please come and chat to us. You'll get a much quicker resolution and the whole community won't be made aware of it!

Thank you to everyone who does do this and we are very grateful for the strong partnerships that already exist between home and school.

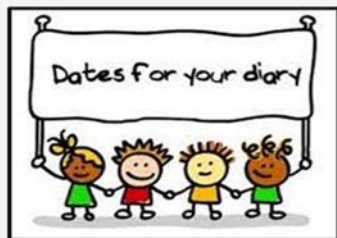
You may recall I told you about our new SEND unit proposal. I will be sending out more information about this next term as begin a formal consultation process.

School re-opens to everyone on **Monday 13th April 2026** – we look forward to seeing you all then!

And finally, to everyone celebrating, I would like to wish you a very Happy Easter.

Mr D. Stitcher





Friday 27th March

School closure after 3:05pm

Monday 13th April 2026

School Re-open

Friday 17th April 2026

Year 1 Trip Blackpool Zoo

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Year 4 Trip Liverpool World Museum

Monday 4th May 2026

May Day Closure

Thursday 7th May 2026

Polling Day

Monday 1st June – Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Winmarleigh Hall Residential





Free Easter half term activities available at the Family Hub's, Children's Centre's & Community spaces (0-8 years)

Free Meals Available for children Tuesday 7th April-Friday 10th April at the Family Hubs and Hancock Street Children's Centre
Please contact 01254585000 to book the free meals for children

	Time	Location	Activities
Monday 30th March	10:30am – 11:30am	Hancock St Children's Centre	Spring Time Messy Play
	1:00pm – 2:00 pm	Wensley Fold Children's Centre	Breastfeeding Support Group
	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Highercroft Children's Centre	Step into Spring
	1:00pm – 2:30pm	Family Hub Darwen	Easter Fun
Tuesday 31st April	10:00am – 11:00am	Family Hub Darwen	Watch me grow
	10:00am – 11:30am	Family Hub Little Harwood	Easter Fun
	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Hancock St Children's Centre	Easter crafts
	1:00pm-2:00pm	Family Hub Livesey	Breastfeeding Support Group
Wednesday 1st April	9:30am – 10:30am	Family Hub Shadsworth	Easter Fun
	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Family Hub Shadsworth	Breastfeeding Support Group
	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Hancock St Children's Centre	Step into Spring
	1:00-3:00pm	St Aidans Church	Active Seasons with Refresh, Family Hubs and others
Thursday 2nd April	10:30am – 12:00pm	Family Hub Shadsworth	On the Farm Crafts & Activities
	12:30pm – 1:30pm	Family Hub Little Harwood	Breastfeeding Support Group
	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Family Hub Livesey	Easter Fun
Friday 3rd April	Closed-Good Friday		

We will be joining Blackburn with Darwen Refresh teams for Active Seasons in community venues over the Easter Holidays please check their website for more information www.refreshbwd.com





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



St James' C of E
Primary School



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Primary School

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



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 7th 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 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



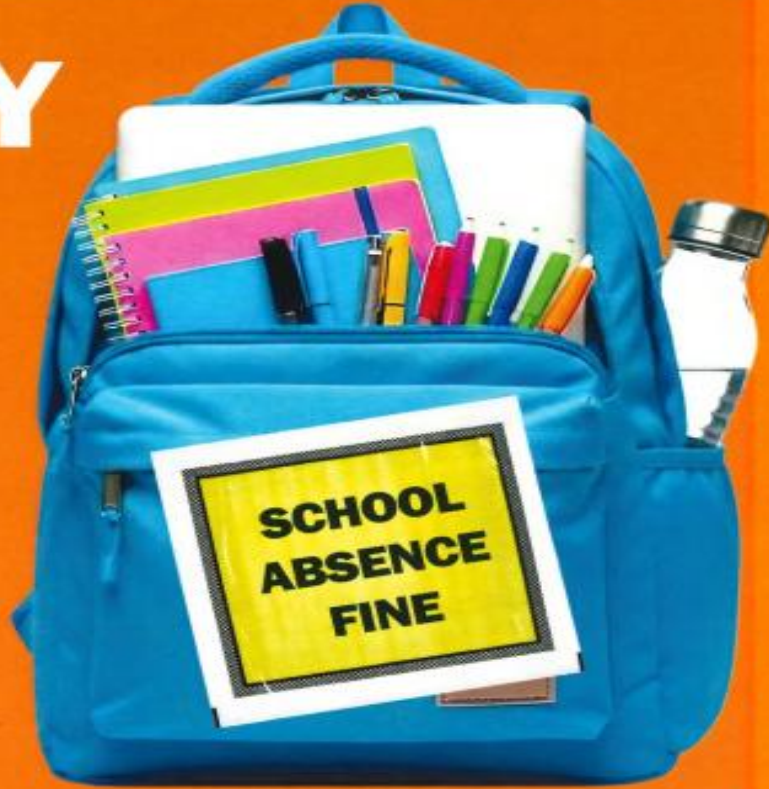
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PENALTY NOTICE FINES

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





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



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 17 th April	Friday 24 th April	Friday 1 st May	Friday 8 th May	Friday 15 th May	Friday 22 nd May
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday 13 th April Tuesday 14 th April	Monday 20 th April Tuesday 21 st April	Monday 27 th April Tuesday 28 th April	Monday No PE Tuesday 5 th May	Monday 11 th May Tuesday 12 th May	Monday 18 th May Tuesday 19 th May
Year 2 2A and 2K	Wednesday 15 th April Thursday 16 th April	Wednesday 22 nd April Thursday 23 rd April	Wednesday 29 th April Thursday 30 th April	Wednesday 6 th May Thursday 7 th May	Wednesday 13 th May Thursday 14 th May	Wednesday 20 th May Thursday 21 st May
Year 3 3L and 3S	Monday 13 th April Wednesday 15 th April	Wednesday 22 nd April	Monday 27 th April Wednesday 29 th April	Wednesday 6 th May	Monday 11 th May Wednesday 13 th May	Wednesday 20 th May
Year 4 4A and 4R	Monday 20 th April Thursday 16 th April	Thursday 23 rd April	Monday 27 th April Thursday 30 th April	Thursday 7 th May	Monday 11 th May Thursday 14 th May	Thursday 21 st May
Year 5 5B and 5M	Friday 17 th April	Monday 20 th April Friday 24 th April	Friday 1 st May	Monday No PE Friday 8 th May	Friday 15 th May	Monday 18 th May Friday 22 nd May
Year 6 6H and 6V	Tuesday 14 th April	Monday 20 th April Tuesday 21 st April	Tuesday 28 th April	Monday No PE Tuesday 5 th May	Tuesday 12 th May	Monday 18 th May Tuesday 19 th May





attendance ~~MATTERS~~



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

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	98.9%	🏆
RW	89.0%	
1F	97.6%	
1M	87.2%	
2A	98.3%	
2K	91.9%	
3L	92.9%	
3S	93.5%	
4A	88.5%	
4R	97.1%	
5B	94.0%	
5M	92.7%	
6H	94.0%	
6V	95.9%	

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 & Ahmed L.	RW	Burhan A & Shaheer U
1M	M.Husayn A & M. Harris F	1F	Farhan I & Khadija C
2A	Amna S & Muhammad-Hassan S	2K	Yusha D & Amaan P
3S	Zareesh W & Aysha K	3L	Emaan F & Hamza F
4R	Mohammed Issa H & Mahir K	4A	All of 4A
5B	5B!	5M	Haleema M & Inaaya A
6V	Halima S & M.Zayn B	6H	Fatima P & Fatima T





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"Thank you to all our wonderful pre-school and nursery children for your hard work and for always trying your very best this term. You have all done an amazing job, and we are so proud of you! Have a lovely break, enjoy your holidays, and we cannot wait to see you all again soon."

Action

Please can all parents return the Forest School forms at your earliest convenience. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Reception

Our week began with a fabulous Eid party where we enjoyed sharing stories about Eid, outfits, food and had fun playing party games and dancing together. The week continued with the story 'The Ugly Duckling' and the children enjoyed crafting and creating chicks using different materials. In maths we have continued with consolidating number bonds up to 10 and exploring 3D shapes in continuous provision, as well as celebrating 'number' on maths day! To finish the week off we have visited Church and will be looking at Easter.

Action

Have a lovely half term. Enjoy spending time with your children, enjoying time together. To support your child's progress you can read and share stories together, play board games working on turn taking and visit the park!



Year Group Updates

Year 1

"For those who celebrated, we hope you had a lovely Eid. This week, we have created and painted clay animals based on the artist Tanya Russell. We have also created fruit kebabs in D.T, after researching different types of fruit. The children enjoyed eating them the most! :)"

Action

We hope you have a nice break and we will see you in 2 weeks!

Year 2

"What a lovely week we have had! On Monday we had our Eid party, where the children enjoyed crafting, dancing and eating. The children have also been busy writers. They have innovated their story based on 'Traction Man is Here'. Make sure to ask your child which exciting mission their hero character went on. We also enjoyed going to Church on Thursday to watch a lovely Easter service presented by 4A. The Year 2 Worship Committee did a fantastic job reading out our prayers at the end of the service. "

Action

"Please continue to read and complete homework with your child. We hope you have a lovely half term break."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

"Year 3 have had a super busy week! In maths, the children have been developing their understanding of scaling and multiplication, while in English they have been exploring creative writing through fantasy stories. The children also really enjoyed practising their timetables in preparation for the timetables competition on Wednesday. Well done to St David's, who brought home the win! "

Action

We hope that those of you who celebrated had a blessed Eid. Please continue to listen to your child read during the holidays. Have a lovely break!

Year 4

This week has been filled with exciting activities in Year 4! We kicked off the week with an Eid party, playing games and celebrating together as a year group. In English, students completed their biographies about Rosa Parks, focusing on using formal language to capture her remarkable legacy. Our Maths Day was a highlight, where the children took on a variety of challenges and showcased their skills in the times tables competition. Additionally, in Science, we delved into the world of food chains, exploring the characteristics of producers, prey and predators.

Action

As we will be having time away from the classroom over the Easter holidays, timestables practice needs to be prioritised to ensure children are not having to 'catch up' when they return to school. Therefore, ensure you are practicing timestables using Hit the Button and Urbrainy MTC at home. This way, each child can hit the ground running in summer. There is no other homework over Easter.



Year Group Updates

Year 5

"This week, Year 5 have shown fantastic creativity and enthusiasm across the curriculum. They worked incredibly hard to complete their beautiful canvases inspired by The Great Wave, thoughtfully using a range of everyday materials to add texture and depth. The finished pieces are truly impressive and reflect both imagination and perseverance. In English, the children have written some wonderfully engaging mystery stories based around a washing machine portal. Their ideas have been original and exciting, and they have worked hard to build suspense and develop their writing skills. In history, Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Vikings. They explored what made Viking warriors so successful, examining their fighting techniques, weapons, and the importance of their longships. The children showed great curiosity and asked thoughtful questions throughout the topic. Well done, Year 5, for a brilliant term of learning!"

Action

Please complete century tech homework and remember to ready at least 3 x per week - thank you!

Year 6

"This week in Year 6, the children have been working incredibly hard. In maths, we have been exploring algebra and have now moved on to applying our skills in measurement. In reading, the class has been practising key SATs strategies as we continue preparing for the tests in May. We also enjoyed a wonderful Eid celebration on Monday – the children had a fantastic time sharing snacks, drinks and spending time together as a year group.

Action

The children have brought home their maths revision booklet to complete over the Easter holidays. They have also taken home their algebra booklets, which they are welcome to use if they would like some extra practice. Some pupils have been given additional reading homework too. Please continue to support your child by encouraging them to read for at least 20 minutes each day. If the children would like to prepare further for their SATs, they can access past papers – all pupils know exactly where to find these



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.

