

# St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School  
Earl Street  
Blackburn  
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01254 698 335

office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

Date: Friday 24th April 2026



*Doug Stitcher*

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

What a lovely week of weather we've had! It's so nice to have a bit of sunshine – everything just seems a little more cheerful.

We've had a very busy week in school this week with our litter picking day really making a difference around school. Thank you to everyone involved in organising this and thank you for supporting our non-uniform day.

Yesterday, Year 4 had a wonderful day at the Liverpool World Museum. I invited myself along! It was great to see how excited and curious the children were! I don't think I've ever seen that much excitement in a museum before! Although I do wish I had a pound for every time a child asked me if it was lunchtime yet!

We have had a couple of near-misses on the road in the last two weeks with parents driving dangerously close to Mr Newell. Please be very careful when dropping off. If you must drop off close to the crossing, make sure you leave

enough room so that Mr Newell can clearly see up and down Earl Street so that he can get your children across the road as safely as possible.

It is a criminal offence to fail to stop or drive at a traffic patrol officer so please do bear this in mind if you have to drive to school.

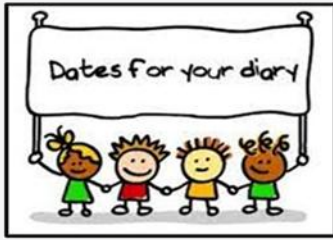
And finally, please don't forget that due to the local elections, the Nursery will be closed to pupils on Thursday 7th May 2026. This is due to the closure of the Catholic church opposite Key Stage 2 which means the Local Authority need to choose another building to accommodate the voting.

The rest of the school (Reception to Year 6) will be open as normal.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Year 6 Residential Meeting @ 3:15pm

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

May Day School Closure

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

Polling Day (EYC Closed)

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

SATs Week

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

Mid term School Closure @ 3:05pm

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

School Re-open

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

Winmarleigh Hall Residential

**Year 6 Maths Club**

Tues 14/04 – 12/05 3:05pm – 3:50pm

**Year 6 Reading Club**

Thurs 16/04 – 07/05 3:05pm – 3:50pm

**Year 1M Phonics Club**

Mon 20/04 – 11/05 3:05pm – 3:50pm

**Year 2 Reading Club**

Tues 21/04-13/05 3:05pm – 3:50pm

**KS2 Gymnastics Club**

Tues 14/04-12/05 3:05pm -3:50pm





Thank you to everyone who took part in the Earth Day Non-Uniform Day. The WOW Ambassadors have collected just over £270 which will go towards new books on the subject of climate change, pollution, and protecting our environment.





# Newsletter

Mental Health Support Team  
April 2026

**MHST? Who are we?**

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) provides an accessible service for students from primary age to year 13 who may be experiencing a range of mental health difficulties with their mental health.

The team are based within education settings and cover Year 1 to Year 11 in Blackburn with Darwen and Burnley, Burnley College, Year 7 to Year 8 in Preston and Year 7-12 in Heywood, Rossendale and Ribblesdale and Ribble Valley (including Nelson and Colne and Accrington College).

If you have noticed your child is feeling frequently sad, worried or anxious and feel they may need support from our team, please speak to a member of staff at your child's school, who can support a referral to the service. You can also speak to your GP.

**Team News**

Hi everyone,  
We hope you all had a relaxing Easter break and enjoyed some of the sunshine we had.

Staff from the team have also had some time off over the bank holiday weekend. We have been busy putting new resources together, creating workshops and of course still continuing to see some young people at Children's Centres and online. This issue of the MHST Newsletter contains information and signposting for Mental Health Awareness Week coming up in May and also some tips around supporting your child with exam stress.

**Young Peoples Column**

During the winter holidays we met as a group and spent time reflecting on the topic of Mental Health and Stigma, we had an interesting discussion and have shared our thoughts with the Communications team at LSDF who are in the process of developing a campaign looking at this topic.

We also spent time looking at a clip of the MHST video which is fun for relaxation and hope. This video will show young people who get referred to the team what they can expect on their first appointment.

Finally we spent time working with staff on designing a booking package, we are hoping to work on this over the next few weeks in May. We are always looking for new examples to feel free to join us on social media.

## Signposting and Information

NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Click on the images or scan the QR codes

**Place 2Be**  
Exam stress  
Navigating exam season - free resources

**YOUNGMINDS**  
Exam stress

**Mental Health UK**

**SUPPORT RESISTANCE GUIDANCE**

**ParkPlay**  
What is Play? How to play with your child. Play is a key part of your child's development. It helps them learn, explore, and have fun. Play is also a great way to build relationships and learn social skills.

**SAVE THE DATE GET JOB READY**  
THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026  
10am - 3pm  
Blackburn Youth Centre

Careers advice for young people - New Directions

Follow us for regular updates and helpful tips:  
Facebook: [Cyren East MHst](#)  
Instagram: [cyren\\_east\\_mhst](#)  
QR Code:

# Mental Health Awareness Week

## 11-17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

Mental Health Awareness Week this year will take place from Monday 11 - Sunday 17 May 2026. The theme, as set by the Mental Health Foundation, is to **Take Action**.

Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 invites us all to Take Action to protect and improve our mental wellbeing, as well as the wellbeing of others. This year's theme highlights that meaningful change often starts with small, everyday actions — from starting an open and honest conversation, to making time for rest, connection, and self-care, or offering support to someone who may be struggling. Taking action can also mean recognizing when we need help and feeling able to seek it without fear or judgement. Throughout the week, we'll be sharing ideas, resources, and activities designed to encourage positive steps and collective responsibility. By taking action together, we can help break down stigma, build resilience, and create a culture where mental health is valued, supported, and prioritised all year round.

**WAYS TO TAKE ACTION FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

- Talk to a friend or someone you trust about anything that is on your mind.
- Reflect on your feelings, and take positive steps to look after yourself.
- Create healthy habits, like getting more sleep or eating your body.
- Set boundaries with social media and activities that are stressful or overwhelming.
- Learn about mental health to understand yourself and others better.
- Be kind - reach out to others who are struggling.

**ACTION FOR YOURSELF FOR SOMEONE ELSE FOR ALL OF US.**

**CLICK HERE**

## Exam Stress

NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

### How to help your child manage exam stress: Tips for parents

- Work with your child to find revision strategies that work for them.
- Validate their feelings - these are normal! Offer support and solutions.
- Encourage them to take revision breaks and plan to do enjoyable activities.
- Plan a treat or an activity to celebrate the end of exams.
- Encourage a good bedtime routine.
- Reinforce and reassure that you will be proud of them no matter what.
- Make sure they are eating and drinking regularly.
- Work with to develop relaxation techniques.
- Get aside 1-2 times so they can talk to you about any worries.
- Remain positive and hopeful.



## 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)



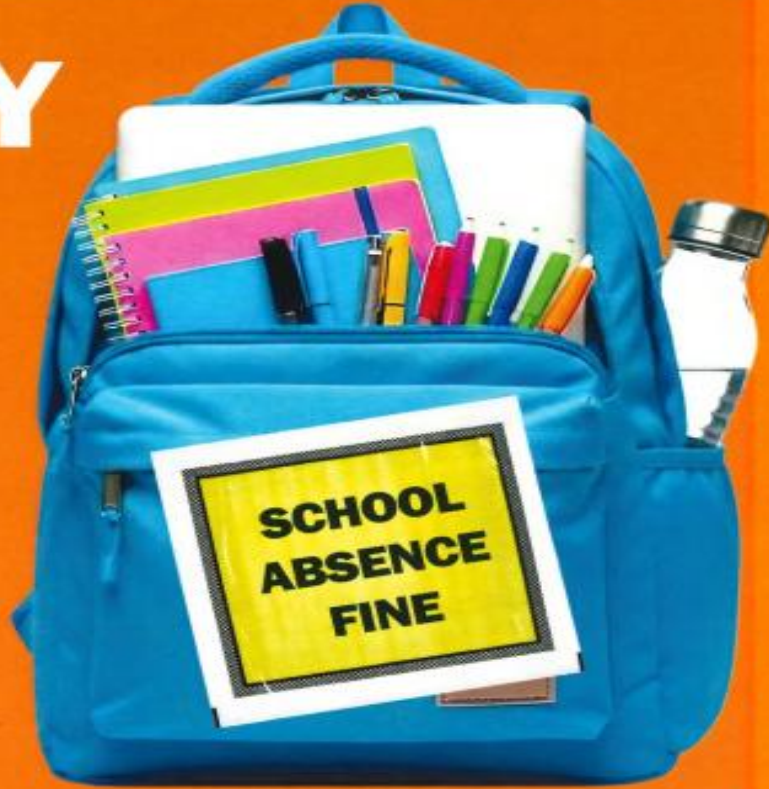
**St James' C of E**  
Primary School

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)





## 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	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025
Re-open on	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025
Closure after School	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Mid Term Closure	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025 (inc)
Re-open on	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025
Closure after school on	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
INSET 3	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Number of openings 75	
<b>SPRING TERM 2026</b>	
INSET 4	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Re-open on	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Closure after School	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 (inc)
Re-open on	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Closure after school on	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Number of openings 55	
<b>SUMMER TERM 2026</b>	
Re-open on	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
May Day Closure	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Closure after School	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 (inc)
Re-open on	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2026
Closure after school	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
INSET 5	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Number of openings 65	





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





# attendance ~~MATTERS~~



**CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 3S WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!**

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

95%  
and  
above

90% -  
94.9%

Below  
90%

RG	92.6%
RW	94.2%
1F	92.0%
1M	95.8%
2A	95.9%
2K	88.1%
3L	98.2%
3S	98.6%
4A	90.0%
4R	95.0%
5B	99.0%
5M	98.2%
6H	93.6%
6V	98.2%



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?

<b>Pre-School &amp; Nursery</b>		<b>Romaisa A, Muhammad Muhibullah, Mohammed Ali, Maryam P.</b>	
<b>RG</b>	<b>Yakub N. &amp; Mohammad Adam I.</b>	<b>RW</b>	<b>Miguel C &amp; Ayaan M</b>
<b>1M</b>	<b>Hamza P &amp; Safaa A</b>	<b>1F</b>	<b>Ahmad P &amp; Andreea D</b>
<b>2A</b>	<b>Munashe M &amp; Aaisha P</b>	<b>2K</b>	<b>Amara A &amp; Duha S</b>
<b>3S</b>	<b>Adn-Zoha H &amp; Aasiyah C</b>	<b>3L</b>	<b>Inaaya M &amp; Anastasia A</b>
<b>4R</b>	<b>Arsalan K &amp; Fatima Zahra R</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>All of 4A</b>
<b>5B</b>	<b>Hilal J &amp; Adam Al M</b>	<b>5M</b>	<b>Ayaan A &amp; Aaisha U</b>
<b>6V</b>	<b>Hareth J &amp; Manahil M</b>	<b>6H</b>	<b>M. Tabraiz &amp; M. Moeez.I</b>





# Year Group Updates

## Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"This week at nursery has been full of fun, exploration, and learning! We had a wonderful time during our Parents Play and Stay session. It was lovely to share activities together and see the children so engaged and excited. The children have been learning about the life cycle of a frog, showing great curiosity as they explored how frogs grow and change. Outdoors, we made the most of the fresh air by trying the zipline, building obstacle courses, and creating our very own "dinosaur land" using imaginative play and teamwork. We also enjoyed spending time in nature, watching and chasing butterflies, which brought lots of excitement and encouraged the children to observe the world around them."

## Action

"A gentle reminder: please can all parents return their funding forms as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation."

## Reception

This week in reception we have been looking at the story The Enormous Turnip. We have planted sunflower plants in our discovery area and are looking forward to watching them grow! In maths we have been looking at numerical patterns and understanding the counting system to 20. As part of Earth week, we have thought about 'our power, our planet'. As part of this, we have made windmills, planted seeds in the classroom and have been litter picking.

## Action

It is really important at this time of year to bring in book bags and reading diaries daily. Children are now in new phonics groups and this will be changed by their phonics teacher.



# Year Group Updates

## Year 1

"This week, we have celebrated Earth Day. We have learning about how to keep our planet clean. As a school we have been litter picking to keep our local area clean. We have also been doing 8 laps of the playground each day to show the children what some people have to do to get fresh water. Thank you to all those who have donated to the charity."

## Action

As the weather is starting to warm up, please ensure your child brings in a hat and sun cream is applied before they come to school.

## Year 2

" This week has been extremely busy! As well as all the amazing learning, we have been completing our Walk for Water to raise money for WaterAid, and the children showed great enthusiasm and determination throughout. We also enjoyed a non-uniform day to celebrate Earth Day and raise awareness of how we can all help to protect our planet. As part of our Geography ELO, we went litter picking around the school grounds, and the children took great pride in helping to keep our environment clean. They had some fantastic discussions about caring for the environment and shared lots of thoughtful ideas about how they can make a difference. Thank you for your continued support!"

## Action

As the weather starts to get warmer, please ensure your child has sunscreen applied before school. If possible, they should also bring a sun hat and a water bottle each day. On Thursday 30th April, 2A will be presenting a Celebration of Work Worship at 8:55am. We are looking forward to seeing you there! If you have anything you wish to discuss, please speak to a member of the Year 2 team."



# Year Group Updates

## Year 3

"This week, Year 3 have been super busy! We are incredibly proud of the children for completing their end-of-unit maths assessment. They performed exceptionally well, and their hard work has certainly paid off. Well done, Year 3! In science, we had lots of fun creating our own fossils. Using bread and sweets, we made imprints to explore how fossils are formed. It was a hands-on activity that helped bring our learning to life! On Wednesday, we marked Earth Day by learning more about how we can care for our planet. The children also took part in litter picking on Tuesday, showing great enthusiasm and responsibility. This experience has inspired them to help keep our environment clean and safe. We also enjoyed taking part in "Walk for Water" each day. This activity helped us understand the challenges some people face around the world while also keeping us active. It has left us feeling thoughtful and inspired."

## Action

"As the weather becomes warmer, please feel free to send your child in with a hat and sunglasses. We also kindly ask that all children bring a water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day.

Thank you."

## Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week this week. We have enjoyed litter picking for Earth Day and conducting a power audit. The children really enjoyed the trip to Liverpool World Museum and they were so well behaved. They particularly enjoyed seeing the artefacts of the Ancient Egyptians and the aquarium.

## Action

Please continue to learn times tables daily as the MTC check is only a few weeks away.



# Year Group Updates

## Year 5

This week, children in Year 5 have been dissecting plants. They did this to look at all the parts of a plant and to understand their purpose. The children have also celebrated Earth Day. On Wednesday, the children understood importance of renewable energy whilst also looking at the positives and negatives of it too.

## Action

## Year 6

"This week in Maths, the children have begun their new topic on shape and have enjoyed exploring different properties and patterns. Each afternoon, the whole school has taken part in our 'Walking for Water' challenge, completing a 15-minute walk around the astroturf to raise awareness. On Monday, pupils also joined in a whole-school litter pick as part of our Earth Day celebrations, showing great enthusiasm for caring for our planet. The children loved coming to school in their own clothes and took pride in doing their part to help the environment.

## Action

Please ensure your child is continuing to read for 20 minutes a day and completing their homework on time. Another reminder for the children to access the SATS paper guide website to revise for their upcoming 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



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.