

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: Friday 1st June 2026



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable week in the continuing sunshine!

Please don't forget that school is closed on **Monday 4th May 2026** for the Bank Holiday! No doubt the rain will return just in time for this!

We will be open as normal on **Tuesday 5th May**.

However, please remember the Nursery will be closed to pupils on **Thursday 7th May 2026** for the local election. The rest of the school (Reception to Year 6) will be open as normal.

As we head toward the busiest time of the year, please take a moment to check the dates on the next page of the newsletter. We have lots coming up including our Summer Sports days during the week beginning Monday 18th May.

You may remember last year, we trialed a new way of running Sports Day in KS1 and KS2 with a more competitive element and a little more

like the sports days you or I had as children! Whilst we do have some seating available, we are asking parents to bring either collapsable chairs or picnic blankets to sit on during the event. We hope this will make it more comfortable for you and ensure everyone has somewhere to sit.

You'll be pleased to know that Mar Cameron and I have cleared our diaries to make sure we're available to provide top-quality commentary on the events. However, I have to say there is no truth in the rumours we have been approached by ITV to provide commentary for the Fifa World Cup this year...

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend!

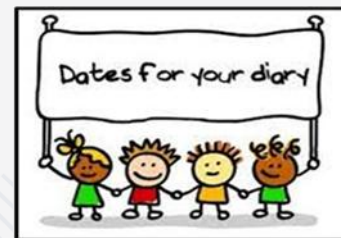
Mr D. Stitcher





Monday 4th May 2026 May Day School Closure

Thursday 7th May 2026 Polling Day (EYC Closed)



Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May 2026 SATs Week

Monday 18th May 2026

EYC Sports Day @ 10:30am - 2:00pm in KS2 Astroturf

Wednesday 20th May 2026

KS1 & Reception Sports Day @ 1:15pm (side field)

Thursday 21st May 2026

KS2 - Y5 & Y6 Sports Day @ 9:30am (side field)

Thursday 21st May 2026

KS2 – Y3 & Y4 Sports Day @ 1:30pm (side field)

Friday 22nd May 2026

Mid term School Closure @ 3:05pm

Monday 1st June 2026

School Re-open

Monday 1st June – Wednesday 3rd 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

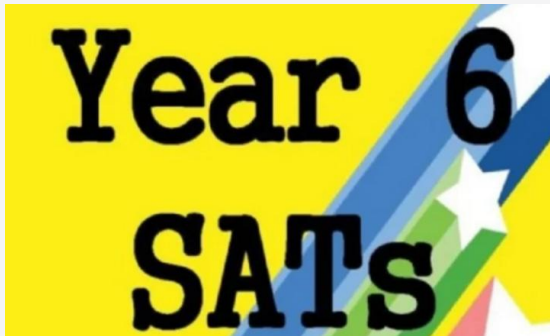
Year 2 Reading Club

Tues 21/04-13/05 3:05pm – 3:50pm

KS2 Gymnastics Club

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





Year 6 SATs WEEK - 11th - 14th May 2026

CHANGES AFFECTING BREAKFAST CLUB

During SATs week, Breakfast Club in **Key Stage 2** hall will be taking place in **Key Stage 1 hall**. (Entrance on Oozebooth Terrace)
Breakfast club will run every morning from 7:45am – 8:20am with the final drop off at 8:15am.

Year 6 SATs Breakfast Club

All Year 6 pupils will be invited to have breakfast at school during SATs week, the children should arrive at **8:20am** every morning to enjoy breakfast.

Pupils should not arrive **no earlier than 8:20am**.



We are looking forward to our up coming Sports Day and hope to see lots of families there to support the children.

Please remember the following for the day:

- Sun hat
- Suncream
- Inhalers (if required)
- Water bottle

Parents are also encouraged to bring a collapsable chair or picnic blanket to sit on during the event.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a fun and active day for everyone.



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 easter holidays we met as a group and spent time reflecting on the topic of Mental Health and Stress, 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 we 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 chuking our next meeting in May. We are always looking for new examples to feel free to join us on social media.





Signposting and Information

Click on the images or scan the QR codes



Place 2Be

Navigating exam season - free resources



YOUNGMINDS

Exam stress



Mental Health UK



SUPPORT RESISTANCE GUIDANCE



ParkPlay



SAVE THE DATE
GET JOB READY
THURSDAY 16th APRIL 2026
10am - 3pm

Careers advice for young people - New Directions



Follow us for regular updates and helpful tips:
facebook.com/cyren-east-mhst

Mental Health Awareness Week

11-17th May 2026

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: the 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.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2026





ACTION

FOR YOURSELF FOR SOMEONE ELSE FOR ALL OF US.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Exam Stress

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

Work with your child to find revision strategies that work for them.

Remain positive and hopeful.

Get aside 1-2 times so they can talk to you about any worries.

Work with to develop relaxation techniques.

Make sure they are eating and drinking regularly.



Validate their feelings - these are normal! Offer support and solutions.

Encourage them to take revision breaks and plan and 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.



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



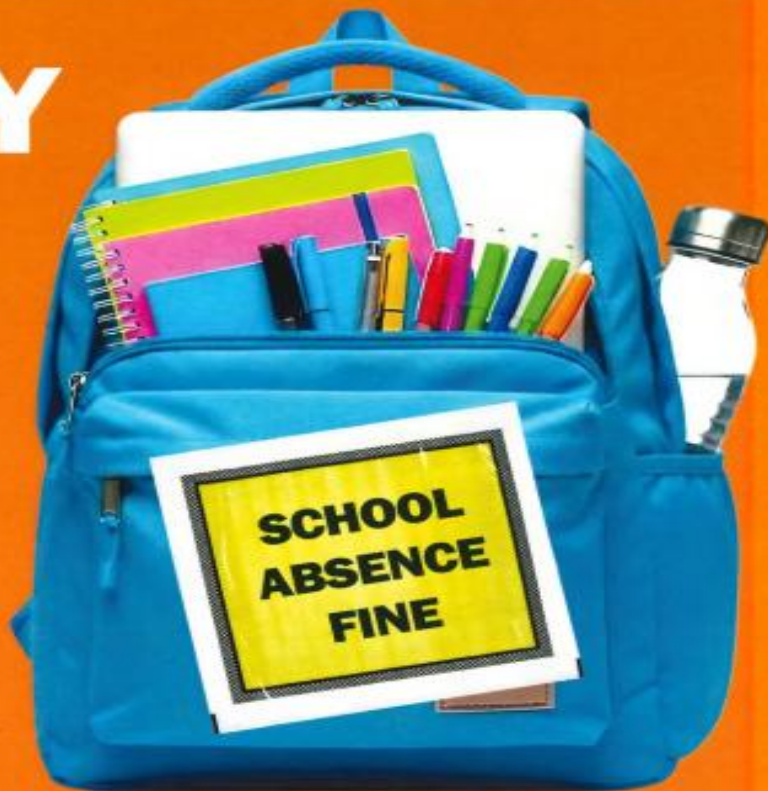
St James' C of E
Primary School

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



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





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



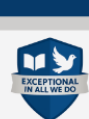
RENEW YOUR CODE!

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 4th May 2026 Friday 22nd May 2026 Monday 25th May – Friday 29th 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 6H WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	86.2%
RW	95.0%
1F	98.8%
1M	95.0%
2A	92.7%
2K	93.5%
3L	95.0%
3S	97.4%
4A	95.0%
4R	96.7%
5B	97.7%
5M	98.7%
6H	99.3%
6V	97.3%

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		Abo Baker H, Emir B, Liyana W & Yusuf H	
RG	Lidya H. & Aaminah G.	RW	Khadija K & Muhammad Sheth
1M	M.Talha I & Sadiyah S	1F	Daniyal A & Ahmed C
2A	All of 2A	2K	Haleema A & Juwairiyah P
3S	Aysha K & Huda A	3L	Hasnain A & Abu-Bakr V
4R	Noor H & Haris A	4A	M. Isshaq A & Amelia M
5B	All of 5B	5M	Zainab A & Rehan A
6V	Shanzay J & Sulayman H	6H	Norhan. A & Saifaan.R





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"We've had a busy and exciting time in Nursery! The children have been fascinated watching our caterpillars grow and change each day, eagerly observing their journey as they prepare for transformation. We've also been learning how to use our new water butt, helping us understand how we can collect and use water to care for our plants and environment. Our story of the week, Monkey Puzzle, has inspired lots of wonderful learning. The children have enjoyed practising their drawing skills by creating their own monkeys and exploring different features through art. In music time, we've been learning a fun new song all about jungle animals and even better, the children have been adding their own imaginative lyrics!"

Action

Please continue to check Famlyapp for regular updates.

Reception

This week we have looked at the text 'The room on the broom' by Julia Donaldson. The children have explored sensory trays and made potions, written spells and sequenced the story. In the discovery area the children enjoyed using their imaginations. They made wands and broomsticks, turning their teachers into frogs, witches, princesses and queens! They also made microphones and loved performing songs of their choice. We enjoyed dancing to them. In maths and topic we have looked at maps, thinking about positional language to describe where things are located. You could make a map of your home and share it with us.

Action

"With the weather starting to become warmer please ensure your child has a labelled hat and water bottle. You can also apply sun cream before the school day to make sure your child is protected from the sun. Reading planners need to be brought in daily and signed daily. This is so that your child's phonics teacher knows your child has practised their book and are ready for a new one. Curriculum and homework letters will go out this week, we love the children to share their homework with us so please send it in to school!"



Year Group Updates

Year 1

"We have been building on our knowledge we gained from our trip to Blackpool zoo. The children have learnt about the different type of animals and compared them. We have looked at mammal, bird, fish, reptiles and amphibians. What type of animals can you find outside?"

Action

As the weather has been getting hotter, please remember to bring in hat and water bottle. Please also apply sun cream before coming to school.

Year 2

"A big well done to 2A for their amazing Parent Worship. You all performed wonderfully, you all spoke so clearly, with big smiles on your faces. It was so lovely to hear about all the exciting things you have been learning. This week the children have been planning their own story based on 'The Magic Finger'. We have also started a new unit in History learning about Seaside's from the past and present day."

Action

Please continue to return consent letters regarding our trip to Blackpool Zoo. If you have any queries, please speak to your child's class teacher.



Year Group Updates

Year 3

It's been yet another busy week in Year 3! In maths, we have been learning about unit fractions and how to compare them. The children have been exploring how the denominator affects the size of the fraction and are gaining confidence in ordering and explaining their ideas. In English, the children have really enjoyed looking at play scripts. We have been identifying their key features and discussing how they differ from other types of texts. The children especially loved using expression and performing as their characters, bringing the scripts to life!

Action

Please continue to listen to your child read at least 3x per week.

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 have been learning more about angles and how to measure them. They have learnt how to calculate missing angles on a straight line and around a point. In English, Year 5 have learnt about Michael's survival on an island. They also tested their own survival by ordering equipment by the importance.

Action

Ask your child this weekend - Why is a shaving mirror more important than water when lost at sea?

Year 6

"Year 6 have been working extremely hard and we are very proud of their efforts. In Maths, they have now completed their work on shape, and in reading, they have been practising a range of key reading techniques to help them approach different question types with confidence. Over the next few days, we will continue to consolidate their learning, revisit key skills, and focus on building confidence so that everyone feels as prepared as possible."

Action

"How you can support at home: Encourage a good night's sleep. Provide a healthy breakfast each morning. Keep routines calm and positive. Offer reassurance and remind them to try their best SATs can feel like a big step, but we are keeping things positive and supportive in school. The children are well-prepared, and we are here to help them succeed. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch with Mrs Valli or Miss Hussain."



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.