

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 8th June 2026



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

That was a short week! I hope you all enjoyed the bank holiday – and for those of you with children at our pre-school, I hope you enjoyed the extra day you had due to our closure for the election.

Today marks the start of our consultation period for the new Specialist Inclusion Base which we hope to open as early as September. You will receive more details separately and the full information will also be available on our website. If you do feel strongly about the project, please do engage with the consultation.

And, if you have any specific questions, please email me at office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk and I will be more than happy to provide a personal response to your questions.

The consultation will last for 5 weeks (including the half-term holiday) and as soon as the Local Authority make a decision, we will let you know the outcome!

Next week is SATs week!

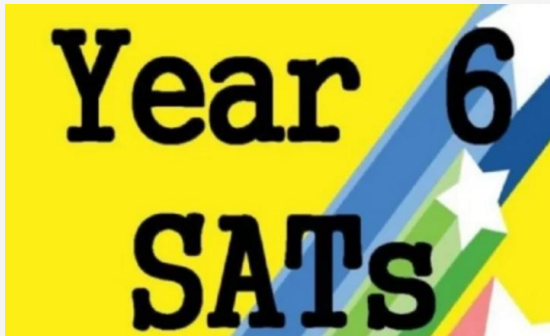
Our Year 6 children will be taking externally assessed tests in Reading, Maths and Grammar as will all Year 6 children across England. We are very proud of all the effort the children have put in in the run-up to the tests; and we are very grateful to our dedicated staff who have supported this cohort since they joined us in Reception 7 years ago!

If your child is in Year 6, please ensure they are in school on time every day next week. Unfortunately, missing just one test can mean your child does not get given a mark for their tests and that would be a huge shame given how much effort everyone has put in.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





Year 6 SATs WEEK - Monday 11th – Thursday 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 7:00am – 8:20am with the final drop off at 8:15am.

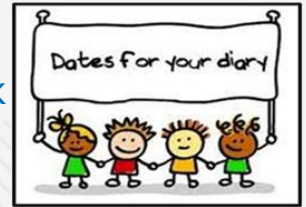
Year 6 SATs Breakfast Club

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**.



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 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





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 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 older kids to view. 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

Click on the images or scan the QR codes

Exam stress

Navigating exam season - free resources

Exam stress

Exam stress

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
twitter.com/cyrenmhst

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, 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.

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.



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



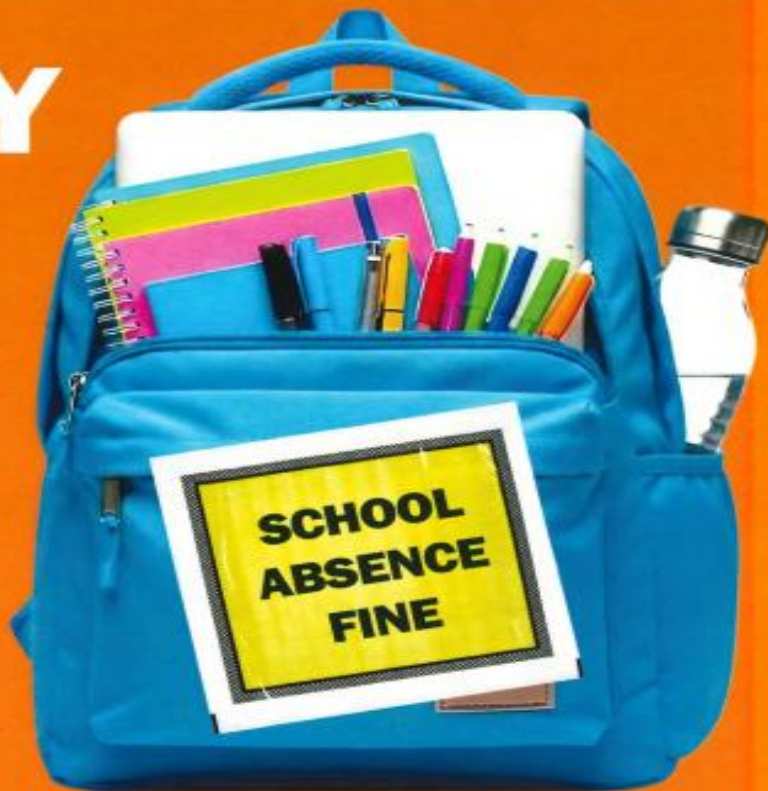
St James' C of E
Primary School

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 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 (inc)

Monday 3rd November 2025

Thursday 18th December 2025

Friday 19th 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 5th January 2026

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Friday 13th February 2026

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 (inc)

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 27th 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 13th April 2026

Monday 4th May 2026

Friday 22nd May 2026

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026 (inc)

Monday 1st June 2026

Friday 17th July 2026

Monday 20th 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 6V WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	94.3%
RW	98.2%
1F	91.6%
1M	95.8%
2A	93.6%
2K	97.4%
3L	90.0%
3S	93.3%
4A	96.7%
4R	94.7%
5B	97.0%
5M	98.4%
6H	95.7%
6V	99.0%

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		Shayaan J, Maryam M, Yusuf P & Eric A	
RG	Heidi-May G & Ali P.	RW	Ahmad T & Fatimah S
1M	Abdullah M & Polina H	1F	Noman A & Muhammad A P
2A	Maryam B & Rafia Z	2K	Zayn P & Ajwa P
3S	Sienna S & Shifa P	3L	Kiswa H & Humaira M
4R	Urwaa R & Ahmed I	4A	All of 4A
5B	Khadija B & Haris A	5M	Yusha S & Ibrahim P
6V	Amina M & M. Fahim K	6H	Zidan S & Nabeeha M





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week in Nursery, we have been reading the story Elma and talking about how everybody is different, special and unique. The children enjoyed discussing what makes them special and sharing their own ideas about kindness and friendship. We also completed some colourful Elma collage activities where the children worked hard on developing their cutting skills and fine motor control. It has been lovely to see the children becoming more confident when using scissors carefully and independently.

Action

Pre-School Sports Day will take place on Monday 18th May. We are looking forward to a fun and active morning/afternoon with the children!

Reception

This week we have been adding more to a given number in maths. In Drawing Club and topic we have looked at life cycles, reading the text 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and looking at the transformation from an egg to a butterfly! In PE we will be consolidating our athletic skills ready for Sports Day on 20th May.

Action

We have had lots of children bringing toys and keyrings into school on, and inside their bookbags. Please keep these at home as it is becoming a bit of a competition on who has the most, plus we don't want the children to be upset when they are lost or broken. Please can we just remind parents that PE is on a Friday. This is the only day children can wear trainers to school. We have had children attending in trainers and different pieces of their own clothing on a more regular basis. Unless we are aware of a reason why this may be, please make sure you send children in the correct uniform.



Year Group Updates

Year 1

"This week, we have been reading the story Room on the Broom. We have sequenced the story and created actions to retell parts of the story. This will help when writing their own innovated story. Use the link below to watch the story of Room on the Broom on BBC
iplayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0102qfj/room-on-the-broom>"

Action

"Just a reminder that the Phonics screening will take place in June. See some videos to support your children with Set 3 sounds. <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aj7sSPcT/fwd0nK7aoi> https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DTYHrUYC/Nw4j0ENza_e <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BMz5zq1D/KztrVrgN>"

Year 2

"This week in Year 2, the children have been busy with lots of exciting learning activities. In English, the children have been writing their own innovated versions of The Magic Finger. They used their imagination to change parts of the story and create some fantastic new ideas. In Maths, we have been learning about fractions. The children have explored finding a half, a quarter and a third of both objects and numbers. They have worked hard using practical resources and problem-solving skills to deepen their understanding. We have also been practising for Sports Day. The children have enjoyed taking part in races and team activities while developing their coordination, teamwork and perseverance. We are looking forward to a fun and active event!"

Action

"Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards the Year 2 trip so far. Please remember that the deadline for payment is Monday 11th May. Next week, we will be holding a cake sale to help raise money for the Year 2 trip. Muffins will be available to buy for £1 each. Please continue to read with your child at least three times a week to support their learning at home. Thank you for your continued support."



Year Group Updates

Year 3

"This week in Year 3, we have continued learning about fractions, focusing on the rules for the numerator and denominator and using this knowledge to compare and understand fractions more confidently. In English, we have continued to explore playscripts and have begun planning our own, focusing on dialogue, characters and stage directions. We have also been practising for Sports Day in our house teams and have been preparing for the different events taking place!"

Action

Please help your child with the weekly vocabulary words in their homework books if needed, encouraging them to use the internet or a dictionary to support their understanding.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week. We have been working on our text 'The Water Horse' in English and in Maths we have been working on decimals. In Science we had someone from Switchup come to complete an electricity workshop with Year 4. The children really enjoyed it! Thank you to parents for attending 4A's Celebration Assembly! We hope you enjoyed it!

Action

Please can children practise times tables at home!



Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week, the Year 5's have finished their topic on angles and started moving onto coordinates where they will learn to translate, reflect and move shapes.

In English, we have been writing a non-chronological report on Jellyfish after Michael (in Kensuke's Kingdom) is attacked and left unconscious in the sea. The question is; Will anyone help him?

Action

Please remember to read at least 3x per week and revisit Year 5 spellings from your logbooks.

Year 6

This week, we have had a big focus on SATs practice for next week! The children have been working hard on their arithmetic, reading, reasoning and grammar skills.

Action

"Please ensure your child comes in on time next week. There will be breakfast available from 8:20am for the children so we can ensure they are ready for their 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.