

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 15th June 2026



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to start by saying a huge well done to our Year 6 children! This week has been their SATs tests and whether you agree with formal testing at this age or not, there can be no denying they were absolutely brilliant!

Every children turned up to school on time ready for the tests. It was, without doubt, the smoothest SATs week we've had in my six years at St James'. A huge part of that was the staff effort; from Miss Hussain and Mrs Valli who have been guiding the children towards the tests all year, to the teaching assistants who have supported in class and with the administration to Mrs Madbouli whose fastidious paperwork has kept us compliant and ensured everything ran to time! It truly has been a team effort, and no matter the outcomes, we are all very proud of everyone involved!

On a less joyful note, we have noticed more and more parents obstructing Earl Street again by parking on the

yellow lines during school pick-up and drop-off times.

This had dramatically improved until recently. So, I will make one more plea to park considerately and legally. Unfortunately, if we don't see an improvement next week, we will need to engage the Local Authority's enforcement team to start issuing parking fines – which clearly we'd rather avoid doing!

And finally, just a reminder that next week is our Sports Days (weather permitting!). We are looking forward to seeing you there – why not support your child by wearing their house colours? Red for St George, green for St Patrick, blue for St Andrew and yellow for St David's!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





A Huge Thank You to Our Year 6 Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support during SATs week. We really appreciate your efforts in ensuring the children arrived at school on time each day and were prepared for the tests.

Your support and encouragement at home has made a real difference and has helped the children approach the week with confidence.

Thank you again for your continued support.





Reminder: After School Club Ending & Breakfast Club Update

We would like to remind families that our After School Club will be ending on 17th July 2026.

Unfortunately, due to the end of government funding and low attendance numbers, we are no longer able to continue offering this provision from September. This has been a very difficult decision, and we appreciate the impact it may have on families. We are truly grateful for the support we've received and for the opportunity to work with our school community.

Following a recent review, our Breakfast Club will continue, but please note it will start slightly later, at 7:20am each day from 1st September. The price will remain at £2.50 per child per day, which continues to be heavily subsidised by the school.

If you require any further information, please contact the main office at:
office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



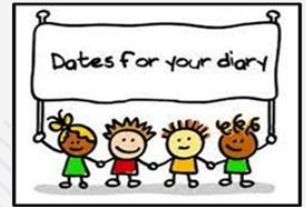


Monday 18th May 2026

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

Thursday 18th June 2026

New Reception Parent Meeting @ 9am

Thursday 2nd July

(one-hour slot to be confirmed) - Parent and Child child's transition session in school

Thursday 9th July

(pm–timings to be confirmed) - Parent and Child Teddy Bear's Picnic





CELEBRATION LUNCH

THURSDAY 21ST MAY

Enjoying a meal together is a great way to build a sense of community, encourage new experiences, and make lunchtime something special for everyone.

Even if your child usually brings a packed lunch, we warmly encourage them to join in on the day. It's a fantastic opportunity for the whole school to come together.

Chicken burger, paprika potatoes and vegetable sticks
or
Arrabiata pasta and homemade doughballs
-
Strawberry jelly with cream and sprinkles

Meals can be booked on the School Spider app now.





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.



Blackburn with Darwen
**ADULT
LEARNING**



**Family
Hub**



Darwen | Little Harwood | Livesey | Shadsworth

Child and Baby CPR

Course Code 528
Earcroft Children Centre
Thursday 18 June 2026
9:15am - 11:15am

Course Code 485
Livesey Family Hub
Monday 22 June 2026
9:30am - 11:30am



Limited Spaces | Crèche Available

For more information on the above courses, please contact:
beverley.hussain@blackburn.gov.uk | 01254 585616



St James' C of E
Primary School

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



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



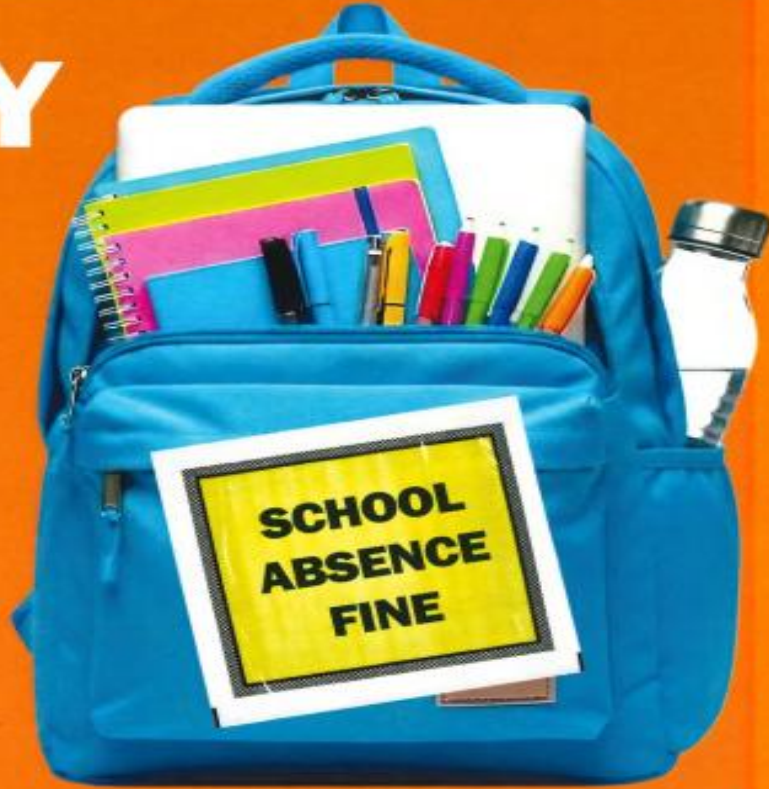
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PENALTY NOTICE FINES

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





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



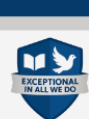
RENEW YOUR CODE!

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 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	81.0%
RW	93.2%
1F	95.0%
1M	96.5%
2A	94.9%
2K	98.4%
3L	92.5%
3S	98.0%
4A	98.3%
4R	99.6%
5B	92.1%
5M	99.2%
6H	100.0% 
6V	98.7%

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		Amayah B, Ibraheem A, Hisham K, Hakeem M & Minhal A	
RG	Heidi G & Aisha B	RW	Abeeha R & Halima L
1M	Maryam H & Lya C	1F	Shayzan Kana, Liyana Raja
2A	Adrian C & Firdaus H	2K	M Adam B & Anabia I
3S	Adn H & Hajrah A	3L	Hassan A & Kulsum L
4R	Muhammad Deen H & Muhammad-Rayhan P	4A	Ibrahim M & Issa P
5B	Hilal J & Adam M	5M	Judyta A & Yusuf V
6V	Year 6	6H	6H and 6V





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"This week we enjoyed reading *The Gruffalo* and creating our own Gruffalo pictures while developing our painting, cutting, sticking and fine motor skills through a range of creative activities. We also learnt new vocabulary by describing what different animals look like and playing "What's in the Bag?". During Forest School, the children worked together to make friendship bracelets using tape and natural materials. We were also very excited to watch our caterpillars form their chrysalises and cannot wait to see them turn into butterflies!"

Action

"Pre-School Sports Day will take place on Monday 18th May at 10:30am and 2:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!"

Reception

Reception this week have been learning about the life cycle of a frog in literacy, subtraction in maths and safety in our topic work. We especially looked at safety at home and road safety. Everyone was keen to dress up in Mr Newell's road cross outfit.

Action

Ask your children if they can remember the road crossing rap! Please still be reading at home with your children, it is really important.



Year Group Updates

Year 1

Congratulations to Mr Forshaw who has just had a baby boy.

Action

"Year 2 are raising money for their end of year trip so will be holding a £1 per cake sale Monday to Thursday.

Year 2

"This week the children have been focusing on the range of vocabulary in our new poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. The children have also started to create their vehicles in DT, we can't wait to see their final products! We have also been carrying out our Sports Day practice, getting the children ready to complete the exciting events which are happening next week.

Action

Not long until we go to Blackpool Zoo! Please ensure you have returned the letter. Please continue to read with your children and make sure to sign their planners.



Year Group Updates

Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have been learning about fractions on a number line and comparing and ordering non-unit fractions in Maths. In English, the children have been editing their own play scripts using advice from their peers, carefully thinking about the key features of a playscript and how they can improve their writing. In Reading, the children have really enjoyed the fiction text 'Kidnapped'. We have been reading chorally and discussing new vocabulary to deepen our understanding of the story!

Action

Please listen to your child read and sign their planner at least 3x per week.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a good week this week. In English we have been exploring 'The Water horse' book further, and completing some short writing activities. In Maths we have been continuing to work on decimals. Please ensure children are practising their times tables everyday as we only have a couple of weeks till the official MTC test.

Action

Practise times tables.



Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week, the children have show great respect for the children in Year 6 who have completed their SATs this week. They have worked hard and quietly on reflection and translation in Mathematics and have started writing their informal letter to Michael's Mum and Dad

Action

Sports day is next week. Please can Year 5 be in their PE kits on Thursday and Friday

Year 6

"We would like to say a huge well done to all of our Year 6 children for completing their SATs this week. We are incredibly proud of the hard work, determination, and positive attitude they have shown throughout the year and during the tests themselves. The children approached the week with maturity and resilience, and they should all feel very proud of their achievements. SATs can feel challenging, but the children supported one another brilliantly and gave every paper their best effort. We would also like to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued encouragement and support at home. Your help with revision, routines, and reassurance has made a real difference. Now that SATs are complete, we are looking forward to an exciting final term filled with enjoyable learning opportunities, end-of-year activities, and preparations for secondary school."

Action

"Over the coming weeks, we will begin preparations for transition to secondary school and take part in a range of exciting end-of-year activities. Information about upcoming events and trips will be shared shortly."

Enjoy your weekend :)



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](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesCofEBlackburn)

Twitter: [@st_blackburn](https://twitter.com/st_blackburn)

Please note that you don't need to have an account to view our social media pages.

