

# 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 22nd May 2026



*Doug Stitcher*  
Mr D. Stitcher, Head Teacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the cancellation of Sports Days this week. Unfortunately, a combination of the weather and the state of the field prevented us from running it safely. However, the advantage of us scheduling them so early is that there is time for us to re-arrange them for after half-term.

Provisionally, we have booked the following dates:

**Weds 17th June Afternoon: KS1 Sports Day**

**Thursday 18th June Morning: Year 3 and Year 4 Sports Day**

**Thursday 18th June Afternoon: Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Day**

**Friday 19th June Morning and Afternoon: Pre-school**

Obviously, these dates are subject to change if the weather lets us down again!

Today is the last day of the half-term.

School closes after school and will re-open on Monday 1st June 2026.

I hope you all have a lovely half-term and Bank Holiday, and I would like to wish everyone celebrating Eid al-Adha a joyful and peaceful time with family and friends.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in June for the last half-term of this very busy and exciting academic year.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





## 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](mailto:office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk)**





## **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

## **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

Year 6 Day Trip Outdoor Element, Simonstone

## **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Year 2 Blackpool Zoo

## **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

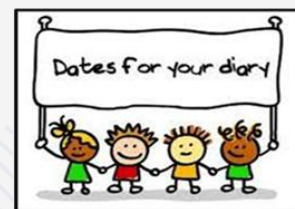
New Reception Parent Meeting @ 9am

## **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

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

## **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

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







# FREE SCHOOL MEALS



## GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

### Worth Applying Even If You Are Not Sure

Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility is changing from **September 2026**

Many families are entitled to Free School Meals and don't realise it?

Applying is quick, confidential, and could save your family money while supporting your child and our school.

#### Why should I apply?

- Your child gets a free, healthy school meal every day
- You could save money on food costs
- The school may receive extra funding to support children's learning
- Applying will not affect your other benefits
- Your application is private

#### How To Apply - It Takes Just A few Minutes

- Go to our council website and search "Free School Meals" or scan the QR Code
- Complete the online form (you'll need your National Insurance number)
- Wait for confirmation - the school will be informed automatically



Scan me



Trust

Respect

Ambition

Collaboration

Kindness



Ofsted  
Good Provider

Our Children's Services are...

Proud to be Good



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

# EXCITING MENU CHANGES!

MADE  
WITH  
YOU!



After listening to feedback from our children and finding out their favourite meals, we've made a few **exciting tweaks** to the school menu to make lunchtime **even more enjoyable!**

GOING FORWARD, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES WILL BE MADE:

WEEK  
1

Cheese Flan  
will be  
replaced  
with



Cheese  
Pinwheel  


WEEK  
2

BBQ Burrito  
will be  
replaced  
with



Tikka  
Naan  


We're always keen to make sure our menu includes meals the children enjoy whilst still offering **tasty** and **balanced** choices each week.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!



# PARENTING CELEBRATION DAY

Fun, support & connection for families



WEDNESDAY  
24TH JUNE



9.30AM –  
12.30PM



LIVESEY  
FAMILY HUB



PARENTS, CARERS  
& PROFESSIONALS  
welcome!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Come & find all about our **Parenting Offer**, exploring all the support we offer to families across Blackburn with Darwen.



The day will be filled with **fun, free resources and activities**, including a **FREE refreshments**.



Parent & professional voices welcome to shape the future of our parenting offer.



SENSORY PLAY



TOY LIBRARY



MARKETPLACE



TEA, COFFEE  
& PASTRIES



## YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Help shape the future of parenting support.

**Parents & professionals encouraged to share ideas.**



For more information, contact us at [parenting@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:parenting@blackburn.gov.uk)



★ Come along, connect,  
and enjoy the day together! ♥



Family  
Hub



Darwen | Little Harwood | Livesey | Shadsworth



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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)



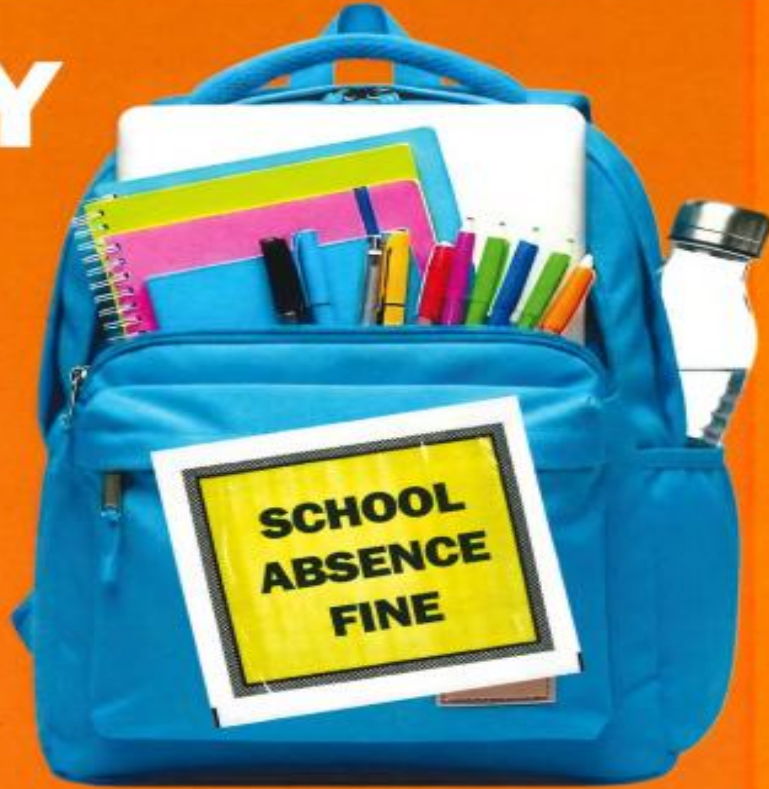
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# PENALTY NOTICE FINES

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





# attendance ~~MATTERS~~



**CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 6V WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!**

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

RG	<b>90.0%</b>
RW	<b>89.1%</b>
1F	<b>97.6%</b>
1M	<b>94.6%</b>
2A	<b>96.4%</b>
2K	<b>87.4%</b>
3L	<b>96.0%</b>
3S	<b>88.4%</b>
4A	<b>96.7%</b>
4R	<b>98.0%</b>
5B	<b>93.3%</b>
5M	<b>98.1%</b>
6H	<b>99.7%</b>
6V	<b>100.0%</b>

95%  
and  
above

90% -  
94.9%

Below  
90%



If your child is absent due to illness, the office must be informed before 08:35 on that day.





## *St. James' Stars of the Week!*

Well done everyone, we are very proud of you. Who will be receiving a certificate next week?

Pre-School & Nursery		Everyone!	
RG	Skylar-Mai. B & Ayaan P.	RW	Shabana A & Abdullah M
1M	Ibraheem P & Haniya B	1F	Adam A & Aasiyah R
2A	Zala M & Muhammad-Hassan S	2K	Zayna MH & M Aashir AA
3S	Sireen B & Zara A	3L	Hawwa A & Amayra M
4R	Gamar A & Umaima I	4A	Emaan S & Umar Z
5B	Inaya M & Maariyah P	5M	Ayaan A & Farhan A
6V	Safa M & Muhammad P	6H	Robyn S & Amaan M





# Year Group Updates

## Forest Pre-School & Nursery

Wishing all our families a wonderful and relaxing half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for more fun learning together!

## Action

## Reception

We have had a lovely week as the weather has gradually got better. We have looked at the Smartest Giant in town, how to double and what Blackburn was like in the past.

## Action

"Save the dates for our parent workshops: RW Wednesday 17th June RG Wednesday 24th June. If you are celebrating Eid, we wish you have a Happy Eid!"



# Year Group Updates

## Year 1

"Have a lovely half term, please practice your phonics over the holidays as the children will be taking their Phonics Screening Check when they get back.

## 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/fwd0nK7aoihttps://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DTYHrUYC/Nw4j0ENza\\_ehttps://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BMz5zq1D/KztrVrgN](https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aj7sSPcT/fwd0nK7aoihttps://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DTYHrUYC/Nw4j0ENza_ehttps://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/BMz5zq1D/KztrVrgN)"

## Year 2

"This week, in English, pupils have been exploring the poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. They have really enjoyed performing the poem using actions and expression. The children also created their own innovated versions of the poem, changing the characters and using rhyming words to make their poems creative and fun. In DT, the children have enjoyed designing and making their moving vehicles. They demonstrated great creativity and determination when creating their final pieces and worked hard to ensure their vehicles met the design criteria. We were very impressed with the finished products!

## Action

"We hope you have a lovely half-term break and, for those celebrating Eid, have a fantastic time celebrating with family and friends. Please continue to listen to your child read at least three times a week to help develop their fluency, confidence and understanding. Thank you for your continued support."



# Year Group Updates

## Year 3

It's been another action-packed week in year 3. We have been exploring forces and how we can make things move, practising our events for Sports Day, consolidating our knowledge on equivalent fractions, exploring a poem about twins and reading a biography about author Jacqueline Wilson.

## Action

Please read with your child at home three times each week. Thank you

## Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week. In English we have been continuing with 'The Water Horse' and in Maths we have started the topic money. When we get back after the half term break, Year 4 will be completing their official MTC tests. Please ensure children are practising daily in the holidays to make sure they are ready for the test when they get back.

## Action

Practise times tables ready for the official MTC test after the half term break.



# Year Group Updates

## Year 5

This final week, the children have been continuing with their progression in Maths. They are working extremely hard and most are confident for the challenges of next year. In English, the children have finished Kensuke's Kingdom. A varying ending of emotions of sadness but happiness. The children have also expressed their internal thoughts through a character's perspective.

## Action

We wish you all a Happy Eid and see you in the next half term.

## Year 6

Year 6 have really enjoyed this week now that SATs are finished. We have been focusing on improving our writing skills and have also enjoyed learning how to play rounders correctly. It has been lovely to see the children relaxed, engaged and having fun while continuing to work hard.

## Action

"Enjoy your holiday – it is very well deserved! The sun is finally out, so please make sure you stay safe and enjoy the break. These are also the last holidays before returning to St James, so make the most of the time to relax and recharge. Eid Mubarak to all of our families who are celebrating during the holidays – we hope you have a wonderful time with your loved ones."



# 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.