

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
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Date: Friday 5th June 2026



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a lovely half-term in the gorgeous weather and that those of you celebrating had a wonderful Eid.

You can tell we're back at school – the weather has taken a turn for the worse. Hopefully, it will improve as we head closer to our re-arranged sports days!

This week saw our Year 6 children go on their residential – I hear it was a brilliant trip in spite of the weather. I would like to say a massive thank you to those staff who accompanied the children, giving up two evenings of their own time to ensure the residential visit could go ahead!

As we get closer to the start of the World Cup, make sure you have a look at our special World Cup Menu for the week beginning 15th June – we have food from some of the countries competing (including Spain, France and Mexico!) although I am sure the most popular day will be the Wednesday when we will be serving the national

dish of England!!

And finally, just a reminder about attendance. At this time of year, it can be tempting to take children out of school for cheaper flights or holidays, but every day missed has a negative impact. Our attendance records are now directly linked to the Department for Education who monitor our attendance weekly. Please make sure your child is in school every day (unless, of course, they are too unwell) and help us get our attendance levels above the national averages!

Have a lovely weekend – hopefully the weather will improve!

Mr D. Stitcher





FIFA WORLD CUP Celebration Week 15th - 19th June



MONDAY

Viva España!
Albóndigas
(Vegetarian Meatballs in Tomato Sauce)
served with
Patatas con Pimentón
(Paprika Potatoes)
&
Menestra de Verduras
(Mixed Vegetables)
~
Churros con Chocolate
(Warm Churros
with
Chocolate Dip)



TUESDAY

Vive la France!
Croque Végétarien
(Cheese & Sweet Pepper Toasted Sandwich)
served with
Pommes Noisette
(Potato Balls)
&
Ensalada Mixta
(Mixed Salad)
~
Chausson aux Pommes
(Apple Turnover)



WEDNESDAY

Come on England!
Back of the Net
Crispy Battered Fish
or
Matchday Sausage Roll
served with
Oven Baked Chips
Garden Peas or Baked Beans
~
Jelly & Ice Cream



THURSDAY

Fiesta México!
Quorn & Cheese Tacos
served with
Mexican Style Rice
&
Tomato Salsa
~
Hojarascas
(Shortbread Cookies)
&
Watermelon Wedges



FRIDAY

Team USA!
**Loaded Halal Chicken Sausage Hotdog
& Crispy Onions**
or
Chicago Style Deep Pan Cheese Pizza
served with
Ridge Potato Fries
&
Sweetcorn or BBQ Beans
~
Chocolate Cookie



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FIFA WORLD
CUP 2026

Lancashire
County Council

LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE

Jacket Potatoes with a Choice of
Fillings will also be available daily



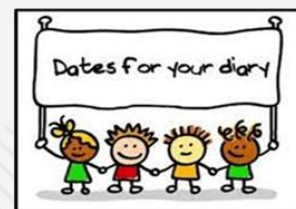
St James' C of E
Primary School

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



Wednesday 17th June

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



Thursday 18th June 2026

New Reception Parent Meeting @ 9am

Thursday 18th June (Morning)

Year 3 and Year 4 Sports Day @ 10:30am (Sports Field)

Thursday 18th June Morning

Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Day @ 1:15pm (Sports Field)

Thursday 19th June Morning

Nursery Sports Day 10:30am & 2:00pm (KS2 Astro turf)

Thursday 2nd July

New Reception & Whole school transition day

Thursday 9th July

Parent and Child, Teddy Bear's Picnic





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.



Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) – New System

Blackburn with Darwen Council have partnered with HolidayActivities to send HAF vouchers to eligible families (children in eligible for pupil premium). Vouchers will be issued on 26th June 2026 and sent via email. Please make sure the email address school has recorded for you is correct.

A parent guide on how to use the new system can be found here:
<https://help.holidayactivities.com/hc/engb/articles/33548569534237-Parent-Guide>



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.

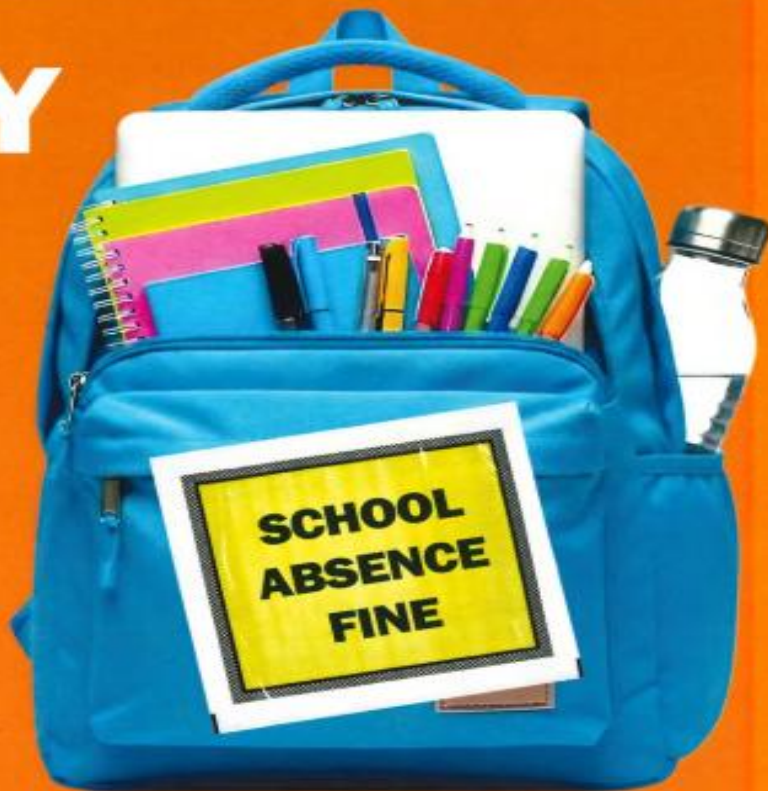
If you require any further information, please contact the main office at:
office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk





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





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 5 th June	Friday 12 th June	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday 1 st June Tuesday	Monday 8 th June Tuesday 9 th June	Monday Tuesday	Monday Tuesday	Monday Tuesday	Monday Tuesday
Year 2 2A and 2K	Wednesday 3 rd June Thursday 4 th June	Wednesday 10 th June Thursday 11 th June	Wednesday Thursday	Wednesday Thursday	Wednesday Thursday	Wednesday Thursday
Year 3 3L and 3S	Monday 1 st June Wednesday 3 rd June	Wednesday 10 th June	Monday Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Wednesday
Year 4 4A and 4R	Monday 1 st June Thursday 4 th June	Thursday 11 th June	Monday Thursday	Thursday	Monday Thursday	Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5M	Friday 5 th June	Monday 8 th June Friday 12 th June	Friday	Monday Friday	Friday	Monday Friday
Year 6 6H and 6V	Tuesday 2 nd June	Monday 8 th June Tuesday 9 th June	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	90.0%
RW	89.1%
1F	97.6%
1M	94.6%
2A	96.4%
2K	87.4%
3L	96.0%
3S	88.4%
4A	96.7%
4R	98.0%
5B	93.3%
5M	98.1%
6H	99.7%
6V	100.0%

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		Khadijah P, Aiman I, Mohmed Rayyan P, Lucie M, Muhammad Zuhaib S & Hassan S	
RG	Muhammad Bilal A. & Muhammad Bin Imran R.	RW	Waheeda F & Ahmad B
1M	Ibraheem A & Aaima A	1F	Ayesha K & Mishal I
2A	Munashe M & Maryam P	2K	Khadijah AA & Muhammad P
3S	Nelson G & Hajrah A	3L	Ayesha I & Hamza F
4R	Ayesha G & Muhammad Deen H	4A	Radwan B & Ali I
5B	Maryam S & Inaya M	5M	Zoya H & Anayah G
6V	Umar V & Shanzay J	6H	Alisbha A & Nabeeha M





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week in Pre-School and Nursery, we enjoyed exploring our Under the Sea theme. The children loved listening to the story Commotion in the Ocean and learning about different sea creatures through rhymes and discussion. We also created colourful jellyfish collages using a variety of materials, helping to develop creativity and fine motor skills. The children had great fun talking about life under the sea and learning new vocabulary related to ocean animals. 🐠 🐙 🐡

Action

N/A

Reception

This week the children have enjoyed the text Handa's Surprise. They have explored animals and fruits. This transferred well to our discovery area sessions whereby some of our fruits and vegetables were ready for harvesting. The children enjoyed pulling out the carrots! This week we have also recapped doubling numbers, odds and evens.

Action

"KEY DATES: RW parent worship Wednesday 17/06/26

Sports Day Wednesday 17/06/26 1.15pm.

RG parent worship Wednesday 24/06/26"



Year Group Updates

Year 1

Year 1 Phonics Screening will be taking place in school next week. Please ensure that your child attends school every day & arrives on time.

We are so proud of how hard the children have been working leading up to this .

Action

Sports Day- New date is 17th June @ 1:15pm

Year 2

"This week, the children have thoroughly enjoyed reading their new class book, The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. They have been engaged in discussing the story, its characters, and making predictions about what might happen next. In RE, we have been learning about special places of worship for Christians, Jews, and Muslims. The children have explored the features of churches, synagogues, and mosques, and have been learning about the different practices that take place within these special buildings. In Art, we are exploring the work of Leonardo da Vinci. The children have been studying the hues and colour intensity used in his artwork and experimenting with these techniques in their own creative work."

Action

"On Tuesday 9th June, Year 2 will be going on their trip to Blackpool Zoo. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time and is wearing full school uniform with appropriate footwear for walking. Depending on the weather, please apply sun cream before your child comes to school. If your child's class teacher has requested that an inhaler be brought into school, please ensure this is sent in by Monday. Thank you for your continued support."



Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 have been busy this week adding and subtracting fractions and researching wild flowers in preparation for writing a non chronological report. We have practised baton-passing for relay racing, played short tunes from memory on the recorder and considered why rules are important in RE.

Action

"Please take out your children's earrings on PE days or send them with plasters to cover them up. On non-PE days, only stud earrings are permitted, not hoops. Please read with your child at home 3 times per week."

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have had an engaging time across a variety of subjects. In Maths, we focused on using pounds and pence as decimals to calculate compare and estimate money. In English, we continued our class novel, The Water Horse, where students enjoyed crafting kenning poems, diary entries, and 'lake rules' for the monster in the story. Our PE lessons kicked off a new cricket topic, where we worked on making a long barrier to improve our fielding skills, and developed our arm action for effective bowling. Lastly in Music, we practiced singing in a round to prepare for the song Frère Jacques.

Action

"With our official Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) approaching next week, please dedicate regular time for your child to practice and rehearse their timestables so they are well prepared to get the best score they possibly can on the day. Read at least three times per week and ensure reading diaries have been signed for this."



Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week, children in Year 5 have been reading and understanding the poem "Tyger! Tyger!" by William Blake. A poem that uses a tiger to symbolise fear, creation and nature. The children have also been understanding what happens to decimals when adding or subtracting.

Action

"Remember to sign your trip letters. Also please check that your child has brought home a Science letter. This is important for the upcoming weeks."

Year 6

Mrs Valli, Miss Kay and Miss Choudhry are proud of all the children who attended the residential trip to Winmarleigh Hall. The children embraced every challenge with confidence and determination, taking part in a wide range of exciting outdoor activities.

On Tuesday, the rest of the year 6 children had a fantastic time at their Outdoor Elements trip with Miss Hussain, Mrs Mala, Miss Patel and Mrs Nagdee. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the activities and embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and determination.

Thank you for your support in preparing the children for both exciting adventures. We hope they have returned home with lots of stories to share and many happy memories.

Action

We are now beginning preparations for our Summer Show. Your child may come home with some lines for the performances, please support them in learning them. Thank you.



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.