

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 12th June 2026



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe there are only five weeks left of another school year!

This week saw our Year 1 children and some of our Year 2 children complete their Phonics Screening Check. They all did really well and we're very proud of how much progress all of our children have made.

We were also proud of Year 4 who took their Multiplication Times Table check – again, they've worked really hard for this and I'm sure they will continue our excellent record!

Today is also Miss Kilshaw's last day before she starts her maternity leave. We wish her every happiness with her family over the coming months!

Thank you everyone who participated in the consultation about the new SEND unit. The Local Authority will now look at everyone's views and, if they are happy, the proposal will go the Executive Board (no, I don't know what that is either!) of the council and we

hope to start work soon.

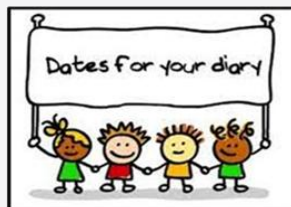
However, I am now in a position to be able to confirm that our nursery and pre-school will be moving to the Key Stage 1 building in September! We have had approval from the diocese and work will commence during the summer holidays. Our aim is to develop a purpose-built space with close access to the discovery area and in close proximity to our Reception children so that we can share our abundance of resources, and the children do not feel as far away from the rest of the school.

We will keep you informed as this progresses! There may be some limited disruption, but it will guarantee the security of our nursery for years to come!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr D. Stitcher





Wednesday 17th June

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

Thursday 18th June 2026

New Reception Parent Meeting @ 9am

Thursday 18th June

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

Thursday 18th June

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

Friday 19th June

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

Monday 22nd June

Year 4 & Year 6 Swimming starts

Thursday 2nd July

New Reception & Whole school transition day in school

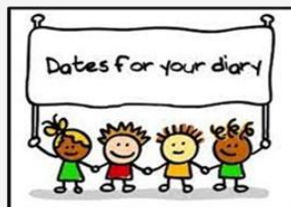
Wednesday 8th July

Summer Fair

Thursday 9th July

New Reception Parent and Child, Teddy Bear's Picnic – KS2





Monday 13th July

Year 6 Show (afternoon & evening TBC)

Tuesday 14th July

Year 6 Show – 1:00pm KS2 hall

Wednesday 15th July

EYC Graduation KS2 hall @ 10:30am & 2:15pm

Friday 17th July

Church Service led by Early Years & KS1 @ 9:30am & KS2 @10am

Year 6 Leavers & Graduation - KS2 Hall @ 1:00pm – 3pm





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
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



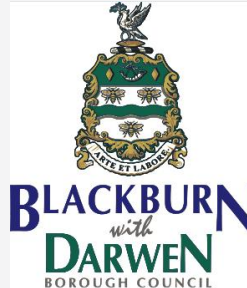
We are looking forward to our up coming Sports Day and hope to see lots of families there to support the children.

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.

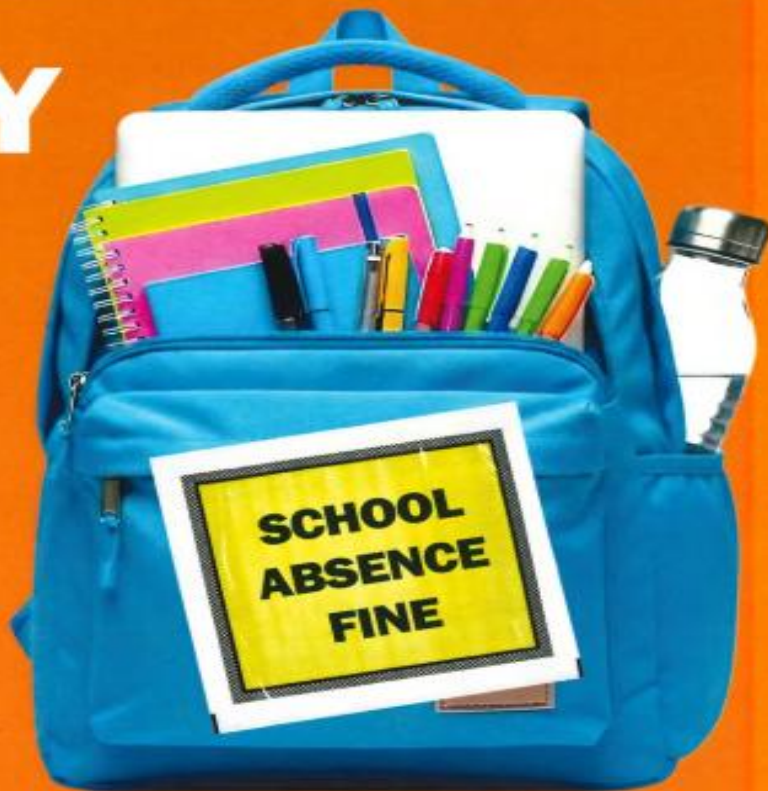
If you require any further information, please contact the main office at:
office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk





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	Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Re-open on	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Closure after School	Friday 24 th October 2025
Mid Term Closure	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October 2025 (inc)
Re-open on	Monday 3 rd November 2025
Closure after school on	Thursday 18 th December 2025
INSET 3	Friday 19 th December 2025
Number of openings 75	
SPRING TERM 2026	
INSET 4	Monday 5 th January 2026
Re-open on	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Closure after School	Friday 13 th February 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February 2026 (inc)
Re-open on	Monday 23 rd February 2026
Closure after school on	Friday 27 th March 2026
Number of openings 55	
SUMMER TERM 2026	
Re-open on	Monday 13 th April 2026
May Day Closure	Monday 4 th May 2026
Closure after School	Friday 22 nd May 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May 2026 (inc)
Re-open on	Monday 1 st June 2026
Closure after school	Friday 17 th July 2026
INSET 5	Monday 20 th July 2026
Number of openings 65	



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 19 th June	Friday	Friday	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday 1 st June Tuesday	Monday 8 th June Tuesday 9 th June	Monday 15 th June Tuesday 16 th June	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 17 th June Thursday 18 th June	Wednesday Thursday	Wednesday Thursday	Wednesday Thursday
Year 3 3L and 3S	Monday 1 st June Wednesday 3 rd June	Wednesday 10 th June	Monday 15 th June Wednesday 17 th June	Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Wednesday
Year 4 4A and 4R	Monday 1 st June Thursday 4 th June	Thursday 11 th June	Monday 15 th June Thursday 18 th June	Thursday	Monday Thursday	Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5M	Friday 5 th June	Monday 8 th June Friday 12 th June	Friday 19 th June	Monday Friday	Friday	Monday Friday
Year 6 6H and 6V	Tuesday 2 nd June	Monday 8 th June Tuesday 9 th June	Tuesday 16 th June	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?

95% and above

90% - 94.9%

Below 90%

RG	95.4%
RW	82.3%
1F	95.2%
1M	94.2%
2A	97.3%
2K	96.5%
3L	93.8%
3S	96.9%
4A	94.5%
4R	93.0%
5B	88.3%
5M	92.9%
6H	90.0%
6V	99.0%



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	Lidya H. & Aaminah G.	RW	Haider R & Muhammad S
1M	Sebastian C & Meela B	1F	Zohan S & Khadija C
2A	Evryone in 2A	2K	All of 2K & All of 2A
3S	Sarim A & Amaya F	3L	Aaminah G & Amyra M
4R	Abdhullah A & Muhammed Eesa P	4A	Sultan A & Hasan Ali S
5B	All of the children in 5B	5M	Aaisha U & Muhammad M
6V	Rehmatullah K & Amna M	6H	Fatima V & Umar K





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

"I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the children for being absolute superstars this year. It has been a privilege to watch them learn, grow, and develop throughout the year, and I am so proud of everything they have achieved. Thank you for all the smiles, laughter, enthusiasm, and wonderful memories you have given me. Each child has made a special impact, and it has been a pleasure to be part of their journey. I would also like to thank all of our families for your support and kindness throughout the year."

Action

Have a fantastic summer term at nursery and keep shining bright, everyone! Wishing you lots of fun, happiness, and success in all your new adventures.

Reception

This week we have watched an animation clip from Madagascar. This has linked with our topic on jungle animals. The children have written facts about their favourite jungle animal and thought about what a rainforest might feel like. We have performed jungle themed songs and role played the different animals!

Action

RW parent worship 17.06.26
RG parent worship 24.06.26
Please can you send your child in with an old photo of themselves- baby/toddler/ first day of school. We will be using these to look at the past and present. DT enterprise project, the children have made keyrings that they are going to sell. These will be available next week and a separate letter will be sent out about this."



Year Group Updates

Year 1

A huge well done to all of our year 1 for sitting their Phonics screening check this week. We are so proud of how hard the children have tried to make sure they were confident and ready.

Action

Reminder that Sports day is Wednesday 17th @ 1:15pm. Please wear PE kit Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 2

This week we went on our school trip to Blackpool to explore 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. The children loved seeing all the different animals. We saw Monkeys, Giraffe, Elephants, Flamingos, Penguins and much more! We even enjoyed watching the Sea Lion show, where we learnt all about sea lions in the wild and watched them perform different tricks.

Action

For homework this week please can your child practice their timetables -



Year Group Updates

Year 3

"This week in Year 3, we have been busy with some exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, we have been exploring money. We have been learning how to recognise different coins and notes, calculate amounts, and solve real-life money problems. In English, we have started planning a non-chronological report about wild flowers. We have been thinking about how to organise our ideas clearly and what interesting facts we can include."

Action

"Year 3 Parent Worship will be on Thursday 18th June at 8.50am. This is the same day as Sports Day so please send your child wearing a PE kit, trainers and suncream. We would love to see you at both events that day if you can make it! Both classes will be visiting Blackburn Museum for workshops about Fossils on Wednesday 1st July. Letters have been sent home this week so do check your child's bookbag if you haven't already seen these. Thank you."

Year 4

It has been a busy but productive week in Year 4! Congratulations to many of the children for successfully completing their official MTC. They should all be proud of the hard work they have put in leading up to this. In English, we wrapped up our reading of *The Water Horse*, where students engaged in writing directions and dialogues related to the novel. In Maths, we focused on time, learning to convert between analogue and digital formats, as well as using a 24-hour clock. Finally, in Geography, we explored rivers, with a particular emphasis on the Nile and its connection to the water cycle.

Action

Please sign your child's reading diary to confirm that you have read together at least three times this week. Additionally, please ensure that the maths homework is completed by next Friday.



Year Group Updates

Year 5

Well done to all Year 5 children for both classes End of Year worship. And thank you to parents who took time out of their busy schedule to watch. It means a lot to the children. We hope Year 5B are enjoying the weather on their trip.

Action

5M parents. Please check the weather forecast and dress children appropriately for Monday please

Year 6

During the mornings, Year 6, pupils have been catching up on their non-core subjects, ensuring they continue to build their knowledge and skills across the wider curriculum. They have shown great enthusiasm and engagement in subjects such as History, Geography, Science and Computing.

In the afternoons, excitement is building as pupils rehearse for their summer production. The children have been learning their lines, practising songs and refining their performances.

Action

Please look out for key dates and upcoming events related to the summer production, which will be shared with you shortly.



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.