

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 19th June 2026



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What a sporty week we've had! Between our sports days and England's excellent second half performance on Wednesday; it's been a wonderful week for sport!

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our sports days this week. It was lovely to see so many of you there – even though the weather was not perfect.

I'd also like to thank all the staff who helped organise the events – from arranging to have the grass cut, to putting up the banners, to organising the children and to counting up the scores – lots of people have to pull together to make this work!

And for those of you wondering, Mr. Cameron and I were approached by the BBC to provide commentary for the World Cup but we politely declined as our loyalty remains with St James'...

This week, we were also delighted to welcome Bishop Joe Kennedy, the

Bishop of Burnley. Bishop Joe enjoyed a tour of the school and met with our worship committee. I think it's fair to say he was blown away with how polite and articulate the children were!

In more good news, I received an email from the Local Authority congratulating us for improving our attendance over the last year! We still have some work to do; but it was lovely to see that your efforts in getting your children into school every day are being recognised!

Let's keep it up!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr D. Stitcher



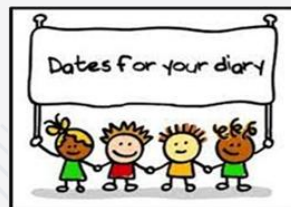


Monday 22nd June

Year 4 & Year 6 Swimming

Thursday 2nd July

New Reception & Whole school transition day



Thursday 9th July

Parent and Child, Teddy Bear's Picnic

Tuesday 14th July

Year 6 PANTO 1pm – 3pm KS2 hall

Wednesday 15th July

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

Friday 17th July

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





CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by UK Government

LANCASHIRE SKILLS
& EMPLOYMENT HUB

Part of the
Lancashire Combined
County Authority

Need help to find or stay in work?

Connect to Work can help you if you're finding it tough to get a job or stay in work. Whether you have a disability, a long-term health condition, or you're finding it hard to keep a job, **we're here to support you.** Let's talk.



- A personal employment specialist to support you
- A plan to help you meet your work goals
- Help and support at work and outside of work
- Support to help make changes at work to make things easier
- Someone to help you speak up at work

To find out more about this fully funded service, please email: employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk

Scan the QR code to find out more:



CONNECT TO WORK
Funded by UK Government

LANCASHIRE SKILLS
& EMPLOYMENT HUB

Part of the
Lancashire Combined
County Authority

Support at every stage of recruitment

Connect to Work is here to guide and support you and your new hire - before, during and after placement.

Looking beyond the CV

We help you recognise the value of life experience and transferable skills. By focusing on potential, you can uncover talent that might otherwise be overlooked.

Support new starters

A warm welcome, clear expectations and a buddy system can make a big difference. We'll help you create an environment that builds confidence and encourages long-term success.

Making simple adjustments

Small changes can have a big impact. Whether it's flexible hours, accessible workspaces or tailored onboarding, we can help you enable brilliant candidates to thrive.

Celebrating success

We'll support you in sharing stories that boost morale, highlight achievements, and show your commitment to hiring inclusively.

Scan the QR code to find out more:



Visit lancashireskillshub.co.uk/connect-to-work

EMPLOYMENT,
SKILLS AND
SUPPORT HUB



JOB CLUB & ICT Skills

Supporting People into Work



CV & Cover Letters



Interview Coaching



Getting Online



Job Searching



Build your confidence



Learn a new course

EVERY
TUESDAY

Darwen
Community
Helpers,
Bridge St,
Darwen,
BB3 2AA

9.30am-
11.30am

EVERY
WEDNESDAY

Bank Top
Neighbourhood
Learning
Centre,
Arthur Way,
Blackburn,
BB2 1QP

9.30am-
11.30am

EVERY
THURSDAY

Audley
Neighbourhood
Learning
Centre,
Pringle St,
Blackburn,
BB1 1SF

12.45pm-
2.45pm

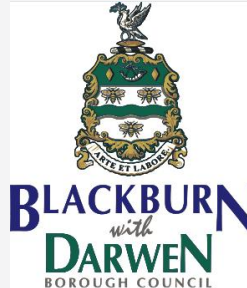
www.blackburn.gov.uk/recruitment
employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk
01254 666483

SIMPLY DROP IN
*NO BOOKING
REQUIRED



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



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:

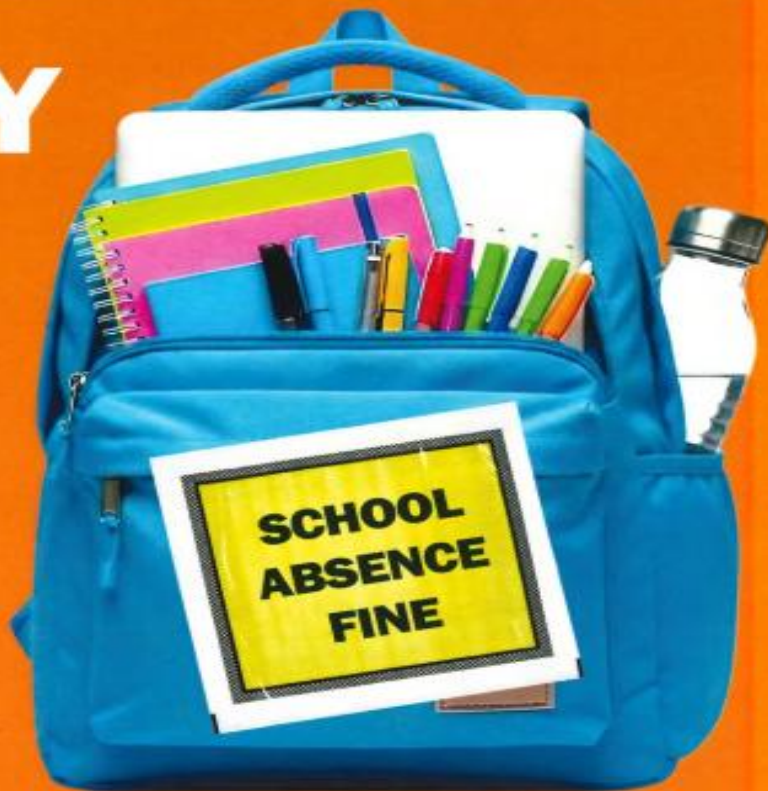
office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk





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 19 th June	Friday 26 th June	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 22 nd June Tuesday 23 rd June	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 24 th June Thursday 25 th June	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 24 th June	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 25 th June	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 22 nd June Friday 26 th June	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 22 nd June Tuesday 23 rd June	Tuesday	Monday Tuesday





attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 2A WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	93.2%
RW	96.4%
1F	95.6%
1M	93.8%
2A	98.6%
2K	97.4%
3L	95.7%
3S	95.8%
4A	95.8%
4R	92.7%
5B	95.3%
5M	98.4%
6H	97.3%
6V	97.4%



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		Maryam M, Sophia P, Muhamma Issa R & Hassan Murtaza S	
RG	Rayyan M. & Maryam P.	RW	Muhammad Azaan Y. & Mohammed Musa H.
1M	Ayman P & Syeda-Zaynab B	1F	Aliza R & Ahmad P
2A	Syed Nasr A & Muhammad Ruhan P	2K	Alisha P & Hawa I
3S	Fatima Norah SH & All of 3S	3L	Emaan F & 3L
4R	Faris C & Haris A	4A	Radwan B & Maaria H
5B	Alesha A & Sana A	5M	Huda P & Saba I
6V	Joudy Al N & Aaqib P	6H	Obaid H & Zainab H





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week the students have been learning about dinosaurs! We have been reading various dinosaur books and creating dinosaurs with our cutting skills. On Wednesday we explored the Forest School area and made water runs using pipes from the construction corner. On Friday we had Sports Day! This was a fun packed day where all the children completed egg and spoon races, obstacle courses and bean bag races. We are all proud of the children's efforts and thank the parents and carers for coming to watch us!

Action

N/A

Reception

The children thoroughly enjoyed sports day and cheering their house team and friends on. They all tried their best and it was lovely to see so much support for them. In class we have been looking at the text 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and in math's the children have consolidated their learning of number bonds within 10.

Action

"RG class worship is next Wednesday 24.06.26. We look forward to seeing you there. New phonics groups will begin on Monday, please bring book bags and read daily.



Year Group Updates

Year 1

Well done for sports day year 1 and thank you to all the parents who came and supported.

Action

Please complete spellings in purple books weekly

Year 2

Well done to all the children who participated in Sports Day this week, it was a great success! Also, a big thank you to parents and carer's who came to support our Sports Day event. We all had a fantastic time and can't wait to find out which house team has won.

Action

As the sun (hopefully) continues to shine, please make sure you are sending your child in with a water bottle, hat and applying sun cream before school.



Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 are ready for a rest this weekend! They have taken maths and reading assessments this week, demonstrating exemplary behaviour, practised and performed a superb worship, excelled in sports day and still managed to fit in some regular lessons too!

Action

Please return letters and donations for the year 3 trip as soon as possible. Your child will need to wear their PE kit on Monday and Wednesday this week please.

Year 4

This week 4 has been a hectic and exciting one for our Year 4 students! In English, students have been crafting their own stories inspired by The Water Horse, where they find a new monster's egg and tackle different obstacles to their plot. In R.E., they've explored the connections between Christian beliefs of the church and those of other religions, promoting deeper understanding and respect. Meanwhile, in History, the class has delved into the ancient Egyptian civilization of Alexandria, learning about its remarkable rise to success.

Action

"For 4R, please remember that it is our Parent Worship, so grown ups of the class are invited to watch us on Tuesday morning from 8:45am. Next week, all of Year 4 will be constructing boats for our DT project. Please ensure your child has collected materials for Friday. These could be: cereal boxes, foam sponges, egg trays, foil, cling film, drink bottles, bags for sails, string, or anything else you would like to use. 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

The Year 5 have had a great time at Bowley Scout camp. The weather was lovely for 5M but that didn't deter 5B from having a great time last Friday. The year 5's have also been to the library to have a talk to some authors. They had a superb workshop and represented the school exceptionally well.

Action

N/A

Year 6

This week, Year 6 enjoyed a walk to the library to take part in an engaging workshop. On Thursday afternoon, we had a fantastic time at Sports Day, with everyone showing great enthusiasm and teamwork.

We have also been talking about the transition from Year 6 to secondary school. The children shared what they are looking forward to and discussed any worries they may have about the move, leading to some thoughtful and positive conversations."

Action

Please support your child in learning their lines for the summer show. We would also appreciate your help in encouraging them to think about a suitable costume for their role.



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.