

# 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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026



*Doug Stitcher*  
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

That was a hot week! A big thank you to everyone for your understanding as we dealt with the hot weather.

We are fortunate to have some air-conditioned classrooms, and the children have been really sensible ensuring they drink a lot and avoiding running around in the sunshine during their reduced outside break times.

We also acquired 10 more fans to help circulate the air. They'll come in handy for next year when it might be warm for a couple more days!

I am delighted to share with you some exciting news! We have had some results back from our end of year assessments.

Let's start off with the Year 4 Multiplication Check – you may remember in 2024, we had 63% of our children getting full marks – this put us in the top 2% of the country!! Last year, we beat that again with 78%. That makes this year's results even more

amazing! **This year, 82% of our children achieved full marks!** A huge congratulations to our Year 4 children and the staff who supported them!

I'm also thrilled to inform you that **90% of our Year 1 children passed their phonics screening!** This is way above the national average and our highest result in years! A big well done the children and to our Year 1 staff for their hard work

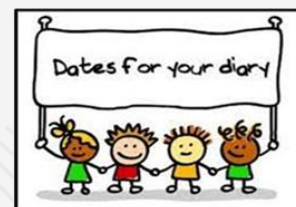
On top of that, we have just found out that **71% of children are leaving Reception with a Good Level of Development (GLD)!** Again, this represents a significant achievement and we are very proud of our children and Reception staff!

All-in-all, it's already shaping up to a massively successful year!! Well done everyone!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr D. Stitcher





## Thursday 2nd July

New Reception & Whole school transition day

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Summer Fair @ 2:30pm

## Thursday 9th July

Parent and Child, Teddy Bear's Picnic

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Year 6 Show 1pm – 3pm KS2 hall

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

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

## Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

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



# SUMMER FAIR

WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026

IN KS1 PLAYGROUND

FREE  
ENTRY

FUN  
FOR  
EVERYONE!

GAMES!  
FOOD!  
PRIZES!

- ★ Tombola
- ★ Lucky dip
- ★ Hot food
- ★ Bean bag toss
- ★ Drinks
- ★ Spin to win
- ★ Beat the goalie
- ★ Sweet treats
- ★ Hook a duck
- ★ Tin can alley
- ★ Coconut shy
- ★ Mendhi



★ START TIME ★  
2:30PM

# LEARN TO FLOAT

If you get in trouble  
in the water, don't  
panic – follow  
these steps:

1



Keep calm. Don't swim hard.  
Hold onto anything that floats.

2



Lean back to keep your mouth  
and nose out of the water.

3



Push your belly up and  
stretch out your arms and  
legs into a star shape.

4



Gently move your hands  
and feet to help you float.

5



Do this until you feel  
more relaxed.

6



When you're calm, raise your  
arm and shout for help.  
Swim to safety if you can.



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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](mailto: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](http://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

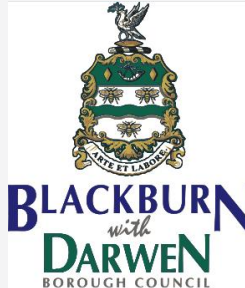
[www.blackburn.gov.uk/recruitment](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/recruitment)  
[employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:employmentsupport@blackburn.gov.uk)  
01254 666483

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](mailto: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:

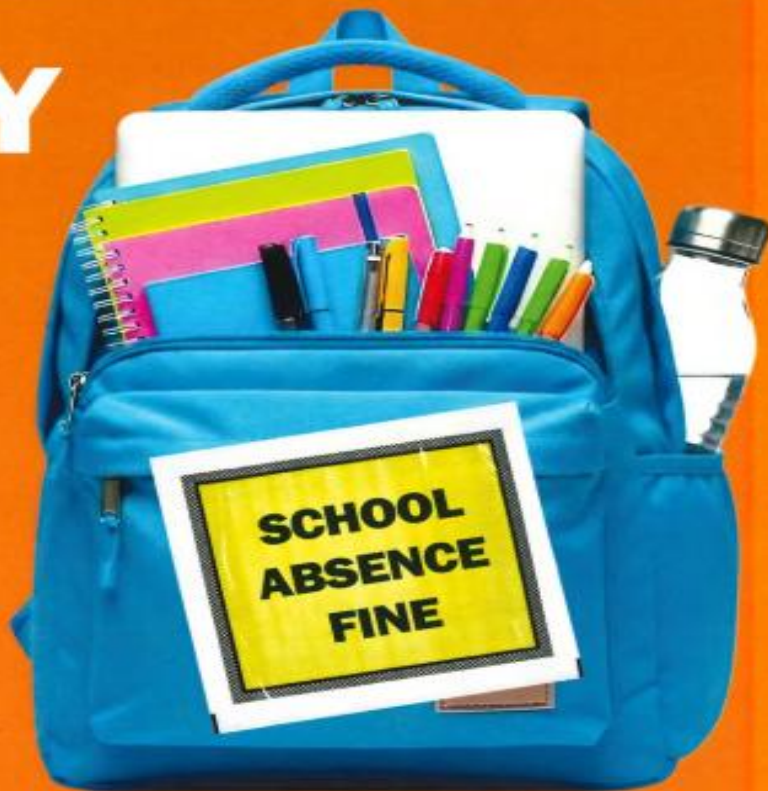
[office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto:office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk)





# 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](mailto:education.welfare@blackburn.gov.uk)





## 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 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1M	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June  Tuesday	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June  Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June  Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June  Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June  Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday  Tuesday
Year 2 2A and 2K	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June  Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June  Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June  Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July  Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Wednesday Thursday
Year 3 3L and 3S	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June  Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June  Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June  Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Wednesday
Year 4 4A and 4R	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June  Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June  Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June  Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5M	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June  Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June  Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Monday Friday
Year 6 6H and 6V	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June  Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June  Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday Tuesday






# attendance ~~MATTERS~~



**CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 5B WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!**

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

RG	<b>94.5%</b>
RW	<b>95.5%</b>
1F	<b>93.2%</b>
1M	<b>97.5%</b>
2A	<b>95.5%</b>
2K	<b>94.3%</b>
3L	<b>97.1%</b>
3S	<b>94.0%</b>
4A	<b>93.9%</b>
4R	<b>98.0%</b>
5B	<b>100.0%</b> 
5M	<b>94.8%</b>
6H	<b>93.7%</b>
6V	<b>98.0%</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		Eric A, Fayha I, Hasnain R & Mikael I	
RG	Aisha B. & Muhammad Shahzain S.	RW	Fatima S & Musa H
1M	M.Azaan A & M. Momin J	1F	Zayn Y & Ahmad Maksud P
2A	Saarah P and Amnah H	2K	Juwarriya M & Muhammed Ayaan M.
3S	Sarim A & Ayat AA	3L	Hamza A & Fatima YM
4R	Maryam K & Mohammed Issa H	4A	Aiza R & Haadi F
5B	Abdullah V & Yahya S	5M	Huzaifa M & Salma A
6V	Safa M & Bilal B	6H	Subhana S & Fatima T





# Year Group Updates

## Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week in nursery we have looked at Dinosaurs again! The children have been keeping cool in the sunshine in the water pools and making their own waterslides. We have been staying hydrated and enjoying the shade of the treehouse. We have been exploring paint to make Dinosaurs in the expressive art and design area. We have also continued learning about short, tall and tallest during group time. The children have enjoyed following step by step drawings and created their own Dinosaurs.

## Action

N/A

## Reception

This week the children enjoyed observing the changes in our plants, fruits and vegetables. Some of the strawberries in our discovery area were ready to harvest. The children enjoyed tasting these and told us, 'they are sweet, juicy and delicious because they are fresh!'. As the weather has been warmer than usual we have discussed different climates and how to keep safe in warmer temperatures. The children were particularly engaged our foot spas and increased water play this week. We have continued our work on different habits including jungles and animals.

## Action

Please send in book bags daily and sign reading planners daily. It is important that children are dressed and prepared for the weather. In warmer temperatures it is important that suncream is applied in a morning, no vests or layers and water bottles are sent in. Thanks for your continued support."



# Year Group Updates

## Year 1

Well done to all the children in Year 1 this week who have completed their independent writing of a modern version of the tradition story 'The Three Little Pigs'. Ask your child how they made the story more modern.

## Action

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances 1F's parent worship on 2nd July has been cancelled.

## Year 2

What a fantastic and busy week we have had in Year 2. In Maths, the children have been diving into statistics, using pictograms, tally charts and bar charts to sort, compare and interpret data like real mathematicians! In Science, they have been exploring microhabitats and became mini beast experts as they designed and created their very own bug hotels. They carefully thought about what mini beasts need to survive and used natural materials such as bark, leaves and flowers to bring their creations to life. In English, the children impressed us with their creativity as they wrote fantastic innovated stories based on The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch, using exciting ideas and adventurous vocabulary. In Art, they have been developing their drawing skills by creating detailed self-portraits in the style of Leonardo da Vinci, showing great focus, observation and artistic flair."

## Action

Please ensure children come to school with sun cream applied, as well as a water bottle and a cap or sunhat to help them stay safe and comfortable in warmer weather. We also ask that you continue to support your child by listening to them read at least three times a week, as this makes a significant difference to their progress and confidence. Thank you for your continued support.



# Year Group Updates

## Year 3

"It has been a busy and challenging week in Year 3, especially with the hot weather. The children have worked incredibly hard and shown great perseverance while completing their NFER tests. We are very proud of the effort and positive attitude they have shown throughout the week. In English, we have been writing our own reimagined versions of The Three Little Pigs. The children enjoyed putting their own creative twist on the story and have produced some fantastic pieces of writing. We have also taken some time to reflect on our achievements and successes in Year 3. The children have thought about how much they have learned this year and discussed their hopes and goals as they prepare to move into Year 4. With Transition Day approaching, there is a growing sense of excitement about the next stage of their learning journey. We are looking forward to helping the children finish Year 3 strongly and feel confident about the move to Year 4."

## Action

If you have not already done so, please return your child's Blackburn Museum trip permission slip as soon as possible, as the visit is due to take place next Wednesday.

## Year 4

It's been an enjoyable week of learning in Year 4 despite the sweltering heat. In English, we began our new text, "What a Waste" by Jess French, focusing on how we can care for our world. Students wrote postcards from the Earth, created house adverts for energy-efficient homes, and developed their sentence skills using formal connective phrases. In maths, we started a new topic on shape, where we learned about and compared different angles and explored various types of triangles. Lastly, in geography, we studied different bodies of water, comparing two significant ones in Egypt: the Aswan Dam and the Suez Canal.

## 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

Despite the scorching temperatures this week, the children have put in huge efforts into their end of year assessments. The results are showing that their hard work and perseverance this year has paid off and you should all be proud of their efforts. Remind your children to keep working hard for the last few weeks.

## Action

N/A

## Year 6

The rehearsals for the Year 6 Summer Production are going very well. The children have been working incredibly hard learning their lines, songs, and routines, and we are very proud of their commitment and enthusiasm. We look forward to welcoming you to the performance soon.

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed the start of their swimming lessons and have shown great enthusiasm and determination in the pool. We have also been busy preparing for our summer production, learning the songs and practising the choreography. The children have worked incredibly hard and are looking forward to showcasing their talents. As we approach the end of their time at St James, the children have been reflecting on their many happy memories. They have enjoyed reminiscing about their journey through the school and have created a PowerPoint presentation to celebrate their experiences and achievements."

## Action

" Please continue to send your child with a named water bottle, a sun hat or cap, and sunscreen applied before school where appropriate. The children have also been given letters regarding our Year 6 celebration trip to Kings Castle and Ten Pin Bowling. Please ensure that the completed forms are returned to school as soon as possible. A gentle reminder to please ensure your child brings their swimming kit on their swimming day. We would also be grateful if any outstanding consent slips and payments for the bowling trip could be returned as soon as possible. Thank you for your support."



# 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.