

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 3rd July 2026



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What a busy week in school! On Tuesday, we took part in the local poetry recital event at Blackburn Library – children from Key Stage 2 were chosen to perform a poem by heart. Local poet, Ian Bland, was there performing some of his poetry as well. The children were amazing and it was a lovely event.

Yesterday was our transition day where the children had the opportunity to meet their new teachers. This year, we are welcoming Mr Moat, a very experienced teacher, who will be joining us in Year 2.

Unfortunately, we will also be saying goodbye to one of our teachers. Mrs Gell, who many of you will know well from her time with our younger children, will be leaving us at the end of the summer to take up a new post in another local school. We are really happy for her and wish her every success in her new role!

I am pleased to say that we have also

appointed two new teaching assistants, Miss Sufi and Miss Mahmood, who will be joining us in September as we look to increase our staffing.

Mrs Stott will be working in our new Specialist Inclusion Base so has not been given a class next year.

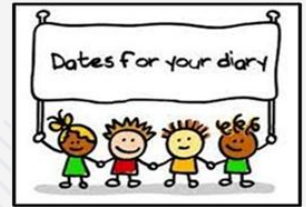
And finally, I received some disappointing news from the DfE yesterday – the SATS results have been delayed until 16th July. This means that our children in Year 6 will have to wait until then to find out how they did. However, we will do our best to ensure the results go home that day. Because of this, they will not be included with your child's end of term report as they would have done normally.

Two weeks until the summer holidays begin! We're looking forward to all of our end of year events and fun!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr D. Stitcher





Wednesday 8th July

Summer Fair @ 2:30pm

Thursday 9th July

Parent and Child, Teddy Bear's Picnic

Tuesday 14th July

Year 6 Show 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



SUMMER FAIR

WEDNESDAY 8TH 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.



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



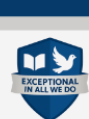
RENEW YOUR CODE!

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.





PRIORITY
given to children receiving
free school meals



inspire | motivate | overcome
It's my opportunity

SUMMER TRAILBLAZERS

**FOUR EXCITING THEMES
ONE UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER**

WEEK 1

**THE GREAT
OUTDOORS**



WEEK 2

**FUTURE
MAKERS**



WEEK 3

**MISSION
CONTROL**



WEEK 4

**GLOBAL
ADVENTURES**



DATE / TIME
MONDAY – THURSDAY
27 JUL – 20 AUG
INFANTS (AGES 5–7) 9AM–1PM
JUNIORS (AGES 8–11) 9AM–1PM
SENIORS (AGES 12–14) 3PM–7PM

HOW TO REGISTER



<https://bit.ly/BlackburnIMO>

**MULTIPLE
LOCATIONS
ACROSS
BLACKBURN**

Umar Mulla
07394 653921 / 01254 781310
umar.mulla@imocharity.org

@imocharity | www.imocharity.org





As you will have probably seen or heard, [the HAF website](#) has completely changed from this Summer going forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about how it works. Additionally, you can have a look on this website for guidance - <https://help.holidayactivities.com/hc/en-gb>

IMO's Summer HAF Camp will be taking place between 27 July - 20 August - Monday to Thursday each week.

We will be delivering in Blackburn at 3 sites

- 1) IMO Hub (Pringle St) - seniors (ages 12-14) - 3-7PM daily - BB1 1SF
- 2) Al Islah High School - infants & juniors (ages 5-11) - 9AM-1PM daily - BB1 1TF
- 3) Jaame Mosque - infants & juniors (ages 5-11) - 9AM-1PM daily - BB1 1JP

Further information is available here - <https://bit.ly/BlackburnIMO>

If your children are eligible for free school meals (benefits related), you'll have received a 16-digit code via text or email from your child's school which you can then click on and look at activity options and book. You can follow this guideline to book your activity if you receive a voucher - <https://help.holidayactivities.com/hc/en-gb/articles/33547652281629-Redeeming-a-HolidayActivities-voucher>

If your children are on universal free school meals (not benefits related) or in Year 3 and above and are not eligible for free school meals, there is an option of paid places at the cost of £10 per day per child and this is the form - <https://forms.office.com/e/G9qi0i60Wi> (if your son/daughter can attend only some days that week, this is an option we can assist with to ensure you only pay for places on days that they will attend)

Questions? Contact Umar on 07394 653921

Kind Regards
Umar Mulla
Universal Youth Lead

IMO Charity
Unit 11, Business Development Centre
Eanam Wharf, Blackburn, BB1 5BL

01254 781310 / 07394653921
imocharity.org | [@imocharity](https://twitter.com/imocharity)





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





Family Hub

Darwen | Little Harwood | Livesey | Shadsworth



BEST START IN LIFE



Scan me



Summer Parenting Newsletter



We are pleased to share another successful quarter. We continue to work in partnership with our educational settings and have delivered workshops from Meadowhead Junior School and St Silas Primary School. We encourage other schools to reach out for programme and workshop delivery opportunities.

SEND Support

Stepping Stones Online

We are also continuing our SEND support offer, including Stepping Stones Online, a flexible digital programme designed to support parents of children with additional needs. For more information or to access this support, please contact hannah.grundy@blackburn.gov.uk.

Riding the Rapids

We now have a wider cohort in the team now trained and accredited in delivery of Riding the Rapids. From September, we will be delivering the programme for parents of both primary and secondary school-aged children, supporting families with autistic children or those with learning disabilities, the programme supports parents and carers in managing challenging behavior and understand their child's needs. It builds parental confidence, reduces stress, and provides a safe space for families to share experiences.

EPEC Parenting Programme

We are looking to identify parents and carers to be trained and accredited as Parent Group Leaders for the EPEC programme. EPEC (Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities) is a peer-led parenting programme that supports parents to build confidence, strengthen relationships with their children, and develop positive parenting strategies within a supportive community setting. For more information around this please contact myself using the details at the bottom of this newsletter.

Retirement

After many years of dedicated service, we are saying a fond farewell to Janice Beecroft as she retires from our Parenting Team. Janice has made a lasting difference to countless families through her compassion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to supporting parents and children. We thank Janice for her outstanding contribution and wish her a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement filled with good health, happiness, and new adventures.





Upcoming Parenting Workshops

Day	Area	Group	Time	Date starting
Friday	Family Hub Little Harwood	Fussy Eaters workshop	9:30 – 11:30am	03.07.26
Tuesday	Family Hub Darwen	Understanding Children's Behaviour	12:30 – 2:30pm	07.07.26
Friday	Family Hub Little Harwood	Understanding Children's Behaviours workshop	9:30 – 11:30	10.07.26
Tuesday	Family Hub Darwen	Fussy Eaters workshop	12:30 – 2:30pm	14.07.26
Friday	Family Hub Little Harwood	Looking after ourselves workshop	9:30 – 11:30am	17.07.26

Parenting Programmes – September Start

Area	Group	Time	Date starting (including pre-meet)	Date Programme Ends
Family Hub Livesey	Riding The Rapids Teenage Programme	9.30am - 11.30am	7.9.26	16.11.26
Family Hub Livesey	Incredible years Baby	12.30pm – 2.30pm	7.9.26	2.11.26
Family Hub Shadsworth	Preparation for parenthood	5.30pm-7.30pm	8.9.26	13.11.26
Family Hub Darwen	HENRY 0-5	12:30pm – 2:30pm	8.9.26	17.11.26





Best Start for Life HENRY offer for 0-2s

We continue to deliver the Best Start for Life HENRY programmes and workshops, supporting families to build healthier lifestyles and improve nutrition and wellbeing. For further information, please contact danielle.morrison@henry.gov.uk



Family Hub Darwen	HENRY 0-5	12:30pm – 2:30pm	8.9.26	17.11.26
Family Hub Livesey	Healthy relationships	12.30pm-2.30pm	9.9.26	07.11.26
Crosshill School	Riding The Rapids Primary	9.30am – 11.30am	10.9.26	19.11.26
Family Hub Hancock St	HENRY 5-12	12.30pm-2.30pm	10.9.26	19.11.26
Earcroft CC	Caring Dads	6pm-8pm	10.9.36	
Family Hub Little Harwood	Riding The Rapids Primary	12:30pm – 2:30pm	11.9.26	20.11.26

For any further information around our parenting offer and community delivery please contact me – helen.hartley@blackburn.gov.uk, or check out our family hub website <https://familyhubsbwd.org/>





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



Oral Health Questionnaire

We want to know how parents and caregivers look after their children's teeth.

Your answers will help us to understand our community and how we can support good oral health.

Scan the QR Code for the form in English and Urdu



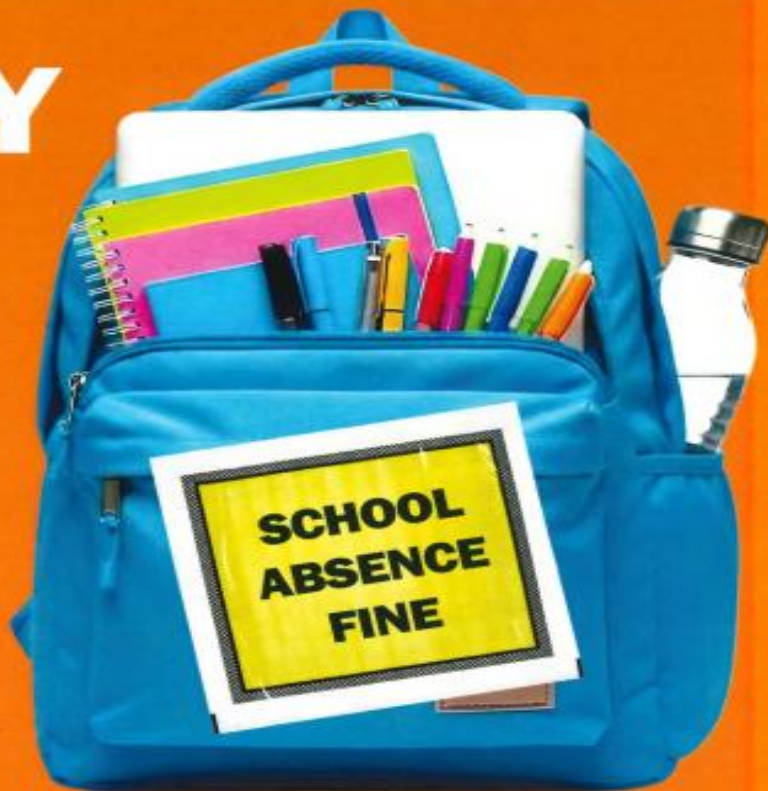
Blackburn with Darwen Parent and Carer Oral Health Questionnaire





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 22nd May 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 25th May – Friday 29th 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 26 th June	Friday 3 rd July	Friday 10 th July
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 29 th June Tuesday 30 th June	Monday 6 th July Tuesday 7 th July
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 1 st July Thursday 2 nd July	Wednesday 8 th July Thursday 9 th July
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 29 th June Wednesday 1 st July	Wednesday 8 th July
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 29 th June Thursday 2 nd July	Thursday 9 th July
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 3 rd July	Monday 6 th July Friday 10 th July
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 30 th June	Monday 6 th July Tuesday 7 th July





attendance ~~MATTERS~~




CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 3S WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

95%
and
above

90% -
94.9%

Below
90%

RG	88.4%
RW	86.4%
1F	95.6%
1M	93.3%
2A	93.2%
2K	93.9%
3L	92.9%
3S	99.0% 
4A	93.5%
4R	96.7%
5B	96.0%
5M	92.9%
6H	92.7%
6V	92.3%

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		Hakeem M & Rehan M & Hafsa N & Minhal A	
RG	Ayaan P. & Amaanullah M.	RW	Burhan A & Miguel C
1M	Yahya V & Haris Y	1F	Farhan I & Liyana R
2A	Muhammad P & Amna S	2K	Amaan P & Duha S
3S	Aaysha C & Zareesh W	3L	Kiswa H & Amna A
4R	Urwaa R & Safia S	4A	Ayaan P & Amina S
5B	Rayyan J & Zain D	5M	Zainab A & Rehan Q
6V	Karim A & Asfa S	6H	Ayesha Q & Fatima R





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week we have been very busy! We have made our faces with natural resources in the forest school area, enjoyed the outdoor area on the bikes and practiced our graduation songs. On Thursday some children went for their transition day in reception which went really well, and the children enjoyed making bears ready for the teddy bears picnic next week! Today we did some celebration dancing before doing our stars of the week.

Action

N/A

Reception

The children enjoyed transition day yesterday getting to know their new teacher in preparation for September. The letters came home with the children to inform you of who this will be. This week we have learnt facts about dinosaurs from our non-fiction text! Ask your children if they can recall some. In maths we have been consolidating our learning of odd and even numbers.

Action

N/A



Year Group Updates

Year 1

The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting their new teachers on transition day and are really excited to start in year 2

Well done Year 1, your new teachers were very impressed with your attitude, behaviour and enthusiasm.

Action

N/A

Year 2

"We have had another lovely week in class and the children have worked hard across all areas of their learning. This week, the children enjoyed their Transition Day, where they had the opportunity to meet their new teacher and spend some time in their new classroom. In DT, we have been exploring our Seaside Snacks topic. The children have been developing their food preparation skills by having a go at different slicing techniques. They practiced using equipment safely and carefully while preparing ingredients. The children also enjoyed tasting a variety of foods that could be eaten at the seaside and discussed which foods they liked best and why."

Action

"On Monday we are having a non-uniform day in order to raise donations for our Summer Fair. We hope you can all join us on Wednesday for our School Fair."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

We have had a busy yet productive week here in Year 3! Our children had a fantastic time exploring Fossils on our trip to Blackburn museum on Wednesday. The children handled real fossils, dressed up as Victorian palaeontologists, drew their favourite fossils and made 3D dinosaurs. Our trip was then followed by transition day where the children had a chance to experience Year 4 and meet their new teachers!

Year 3 had an exciting and informative time at Blackburn Museum this week, consolidating their knowledge of fossils and rocks, dressing up as Victorian Fossil Hunters and handling and sketching real fossils. Both classes made us very proud with their exemplary behaviour and enthusiastic participation. We have also been practising the skills needed to play rounders, learning about the rules of different faiths and finishing our end of year assessments. The children were excited to find out who their new teachers are and spent the day with them on Thursday. 3S will be taught by Miss Lavelle next year, while 3L will be taught by Mrs Wright.

Action

Please make sure your child is coming to school with a jumper. Thank you.

Please send a named 'bag-for-life' type carrier bag into school on Monday so we can begin to send your child's work home. Thank you

Year 4

Year 4 have continued to work hard this week as we close nearer to the end of the school year. In English, the children have resumed our text of 'What A Waste' and have been creating miniature leaflets and information pages about how water is used and cleaned. In maths, we have carried on with our topic of shape by learning about polygons and lines of symmetry. Finally, the children have had their transition day into Year 5 this week, giving them a taste of what learning will look like next year with their new year group teachers.

Action

Year 4 have continued to work hard this week as we close nearer to the end of the school year. In English, the children have resumed our text of 'What A Waste' and have been creating miniature leaflets and information pages about how water is used and cleaned. In maths, we have carried on with our topic of shape by learning about polygons and lines of symmetry. Finally, the children have had their transition day into Year 5 this week, giving them a taste of what learning will look like next year with their new year group teachers.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week, the children have all visited their new teacher for the next academic year. They were all superbly respectful and can't wait to start. The children have also finished their art and writing assessments off. They set is fantastic and looks amazing.

Action

N/A

Year 6

"Year 6 have been working hard learning their songs, practicing their lines, and rehearsing together. We look forward to welcoming families to the performance. More details, including the date and time, will be on the newsletter soon. As we come to the end of another successful school year, we will be holding our End-of-Year Celebration. This will also include a special farewell for our Year 6 pupils as they prepare to move on to secondary school. Further details will be sent out shortly."

Action

"On Monday, we will be going ten-pin bowling, followed by lunch at King's Castle. Please ensure your child wears comfortable clothing and suitable footwear. If they require any medication or personal items, please make sure these are brought with them."



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



July

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.

