

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 10th July 2026



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported our summer fair on Wednesday. IT was very well-supported and the weather was perfect!

It was lovely to see so many of you there. I also need to thank all of the staff who helped organize, set-up, run and put away all the stalls. It was a real team effort.

I'm delighted to inform you that we raised a fantastic £1555.00

We now have just one week left of this academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout this year. Keeping the lines of communication open between home and school is what creates a successful partnership. We are always here to talk to; both for the good news and if things don't quite go to plan. On behalf of everyone here, thank you for working with us to help make our school the special place it is.

Next week sees our Year 6 End of Year Show, our Early Years Graduation ceremonies, our Church services and our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly... I would suggest you pick up some tissues this weekend!

And, just in case you have forgotten, a final reminder that school closes to children for the summer after school on Friday 17th July and re-opens to children on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 to do it all again!

Let's all have a wonderful last week of term and celebrate everything that has contributed to making this one of our happiest and most successful years ever!

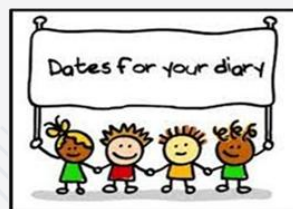
Have a lovely weekend!

Mr D. Stitcher



St James' C of E
Primary School

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



Tuesday 14th July

Year 6 Show **1pm – 3pm** KS2 hall

Wednesday 15th July

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

Friday 17th July

Church Service **KS1 – 9:30am**
KS2 – 10:30am

Friday 17th July

Year 6 Leavers Assembly KS2 Hall @ **1:15pm–2pm** (Parents welcome)

Friday 17th July

School closure for summer

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

School reopens





We would like to thank all the wonderful vendors that supported our School Summer Fair. It was a huge success.

A special thank you to:

- Tempting delights
- Simply Doughnuts
- Asda Community, Blackburn
- Morrisons, Blackburn
- LCC Catering staff



LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE





A huge Congratulations to St James' Rounders Team on winning the Rounders Tournament.

What a fantastic achievement – well done to all the players and everyone involved. You should be incredibly proud of your hard work, teamwork and determination.





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





Current Year 2 Transition to Year 3 (KS2)

Next term, your child will be moving into Year 3 (Key Stage 2). This is the transition from the infant part of the school to the juniors.

As your child moves into Year 3 there are some changes we need to make you aware of.

Please remember your child's entitlement to Universal Infant Free School Meals expired at the end of Year 2 and meals must be paid for in advance via School Spider, at a cost of £2.60 per meal. If you believe you may be entitled to free school meals, due to your financial circumstances, please ensure you apply as soon as possible.

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-meals>

Parents will continue to be able to book their child's meal on a termly basis, which allows your child their choice of meals. If a meal is not pre-booked your child will be receive the Kitchen Choice for the day.





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



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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>

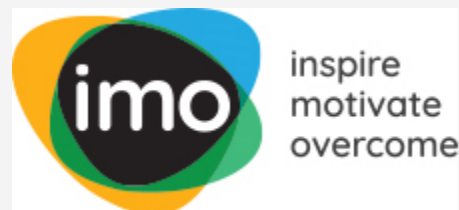
If your children are on universal free school meals (not benefits related) or in Year 3 and above and are not eligible for free school meals, there is an option of paid places at the cost of £10 per day per child and this is the form - <https://forms.office.com/e/G9qi0i60Wi> (if your son/daughter can 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)





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

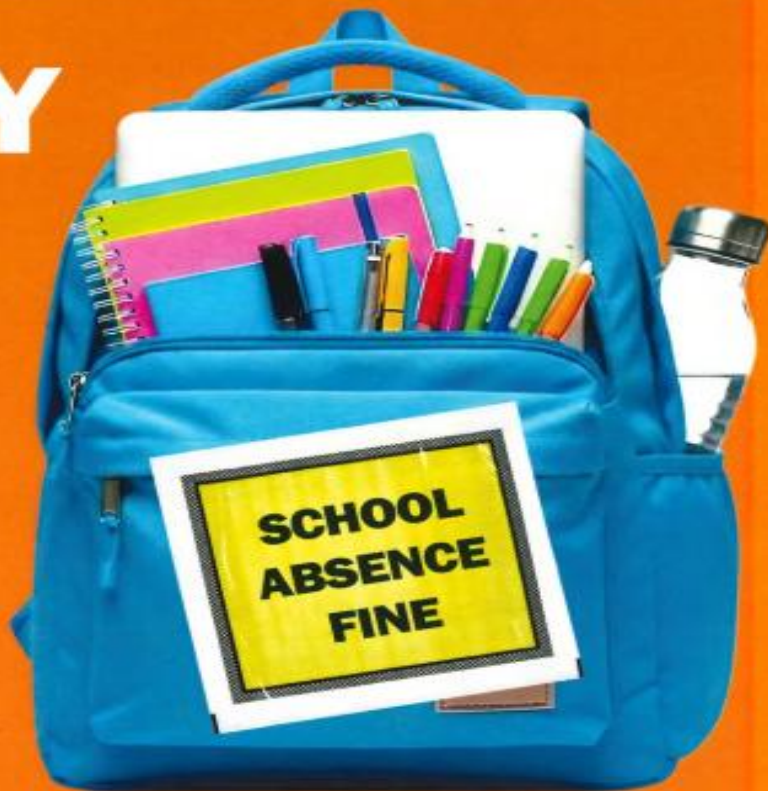
For any further information around our parenting offer and community delivery please contact me – helen.hartley@blackburn.gov.uk, or check out our family hub website <https://familyhubsbwd.org/>





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



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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 1st and Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Wednesday 3rd September 2025 Friday 24th October 2025 Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 (inc) Monday 3rd November 2025 Thursday 18th December 2025 Friday 19th 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 5th January 2026 Tuesday 6th January 2026 Friday 13th February 2026 Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 (inc) Monday 23rd February 2026 Friday 27th 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 13th April 2026 Monday 4th May 2026 Friday 22nd May 2026 Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026 (inc) Monday 1st June 2026 Friday 17th July 2026 Monday 20th July 2026





attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 6V WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	89.6%
RW	88.6%
1F	90.4%
1M	94.2%
2A	94.5%
2K	93.9%
3L	92.9%
3S	92.5%
4A	97.7%
4R	94.3%
5B	95.7%
5M	97.1%
6H	93.7%
6V	99.0%



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		All of EYC	
RG	Abdurrahman P. & Yakub. N	RW	Odai A & Khadija S
1M	Amaan P & M.Harris F	1F	Aisha K & Ahmed C
2A	All of 2A	2K	Amara A & Khadijah AA
3S	Fathima Norah SH & Muhammad Hussain F	3L	Emaan F & Momina S
4R	Bareera B & Mohammed Eesa M	4A	Shehryaar S & Rumaisa R
5B	Everyone in 5B	5M	Inaaya A & M. Anas
6V	Manahil M & Rehmatullah K	6H	Aizah N & Tabraiz K





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 have continued to work on dinosaurs, writing about them, drawing them, painting them and even learning all the different names! The children have also enjoyed lots of time in the discovery area and cooling down with ice lollies. It was lovely to see so many children and their families at the school fair.

Action

Send a carrier bag with your child so that they can bring their school books home. Reading books have now been collected but it is important to still read over the summer. If you can not access books then the library allow you to borrow books for free.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

We would just like to say a big well done to the children for their excellent year as Year 1's. They are all so ready for year 2. Thank you parents for all your support over the year. One more week to go!

Action

N/A

Year 2

"It has been another busy and exciting week in Year 2! As part of our Spirited Arts ELO Day, the children have been creating their own special place artwork, using their creativity to express what makes a place meaningful to them. In English, the children have been reading and performing the poem Please Mrs Butler, focusing on using expression, intonation and clear voices to bring the poem to life. In DT, the children developed their food preparation skills by practicing safe cutting techniques with a variety of fruits and vegetables. They also explored the different foods using their senses, describing their appearance, texture, smell and taste."

Action

"As the weather continues to be warm, please ensure your child comes to school each day with sun cream already applied, a water bottle and a sun hat. Over the coming days, we will be sending home your child's books and learning. Please could you send your child to school with a strong, reusable bag so they can bring everything home safely. Thank you for your continued support."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

It's been another busy week in Year 3. We have been writing about wild flowers, finishing our maths units on statistics and money, and practising our fine motor skills to keep improving our handwriting. We have been learning about the rules of Islam and Sikhism and creating watercolour paintings to represent our sacred spaces for an art completion. We have also written about why those places are important to us as part of a poem that will be written on our work.

Action

We will be collecting in all remaining reading books on Monday so please have a look at home over the weekend to see whether you still have any. Please send your child to school with a strong carrier bag for us to send their books home in. They will need to bring it EVERY day next week, please make sure your child is wearing sun cream and appropriate clothes for the weather. Sun hats are recommended!

Year 4

Yet again, it has been another eventful week in Year 4! In English, the children have been writing an entertaining (and informative) explanation text on the process of cleaning our toilet water. Following this, they have begun to analyse our final poem of the year 'Too messy for Nessie'. Meanwhile in mathematics, we have been exploring the world of statistics by interpreting and comparing different charts and graphs. Finally, the children have been working hard to create artwork as part of the Spirited Arts competition. Here, they have used oil pastels to produce pieces of art representing a place which is special to them.

Action

N/A





Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week, the children have been taking part in their spirituality art week. We have some fantastic creations and the children have worked extremely hard on them. A huge well done. Not long left of Year 5 until the children are in year 6. Keep up the hard work.

Action

N/A

Year 6

Year 6 have been working hard on their summer show. They are all excited to showcase it to the school and parents. Swimming lessons have been running smoothly and the children have enjoyed it.

Action

"Last week in year 6! We will be having a balloon fight on Wednesday afternoon. Please keep an eye on the dates for y6 celebration assembly.





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](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesCofEBlackburn)

Twitter: [@st_blackburn](https://twitter.com/st_blackburn)

Please note that you don't need to have an account to view our social media pages.

