

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
Earl Street
Blackburn
BB1 8EG

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office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

Date: Friday 17th July 2026



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we reach the end of another wonderful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our pupils, families, governors and staff for their continued support. It has been a year filled with achievement, growth and many memorable moments, and I am incredibly proud of everything our school community has accomplished together.

I am particularly delighted to share this year's Key Stage 2 outcomes. Our Year 6 pupils have worked exceptionally hard throughout their time at St James', supported by dedicated staff and supportive families. Their efforts have been rewarded with outstanding results across all subjects.

These results represent significant improvements on last year's already strong outcomes and are a testament to the hard work, resilience and determination shown by our pupils. They also reflect the commitment of our talented staff, who continually go above and beyond to provide an ambitious, engaging curriculum and the highest quality teaching.

Whilst we are proud of these outcomes, we know that success is about much more than test results.

Throughout the year, our children have continued to flourish through sporting competitions, musical performances, educational visits, leadership opportunities, worship, fundraising and countless acts of kindness that embody our Christian values every day.

	2025 - 2026		2024 - 2025	
	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth
Reading	93%	36%	83%	26%
Writing	82%	12%	67%	3%
Maths	98%	66%	91%	45%
Grammar	97%	64%	90%	55%

To our Year 6 pupils, we wish you every success as you begin the next chapter of your education. You leave St James' as confident, compassionate and capable young people, and we know you will continue to achieve great things.

I'd also like to wish Mrs Gell every success as she leaves us for her new role in September.

Finally, thank you to every member of our school community for making St James' such a special place to learn and grow. I hope you all enjoy a safe, restful and happy summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year. School re-opens on Wednesday 2nd September 2026.

Something tells me it's going to be another busy year...

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr D. Stitcher



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Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (HONS), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



Just a reminder that the Government is expanding Free School Meal eligibility. As part of these changes, all families currently receiving Free School Meals **must reapply** to continue their entitlement from September. These changes also mean that more families may now be eligible. If you do not apply, your child may not receive Free School Meals from September. To reapply or see if you are eligible, please use the link below:

[https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Free_School_Meals_\(NEW\).aspx](https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Free_School_Meals_(NEW).aspx)

If you need any help, please contact the school office.

Thank you.





PRICE INCREASE

From 2nd September 2026 the cost of a school meal will increase to **£2.90** per day (free for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, and children entitled to Pupil Premium)

All other Breakfast Club and Nursery charges remain the same:

Nursery Breakfast club = £3.00 per day, 8-8:30am

Nursery Morning session = £14.00, 8:30-11:30am

Nursery Afternoon session = £14.00, 12:10-3:10pm

Nursery Snack = £2 per week

Breakfast Club = £2.50 per child, per day, free for Pupil Premium entitled children





Reminder: After School Club Ending & Breakfast Club Update

We would like to remind families that our **After School Club** has ended on Friday 17th July 2026.

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.

Please remember to pre-book your child's place at Breakfast Club. Unfortunately, children who have not been pre-booked will not be able to attend, so please ensure your booking is made in advance to avoid disappointment.

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 **£2.90** 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.





Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

**Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'**

Delivered by CYPMH East
tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT



Enter the word "CYPMH East" as the first name and "drop in" as the second name followed by your date of birth.
You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 5th August 2026

1pm – 3pm

Wednesday 12th August 2026

3pm – 5pm

Wednesday 19th August 2026

5pm – 7pm

Wednesday 26th August 2026

1pm – 3pm



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Family Hub

HAF Summer Activities (0-8 years)

FREE lunches also available at the Family Hubs and Hancock Street Children's Centre. Ring 01254 585000 to register.

Week 1

Day	What's On	Location	Time
Monday 3rd August	Story Explorers	Family Hub Little Harwood	10 - 11.30am
	Move and Groove	Hancock St CC	10 - 11.30am
	Summer Sensory	Family Hub Shadsworth	10 - 11.30am
	Summer Sensory	Family Hub Darwen	10 - 11.30 am
	Nourish and Nurture	Wensley Fold CC	12.30 - 2pm
Tuesday 4th August	Story Explorers	Highercroft CC	12.30 - 2pm
	Move and Groove	Family Hub Livesey	1 - 2.30pm
	Louie Says – Toileting support drop in	Family Hub Darwen	3 - 4.30 pm
	Story Explorers	Family Hub Darwen	10 - 11.30am
	Move and Groove	Family Hub Little Harwood	10 - 11.30am
Wednesday 5th August	Summer Sensory	Hancock St CC	12.30 - 2pm
	Nourish and Nurture	Family Hub Livesey	12.30 - 2pm
	Louie Says – Toileting support drop in	Family Hub Livesey	3 - 4.30pm
	Move and Groove	Family Hub Shadsworth	10 - 11.30am
	Nourish and Nurture	Family Hub Shadsworth	12.30 - 2pm
Thursday 6th August	Nature Detectives	Hancock St CC	1 - 2.30pm
	Louie Says – Toileting support drop in	Family Hub Shadsworth	3 - 4.30pm
	Nature Detectives	Family Hub Shadsworth	10.30 - 12pm
	Summer Sensory	Family Hub Little Harwood	12.30 - 2pm
	Move and Groove	Family Hub Darwen	10.30 - 12pm
Friday 7th August	Nourish and Nurture	Family Hub Little Harwood	12.30 - 2pm
	Little Kitchen Crew	Family Hub Little Harwood	12.30 - 2pm
	Nature Detectives	Highercroft CC	12.30 - 2pm
	Story Explorers	Hancock St CC	12.30 - 2pm
	Let's Play	The Hub Shadsworth (Rothesay Rd)	9.30 - 10.30am

NO BOOKING NEEDED

ALL FREE



You can also find us in the park with re:fresh Blackburn with Darwen

Scan here for information



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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>

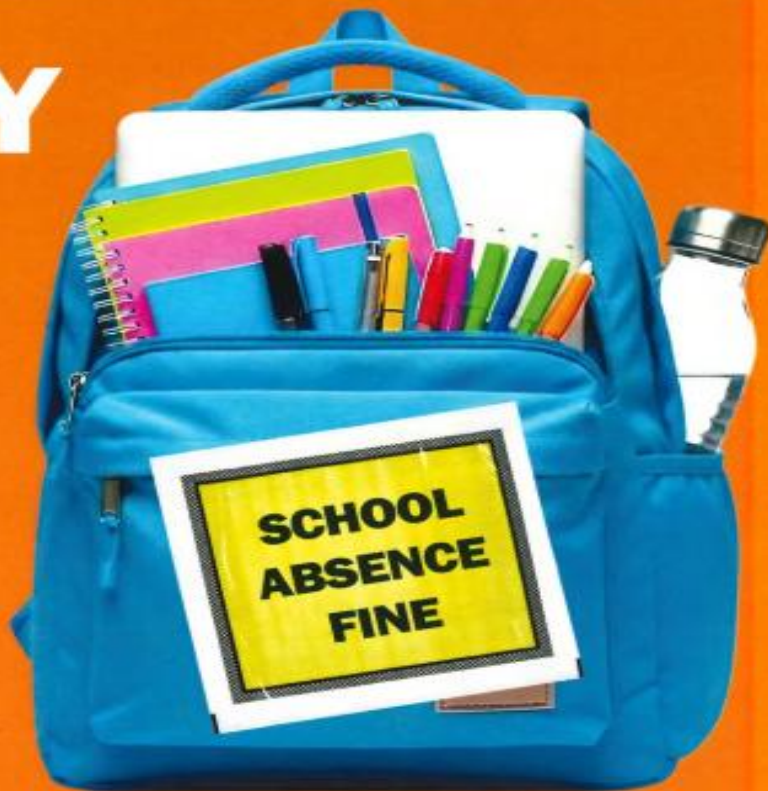
Thank you for your support.





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 2026/2027

<u>AUTUMN TERM 2026</u> INSET 1 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on <u>Number of openings 74</u>	 Tuesday 1 st September 2026 Wednesday 2nd September 2026 Friday 23 rd October 2026 Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2026 (inc) Monday 2 nd November 2026 Friday 18 th December 2026
<u>SPRING TERM 2027</u> INSET 2 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on <u>Number of openings 54</u>	 Monday 4 th January 2027 Tuesday 5 th January 2027 Friday 12 th February 2027 Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2027 (inc) Monday 22 nd February 2027 Thursday 25 th March 2027
<u>SUMMER TERM 2027</u> Re-open on May Day Closure Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school INSET 3, 4, 5 <u>Number of openings 67</u>	 Monday 12 th April 2027 Monday 3 rd May 2027 Friday 28 th May 2027 Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2027 (inc) Monday 7 th June 2027 Friday 16 th July 2027 Monday 19 th , Tuesday 20 th , Wednesday 21 st July 2027





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.





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week in Nursery, we had our graduation! We all enjoyed singing our songs and receiving our certificates. All of the children were very brave when coming up to the stage and singing beautifully.

Some of the children also went to church this morning and did extremely well!

Action

Everyone has done extremely well throughout the year and we are so proud! Good luck to all of preschool in reception.

Have a lovely summer break

Reception

Thank you so much for all the kind words and gifts we have a received from you. We have loved having your children this year and wish them all well in the future.

Action

Have a lovely summer break with your amazing children!



Year Group Updates

Year 1

We would like to wish you a lovely summer and thank you for a great year, Year 1. We will miss you!

Action

Have a lovely Summer Holiday!

Year 2

As we reach the end of Year 2, we would like to say a huge thank you and well done to all the children for their hard work, effort, and enthusiasm throughout the year. It has been a fun-filled, jam-packed year with lots of wonderful learning experiences and happy memories. We are so proud of everything you have achieved, and we wish you the very best of luck as you move on to Year 3!

Action

As we reach the end of Year 2, we would like to say a huge thank you and well done to all the children for their hard work, effort, and enthusiasm throughout the year. It has been a fun-filled, jam-packed year with lots of wonderful learning experiences and happy memories. We are so proud of everything you have achieved, and we wish you the very best of luck as you move on to Year 3!





Year Group Updates

Year 3

"This week, the children finally completed their pneumatic toys! They thoroughly enjoyed designing, building, and testing their creations. As the summer holidays begin, we hope everyone has a fantastic break. With the warmer weather, please remember to stay safe around water, whether you're at the beach, at the swimming pool, or enjoying days out with family and friends. We hope you make lots of happy memories and return to school safely in September, refreshed and ready for another year. We just want to say that we have absolutely loved teaching each and every one of you this year. It has been a pleasure to watch you all grow! Thank you for all your hard work and determination throughout the year. We hope you all have a well-deserved summer break and enjoy every minute of it. Best wishes, Miss Lavelle & Mrs Stott"

Action

If you would like to practise your times tables over the summer holidays and be ready for Year 4, please use Hit the Button on an iPad, tablet, or mobile device. Just a few minutes of practice each day can make a big difference!

Year 4

It's been an enjoyable ending to the year this week in Year 4. In English, the children have loved creating list poems and finally writing their own verses of a poem based off the class text 'Too messy for Nessie'. Meanwhile in Mathematics, we have explored the topic of position and direction, where the children have been describing and plotting coordinates on a grid. Finally, Year 4 as a year group, performed 'Frere Jacques' in a round as part of the school's Music ELO performance in front of the whole school!

Action

Have a lovely Summer Holiday.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

Well done to all of Year 5. You have done amazingly well this year. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Action

Have an amazing summer holiday and see you in September

Year 6

"As another school year comes to an end, we would like to thank you for your support and wish you all the very best for the future. To our amazing Year 6 pupils, we are so proud of everything you have achieved this year. You have worked hard, shown kindness and resilience, and created wonderful memories. As you begin your next adventure at secondary school, believe in yourselves, embrace every opportunity, and never stop aiming high. To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support throughout your child's primary school journey. It has been a pleasure to work with you. Have a wonderful, safe, and relaxing summer. Good luck, Year 6, we know you will do great things!"

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



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.

