

St James' C of E Primary School

Weekly Newsletter 2026 – 2027

St James' C of E Primary School | Earl Street | Blackburn | BB1 8EG | 01254 698 335

Date: Friday 4th Sept



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to another school year!

I hope you all had a restful break and are ready for the busy year ahead.

We have lots of exciting things happening this year. As you may have read, we will shortly be opening our new Specialist Inclusion Base in the old Nursery building. Yet to be named, our new base will offer much needed provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities. We are still a few weeks off opening, but we will keep you informed.

Our building work in Key Stage 1 has been completed, and we are delighted to have found a way to have pre-school, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all in the same building.

Just a few quick reminders to start the new year off! As you already know, we are not able to authorise holidays outside of the school holiday times. We are expecting a visit from Ofsted this year, and they will be focusing heavily on attendance. We have already made great progress in improving our attendance and we need to keep it up!

Sometimes after a break, it's easy to slip into old habits and we have noticed some parents parking on yellow lines or dangerously close to our crossing patrol. Please remember to park considerably or consider walking instead!

Thank you to everyone who already does this! We really appreciate it!

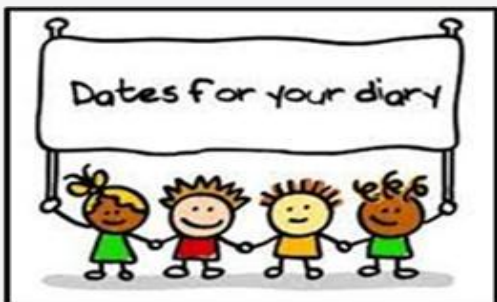
Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitcher



St James' C of E
Primary School

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



Autumn Term

Wednesday 16th September 2026

Year 6M Parent Worship @ 8:50am

Thursday 17th September 2026

Year 6V Parent Worship @ 8:50am

Thursday 24th September 2026

Year 2K Parent Worship @ 8:50am

Thursday 1st February 2026

Year 5R Parent Worship @ 8:50am

Thursday 22nd October 2026

Year 1F Parent Worship @ 8:50am

Wednesday 21st October 2026

School photographer in School



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

EVERY DAY COUNTS ★ EVERY LESSON MATTERS ★ EVERY CHILD MATTERS



At St James Primary School, we believe that good attendance is one of the most important foundations for a child's success.

Every school day is an opportunity to learn, make friends, build confidence and enjoy new experiences.



★ WHY IS ATTENDING SCHOOL EVERY DAY SO IMPORTANT?

When children attend school regularly, they are able to:

-  Keep up with their learning and make good progress
-  Develop strong friendships and social skills
-  Build confidence and independence
-  Take part in exciting lessons, activities and school events
-  Develop positive routines and habits for the future
-  Feel a strong sense of belonging to our school community

 Missing just one day can mean missing important learning, and repeated absences can quickly add up.



We understand that children can sometimes be unwell or have unavoidable reasons for being absent. However, where possible, please make school attendance a priority and arrange appointments outside of school hours.



★ LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

Parents and carers play a huge part in helping children develop positive attendance habits. Thank you for supporting your child to attend school every day and arrive on time.



★ REMEMBER:

★ "Every day is a new opportunity to learn, grow and shine!" ★



Good attendance today helps build a brighter tomorrow! ★



PLEASE LABEL ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM



A simple name label can save a lot of lost property! 



Please remember to label all of your child's school uniform and belongings with their name.



With lots of children wearing the same or similar items, it can be very easy for jumpers, cardigans, coats and PE kits to get mixed up or misplaced.



Please name everything!

This includes: 



✓ School jumpers and cardigans



✓ Coats and jackets



✓ PE kits



✓ School trousers, skirts and dresses



✓ Hats and scarves



✓ Shoes and trainers



✓ Water bottles



✓ Lunch boxes



Clearly labelled items are much easier to return to their owner and help us avoid confusion and lost property.



Thank you for helping us keep children's belongings **safe** and **organised**!



Thank you for your support. 



www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSION 2027



BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN !

APPLY TODAY



FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Email:
Admissions@blackburn.gov.uk
- Call: 01254 666605 (Option 1)

Deadline for submitting an on time application is 15 January 2027



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Coordinated Primary Admission Scheme 2027/28

TIMETABLE

Admission booklets and common application forms published on **1 September 2026**.



Parent(s)/carer(s) complete online application form / return common application form to the Local Authority by **15 January 2027**.



The Local Authority populates primary admissions database, checks and resolves double bookings and liaises with other admission authorities and neighbouring local authorities.



All preferences circulated between admission authorities by **26 January 2027**.



Each admission authority applies its own admissions criteria and must inform the Local Authority of the outcome of all applications by **23 February 2027**.



If there are exceptional reasons for the delay, then provided the application is received before the cut off date (**11 March 2027**) a late application that is received may be considered alongside the applications which were submitted on time.



The Local Authority checks all proposed offers against the primary school preference which parent(s)/carer(s) provided on their application and ensures that an alternative offer is made where necessary.



The Local Authority confirms offers with all maintained infant, junior and primary schools which includes confirmation of alternative offers by **13 April 2027**.



Offers made to parent(s)/carer(s) by the Local Authority on **16 April 2027**.



Parent(s)/carer(s) to accept or decline place by **30 April 2027**.



Closing Date for receipt of appeal forms for appeals to be heard in June/July 2026 is **18 May 2027**.



**June / July
2027 Appeals.**



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.





LET'S FUEL GREAT DAYS!

We want to encourage all children to eat **healthy** every day because good nutrition:

- ✓ Helps children learn, concentrate and do their best
- ✓ Gives them the energy to play, grow and stay well
- ✓ Supports their long-term health and happiness

Let's work together to build healthy habits that last a lifetime.



HEALTHY LUNCHES
HAPPY CHILDREN



GOOD
FOOD =
BETTER
FOCUS &
MORE
ENERGY!

HEALTHY CHOICES, HAPPY FACES!



FRUIT & VEG

Boosts energy
and keeps us
feeling great.



PLENTY OF WATER

Keeps us
hydrated and
helps us think.



WHOLEGRAINS & PROTEIN

Keeps us full,
focused and
ready to learn.



DAIRY OPTIONS

Great for
strong bones
and teeth.



GREAT CHOICES TO INCLUDE

- ✓ Fresh fruit & vegetables
- ✓ Wholegrain sandwiches or wraps
- ✓ Lean meats, eggs, cheese or plant-based options
- ✓ Yogurt, cheese or dairy alternatives
- ✓ Water or lower sugar drinks
- ✓ Homemade treats in moderation



Little changes
make a
BIG difference!



PLEASE AVOID NUT PRODUCTS

Some children (and adults)
in our school community
have severe nut allergies.

Even tiny traces can cause
a serious reaction.

Please avoid packing:

- Peanut butter or Nutella
- Chocolate spreads with nuts
- Cereal or granola bars with nuts
- Bounty, Snickers or other chocolate bars with nuts
- Any snacks or baked goods containing nuts

LOVE
THEM?
SAVE THEM
FOR HOME!



HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS ARE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

Delicious, nutritious and freshly prepared meals every day!



FREE
FOR KS1
CHILDREN



FREE
FOR CHILDREN
ENTITLED TO
FREE SCHOOL MEALS

£2.90

FOR ANYONE
ELSE

Meals can be booked
in advance on the
School Spider App.



School
Spider



TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

A nut-free environment helps protect
our children and staff.

THANK YOU for helping make
our school a safe, happy place for all!



THANK
YOU!



HEALTHY CHOICES TODAY, BRIGHTER FUTURES TOMORROW



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LITTER PICKING

LET'S CLEAN UP OUR COMMUNITY! ♥

EVERY
BIT OF
LITTER
HURTS
♥

Starting at
**ST JAMES
CHURCH** ♥



SATURDAY
26TH
SEPTEMBER



10AM – 12PM



**TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**
♥

CONTACT: Revd Daniel at Blackburn St James's –
daniel@narrow-way.org or 07448324348



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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 recently had their ears pierced, earrings must be removed before school.

Class	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Reception RM and RW	Friday 4 th Sep	Friday 11 th September	Friday 18 th September	Friday 25 th September	Friday 2 nd October	Friday 9 th October	Friday 16 th October
Year 1 1F and 1A	Monday 7 th September Tuesday 8 th September	Monday 14 th September Tuesday 15 th September	Monday 21 st September Tuesday 22 nd September	Monday 28 th September Tuesday 29 th September	Monday 5 th October Tuesday 6 th September	Monday 6 th October Tuesday 7 th October	Monday 13 th October Tuesday 14 th October
Year 2 2H and 2K	Wednesday 2 nd September Thursday 3 rd September	Wednesday 9 th September Thursday 10 th September	Wednesday 16 th September Thursday 17 th September	Wednesday 23 rd September Thursday 24 th September	Wednesday 30 th September Thursday 1 st October	Wednesday 7 th October Thursday 8 th October	Wednesday 14 th October Thursday 15 th October
Year 3 3M and 3A	Monday- No PE Thursday 3 rd September	Thursday 10 th September	Monday 14 th September Thursday 17 th September	Thursday 24 th September	Monday 28 th September Thursday 1 st October	Thursday 8 th October	Monday 12 th October Thursday 15 th October
Year 4 4W and 4L	Monday -No PE Wednesday 2 nd September	Wednesday 9 th September	Monday 14 th September Wednesday 16 th September	Wednesday 23 rd September	Monday 28 th September Wednesday 30 th September	Wednesday 7 th October	Monday 12 th October Thursday 14 th October
Year 5 5B and 5R	Friday 4 th September	Monday 7 th September Friday 11 th September	Friday 18 th September	Monday 21 st September Friday 25 th September	Friday 2 nd October	Monday 5 th October Friday 9 th October	Friday 16 th October
Year 6 6M and 6V	Tuesday- No PE	Monday 7 th September Tuesday 8 th September	Tuesday 15 th September	Monday 21 st September Tuesday 22 nd September	Tuesday 29 th September	Monday 5 th October Tuesday 6 th October	Tuesday 13 th October



Free Early Years Education

RECOMMENDED TIME TO APPLY FOR YOUR CODE

- codes **must** be reconfirmed every three months to remain eligible

when your child turns 2 years or 3 years	when they can get Free hours from	Recommended time to apply
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	15 October - 30 November (no later than 31 December)
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	15 January - 29 February (no later than 31 March)
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	15 June to 31 July (no later than 31 August)

**Your code may need reconfirming before your child commences a
Early Years place if you apply too early.**





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		Everyone!	
RM	RM	RW	RW
1A	Muhammad S & Shabana A	1F	Lidya H & Amaanullah M
2H	Mohammad Ali S & Aaima A	2K	Daniyal A & Aasiyah S R
3A	Amaan P & Laila A	3M	Zala M & Nasr A
4W	Kiswa H & Hassan A	4L	Isra S & Adn H
5B	Aisha C & Darius D	5R	Maryam K & Anaya P
6V	Amelia A & Abdullah V	6M	Inaaya A & Anayah G





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week, we all settled back into our new Preschool and Nursery.

Everyone had an amazing time with our friends and became settled into our new routine.

We have been singing new nursery rhymes and shared fun stories from our holidays.

Action

N/A

Reception

It has been really lovely to begin to get to know your children this week. We have had fun investigating the classroom and the discovery area. PE sessions will be on a Friday so please send your children in PE kits on that day. No Earrings on PE days please.

Action

Please can you put your child's name on their school jumpers, coats and book bags. Thank you





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"A very warm welcome back to all our families, and a special welcome to our new Year 1 children! Although we have only been back at school for three days, it has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into their new classroom. They have been busy getting to know their new routines, exploring their learning environment and making a fantastic start to Year 1. We are so proud of how confidently they have approached these first few days and are looking forward to an exciting term ahead!"

Action

"Please ensure that your child comes to school with a coat each day, as the weather can be very unpredictable at this time of year. We will let you know the PE dates as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a member of the Year 1 teaching team. We will always be happy to help!"

Year 2

"The children have settled into Year 2 really well and have made a fantastic start to the new school year. They have adjusted beautifully to their new classroom and teachers and are already showing great enthusiasm for their learning. In English, we have started our new book, *The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters*. The children have been busy predicting what they think the story will be about and writing their own sentences. We have also been working hard to improve our writing by using a wider range of interesting and descriptive adjectives. In Maths, we have begun our first topic: Place Value. The children are developing their understanding of numbers and exploring the value of each digit. It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are all feeling ready and excited to learn lots of new things together!"

Action

"Just a polite reminder that PE takes place every Monday. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time and ready for the day ahead. Arriving promptly helps children settle into their learning and ensures they don't miss any important parts of the school day. Every minute counts! Thank you for your continued support."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant first week back. In Maths we have been working on place value and partitioning and representing numbers to 100. In English we have started to read 'George's marvellous medicine.'

Action

"A reminder to remove or cover earrings on a PE day.

Year 4

"Welcome back to Year 4! We hope you have all had a lovely summer break. The children have made a fantastic start and we are looking forward to an exciting year of learning together. In Science, we have started exploring electricity, including the differences between mains and battery power. In English, we have been recapping punctuation and different sentence types to refresh our skills and prepare for Year 4 learning. In Art, we are exploring architecture and developing our observational sketching skills. The children have had a chance to be sketch some of Blackburn's well-known buildings, including Blackburn Cathedral and the Victoria Building. It has been a great start to the year, and we are excited for all the learning ahead!"

Action

"Please send your child into school with a coat as the colder weather approaches.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

"What a fantastic first week back we have had in Year 5! The children have settled back into school routines brilliantly and have made a wonderful start to the new academic year. We have begun our new class book, Street Child, and we are already completely hooked on Jim Jarvis! The children have been thoroughly enjoying getting to know his character and are excited to discover what happens next in his story. In History, we have enjoyed our introductory lesson on the Anglo-Saxons and have begun to explore who they were and what life was like during this fascinating period of British history. In Math's, we have been developing our understanding of numbers, including exploring numbers up to 100,000 and getting to grips with Roman numerals. The children have shown great enthusiasm and have enjoyed the challenge of putting their mathematical skills to the test. It has been a brilliant start to Year 5, and we are so proud of how positively the children have returned after the summer break. We are looking forward to all the exciting learning still to come!"

Action

"A polite reminder that children should be reading at least 3 times each week. Please remember to record each reading session in your child's reading record and include a short comment, your signature and the date. This really helps us to keep track of their reading and celebrate their progress! Please also remember that our PE days are every Friday and every other Monday. Children should come to school in their full PE kit on these days. Please keep an eye on the school calendar/newsletter for the Monday PE dates. Thank you for your continued support with reading and PE routines!"



Year 6

"It has been a fantastic start to the new school year, and the children have settled into Year 6 really well. Mrs. Valli and Mr. Moat are very proud of how they have approached their learning and the expectations of being our oldest pupils. In Math's, we have started our learning about place value. The children are developing their understanding of the value of each digit in a number and are working with numbers up to one million. In English, the children are revisiting important grammatical concepts and developing their understanding of how grammar helps us to make our writing clear, accurate and interesting. We will continue to practice these skills throughout our English lessons and apply them to our writing."

Action

"Please support your child to read for at least 10 minutes every day. Encourage them to talk about what they have read and ask questions about the story or information to help develop their understanding. Please support your child to complete their homework in their purple homework book and ensure it is completed neatly and returned to school on time."





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.

