

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 11th Sept



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The end of our first full week back - and I hope everyone is getting back into routine! I know it's taken me a while to adjust to getting up early every day again!

I wanted to take this week's newsletter to explain a little bit more about our new Specialist Inclusion Base.

Over the summer, work was completed to move our nursery over to the Key Stage 1 building and it has been really well received. Even our youngest children now feel part of the whole school.

This leaves the old John Smethurst building vacant. Over the next couple of months, we will be completely renovating the building to make it suitable to become a much needed and much in demand Specialist Inclusion Base.

Mr Cameron will head up the base and Mrs Stott will be working closely with him to be our teacher over there.

Places in the base (which we will be naming shortly), are allocated by the Local Authority. This means you cannot ask us

to send your children there. You have to ask the LA. However, once children join our base, they will be part of our school. As the base will be open to children all across Blackburn, we may have children from a little further away. Our hope is that these children will spend some time in the main school, making friends, learning and contributing.

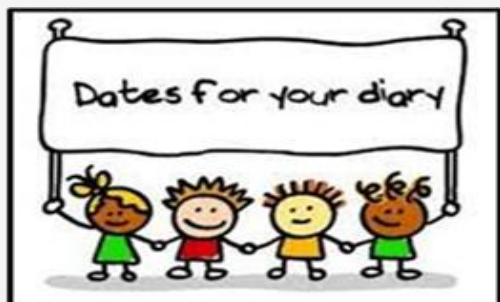
It's a very exciting time for us as it means we can help to make a difference in our local community and beyond.

As it stands, we are still awaiting our first child, but we expect to be breaming with activity very soon and we will also be holding a grand opening when the building work is complete!

I would like to thank you all for your support during this exciting time of change.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitcher



Wednesday 16 September 2026

Thursday 17 September 2026

Tuesday 22 September 2026

Thursday 24 September 2026

Thursday 1 October 2026

Thursday 1 October 2026

Wednesday 7 October 2026

Wednesday 7 October 2026

Thursday 15 October 2026

Wednesday 21 October 2026

Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 October 2026

Thursday 22 October 2026

Year **6M** Parent Worship (8:50am)

Year **6V** Parent Worship (8:50am)

Coding Day Lunch (**see poster**)

Year **2K** Parent Worship (8:50am)

Space Day Lunch (**see poster**)

Year **5R** Parent Worship (8:50am)

Harvest Services in Church (Reception & KS1: 9:30am, KS2: 10:00am)

Reception 2027 School Open Day (1:30pm)

Reception 2027 School Open Day (9:30am)

School Photographer in School

Parents' Evening

Year **1F** Parent Worship (8:50am)





Harvest Appeal

Together we can make a difference

As part of our Harvest collection this year, we are especially requesting donations of

TINNED TOMATOES

Tinned tomatoes are a particularly useful and much-needed item for local food banks and families who rely on food donations.

If you are able to donate a tin (or a few!), please send them into school.

Every donation, big or small, will make a difference.

Tinned tomatoes are especially needed this year! 

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. 



DONATE  SUPPORT  MAKE A DIFFERENCE



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

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.

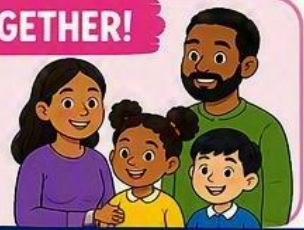


We understand that children can sometimes be unwell or have unavoidable reasons for being absent. However, where possible, please make school attendance a priority and arrange appointments outside of school hours.



★ 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.**



SPACE DAY

THURSDAY
1st October

Meteor Meatball Marinara

&

Solar Spaghetti

with

Galactic Garlic Bread

or

Cosmic Cheese & Onion Roll

with

Planet Potato Wedges & Lunar Peas

or

Jupiter Jacket Potato

with

Choice of Fillings & Salad Selection

Sonic Boom Rocket Ice Lolly

or

Super Moon Cookie

with

Frontier Fruit Wedges



LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE





CODING DAY

TUES
22ND SEPT



Mainframe Meals
Glitching Chicken Goujons
with
Data Stream Dips
or

Pizza Pocket Programmes
(Cheese & Tomato)
served with
Micro-Chip Fries
Server Sweetcorn
&
Processor Peas
or

Binary Baked Jacket Potato
with
Choice of Fillings
&
Salad Selection

Dessert Downloads
Waffle Grid & Cache Chocolate Sauce
or
Java Jelly Pots
served with
Ctrl+Alt+Del-icious Fruit Wedges



LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE



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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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MHST Newsletter

September
2026

NHS
Lancashire & South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

BACK
SCHOOL

MHST? Who are we?

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) provides an accessible service for students from primary age to year 13 who may be experiencing a range of mild to moderate difficulties with their mental health. The teams are based within education settings and cover Year 1 to Year 11 in Blackburn with Darwen and Burnley, Burnley College, Year 1 to Year 6 in Pendle and Year 7-13 in Hyndburn, Rossendale and Ribbles Valley (including Nelson and Colne and Accrington College).

If you have noticed your child is feeling frequently sad, worried or anxious and feel they may need support from our team, please speak to a member of staff at your child's school, who can support a referral to the service. You can also speak to your GP.

Our aim is to work alongside children, young people, families, schools and other professionals to provide early, accessible support and help young people develop skills to manage their mental health and wellbeing.

Team Update

UPDATE

It's been a busy summer for practitioners across the Mental Health Support Team! Over the summer period, the team have continued to provide support to young people and families, whilst also taking some time to prepare for the year ahead.

We have been:

- Developing new resources to support our work with young people, families and schools.
- Continuing to offer therapy sessions and providing ongoing support to young people.
- Meeting with young people and families to understand their needs and work together towards positive change.
- Liaising with professionals across schools and wider services to ensure joined-up support for the young people we work with.
- Planning and preparing for the new academic year and thinking about how we can continue to develop our service.
- Taking some well-earned annual leave and making the most of the summer break!

As we head towards the new academic year, we're looking forward to welcoming everyone back, continuing our work with young people and families, and putting some of our new ideas and resources into practice. Here's to another busy and exciting year for the Mental Health Support Team!

Young Persons Voice

Over the summer, we had a really fun participation celebration with the MHST Young People's Participation Group. It was a great chance to get together, have some fun and look back at everything we've achieved over the past year. We talked about ideas for a new name for our group and came up with lots of different suggestions. Keep an eye on the MHST Instagram because you'll soon be able to vote for your favourite name and help us choose our new group identity! We also talked about how the MHST could improve its service and shared our ideas about what we think would make things better for young people. It was good to know that our opinions are listened to and that we can help make a difference. We spent some time looking back at everything we've been involved in over the past year and celebrating the things we've achieved together. It was really nice to see how much we've done and how much young people's voices have helped shape the MHST. Most importantly, we had a chance to have fun, celebrate and spend time together before the summer break. Want to Get Involved?

We're always looking for new members to join us! If you'd like to come along to our next meeting, keep an eye out for posters on our social media pages, or email lia.naylor@lsc.nhs.uk to receive an invitation. We'd love to hear your ideas and have you join us!



World Mental Health Day 10th October 2026

CLICK HERE!

Hello Yellow 2026

This October marks 10 years of Hello Yellow, YoungMinds' annual campaign to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health.

Taking place around World Mental Health Day on 10 October, Hello Yellow encourages schools, communities and organisations to wear yellow, start conversations and show young people they are not alone.

Get involved: Wear yellow, start a conversation about mental health and help us spread the message that young people are not alone.

YOUNGMINDS

Hello
Yellow



10 wellbeing tips

10 wellbeing tips

1. Take time to relax and unwind.
2. Get some exercise.
3. Eat a healthy diet.
4. Get enough sleep.
5. Talk to someone if you're feeling worried or sad.
6. Do things you enjoy.
7. Spend time with friends and family.
8. Take breaks from technology.
9. Be kind to yourself.
10. Remember that you're not alone.

at a glance

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

For 2026, the theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is in Live experiences heard: Real voices, real change.



CLICK
HERE



World Suicide Prevention Day 10th September 2026

CLICK HERE!



World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 September 2026

World Suicide Prevention Day is a chance to remind young people that their feelings matter, they matter, and they don't have to face difficult times alone. Sometimes life can feel overwhelming, and it can be hard to know how to talk about what's going on. This day encourages us to break the silence around suicide, look out for our friends and create spaces where young people feel safe to talk without fear of judgement. This World Suicide Prevention Day, take action: check in with a friend, start a conversation, listen without judgement and speak to a trusted person if you're worried about yourself or someone else. If you're struggling, don't keep it to yourself—reach out for support. One conversation could make a difference.

Local Events/Support



World Mental Health Day 10th October 2026

CLICK HERE!

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YOUNGMINDS

Hello
Yellow



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at a glance

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

For 2026, the theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is in Live experiences heard: Real voices, real change.



CLICK
HERE



Signposting

NHS
East Lancashire Hospitals
A University Healthcare Trust



CLICK
HERE



Need urgent help for your mental health?



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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	Week 8
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	Friday October
Year 1 1F and 1A	Monday 7 th September 8 th September	Monday 14 th September Wednesday 9 th September	Monday 14 th September Wednesday 16 th September	Monday 21 st September Wednesday 23 rd September	Monday 5 th October Wednesday 7 th September	Monday 12 th October Wednesday 14 th October	Monday 12 th October Wednesday 14 th October	Monday October Wednesday October
Year 2 2H and 2K	Tuesday -no PE Thursday 3 rd September	Tuesday 8 th September Thursday 10 th September	Tuesday 15 th September Thursday 17 th September	Tuesday 22 nd September Thursday 24 th September	Tuesday 29 th September Thursday 1 st October	Tuesday 6 th October Thursday 8 th October	Tuesday 13 th October Thursday 15 th October	Tuesday October Thursday 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	Monday October Thursday 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	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	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	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.





attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 2H WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

95%
and
above

90% -
94.9%

Below
90%

RW	99.1%
RM	97.9%
1F	97.6%
1A	95.7%
2K	95.3%
2H	100%
3A	81.2%
3M	98.5%
4L	95.0%
4W	95.5%
5B	95.7%
5R	89.9%
6M	94.6%
6V	93.0%



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		Romaisa A, Eric A, Imaad B & Minh A	
RM	Yusuf P & Sidra A S H	RW	Ahmad P & Maryam M
1A	Miguel C & khadija K	1F	Skylar-Mai B & Yakub N
2H	Polina H & Ayman P	2K	Aliza R & Muhammad Zakariya A
3A	Zayna H & Amara A	3M	Hassan S & Maryam B
4W	Umaymah D & Momina S	4L	Aasiya C & Shifa P
5B	Musa Zubair R & Maaria H	5R	Isha F & Muhammed Esea P
6V	Alesha A & Muhammad Tayyab	6M	Huda P & Zoya H





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week, we read 'We're going on a bear hunt'.

We all enjoyed making bear caves in the construction area and bear faces in the creative area. We also made 'big' and 'small' bears

Everybody enjoyed finding and hiding bears in the sand pit. with playdough.

Action

N/A

Reception

This week the children have been settling in well to life in school. We have enjoyed playing in the discovery area, read 'Peace at last' together and painted self portraits.

Action

We will be sending home reading books for you to share with your children. Please can you read with them at least 3 times a week. It is a really important activity and helps with all their learning at school. Thank you!





Year Group Updates

Year 1

This week, we have started reading our new story, Charlie the Firefighter. The children have really enjoyed learning about firefighters and their important role in our community. They had lots of fun dressing up as firefighters and pretending to put out fires using the hose! In Maths, we have been learning about place value and developing our understanding of numbers. The children have been practising counting and recognising numbers to 10, using a range of practical activities to support their learning. In Geography, we have been learning about the United Kingdom. The children enjoyed looking at a map of the UK and identifying its four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They also had fun learning about and identifying each country's flag.

Action

PE will be on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child comes to school in their PE kit and that any jewellery is removed on these days. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 2

We have had a lovely week in Year 2! In Geography the children took a closer look at the 7 Continents on Earth. To help them to remember they have learnt the 7 Continents song, which they loved. In English we have continued to learn all about 'The Jolly Postman', the children created some fantastic adjectives to describe the postman.

Action

"Year 2 PE days are Tuesday's and Thursday's. If you have any queries, please come and speak to your child's class teacher."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant week. We have been writing character descriptions in English and we have been representing numbers to 1000 in maths. In science we have been learning about a balanced diet and the different food groups.

Action

Homework is to be given to children every Friday.

Year 4

Year 4 have had an excellent week in school. They have been learning how to measure using millimetres (mm), centimetres (cm) and metres (m). This has required them to use their multiplication knowledge in order to convert these measurements. In English, they have continued to build on their knowledge of different sentence types using a range of punctuation and conjunctions.

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! PE will be on Monday and Wednesday next week. Please remove earrings on both of these days."





Year Group Updates

Year 5

"What a fantastic week in Year 5! 🌟 We have been working incredibly hard in Maths this week, developing our understanding of powers of 10 and practising how to read, write and represent numbers up to 1,000,000. The children have shown great determination when tackling these larger numbers and are becoming increasingly confident with their place value knowledge. In Geography, we have enjoyed learning about the lines of longitude and latitude, exploring how these imaginary lines help us locate places around the world. 🌍 Science has been a particular highlight this week! The children thoroughly enjoyed investigating soluble and insoluble substances, making predictions, carrying out investigations and observing what happened when different substances were mixed with water. There were certainly some very enthusiastic young scientists in action! 🧪👩🔬 Well done, Year 5, for another fantastic week of hard work, curiosity and enthusiasm!"

Action

Please have a go at logging on to Century Tech to complete the work set for you.

Year 6

"In Maths, year 6 have have been developing their understanding of place value. They have completed their work on recognising and comparing numbers accurately up to 10 million. In English, year 6 have started writing their own flashbacks. They have been exploring how writers can move between the present and past to reveal important events and information to the reader. Year 6 staff are looking forward to seeing how the children's flashback develops over the coming weeks."

Action

"Please support your child with their reading and sign their planners. PE is on Tuesday next week. Also, please support your child in completing their homework on Century Tech, which will be set weekly. Thank you for your continued 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](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.

