

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 2nd October



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I'd like to start with some positive news this week... whole school attendance for the year is currently over 96%! That's a brilliant start to the year, but we really need to keep it up!

We often find that attendance dips either side of school holidays. Please make sure you keep sending your children into school every day! It makes such a difference to them – it is less catch-up in school, they don't miss out on time with their friends, and they feel more part of school!

We will continue to update you, and we'll keep going on about it! Also, it's worth remembering that if you take your child out of school and it is not authorised, you risk a fixed penalty notice for each child and each parent. That can soon add up!

I would also like to thank you for your considerate parking this last week. I have been out on the gate every morning and I think I've seen just one car park where the cones are. Everyone else has parked away and walked! This has made it much safer for everyone; especially this week when Mr Newell hasn't been in to patrol the crossing!

I have also noticed a little box appearing outside school that looks suspiciously like a

new speed camera. If confirmed, this will be an excellent addition to our campaign to keep the roads around school as safe as possible for our children!

And finally, just a couple of date reminders. Firstly, don't forget our Harvest Service is on Wednesday 7th October – we usually have it on Thursdays so please note the change of day.

And also on the same day, in the afternoon, we have our open afternoon where we invite parents of children due to start school in September 2027 to come and have a look around our wonderful school! Please do let friends and family know!

As always, thank you for your support!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitcher



PARENTS EVENING APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW

Just a reminder that Parents Evening appointments, on either Wednesday 21st or Thursday 22nd October, are now available to book via the school spider app. We encourage all parents and carers to book an appointment, as this provides an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and address any questions or concerns with their teachers.

If you have not yet reserved a slot, please log into the app and book your appointment as soon as possible. If you require any assistance, please contact the school office.

Changes to KS1 Morning Drop-Off Arrangements

To support the safety and safeguarding of all pupils, parents and carers of children in Year 1 and Year 2 will no longer be able to enter the KS1 playground during the morning drop-off period.

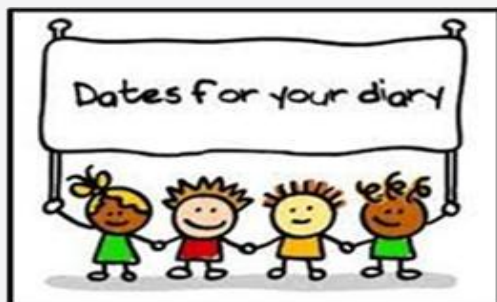
Children should be brought to the KS1 playground gate, where they will be welcomed by a member of staff and can then make their way into school as normal. Any messages for class teachers can be passed to the staff member on duty at the gate or communicated via the school office.

Please note that afternoon collection arrangements remain unchanged, and parents should continue to collect their children as normal at the end of the school day.

We appreciate that this is a change to our usual routine, but these arrangements are being introduced to help us maintain a safe, secure and calm start to the school day for all children.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us to keep our school environment safe for everyone.





Wednesday 7 October 2026

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

Wednesday 7 October 2026

Reception 2027 School Open Day (1:30pm)

Thursday 15 October 2026

Reception 2027 School Open Day (9:30am)

Wednesday 21 October 2026

School Photographer in School

Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 October 2026

Parents' Evening

Thursday 22 October 2026

Year 1F Parent Worship (8:50am)

Friday 23 October 2026

Closure after school

Monday 2 November 2026

School re-opens



St James'
C of E Primary School
BLACKBURN



*Shaping
brighter futures*
Faith • Learning • Community

OPEN DAY



WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2026 • 1:30PM
THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2026 • 9:30AM

*Is your child due to start school
September 2027?*

**Come and meet us, look around and discover
what makes St James' special.**

Meet our friendly staff and pupils • Take a tour • See our classrooms
and school in action.



A happy, safe and
inclusive
community



Exceptional in
all we do



Strong academic
achievement and
high aspirations



Our school values:
Love – Respect –
Courage



A welcoming
school family
from ages 2 – 11

*Come along to one of our Open Days –
no appointment needed!*

Can't make these dates? Contact us to arrange a visit.



01254 698335



office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



Earl Street,
Blackburn, BB1 8EG



stjamesceprimaryblackburn.co.uk



**St James' C of E
Primary School**

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



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 7 th October 2026	1pm – 3pm
Wednesday 14 th October 2026	3pm – 5pm
Wednesday 21 st October 2026	5pm – 7pm
Wednesday 28 th October 2026	1pm – 3pm





Harvest Appeal and Church Service

Once again, we are approaching the season of Harvest. At school, the children will be learning about this through Worship and Religious Education.

We are pleased to confirm we will be holding our **Harvest Services in Church on Wednesday 7th October**. The Reception and KS1 service will be at 9:30am and the KS2 service will be at 10:00am. Parents are welcome to attend either or both services. There is limited room available so please inform the school office if you wish to attend.

Each year we collect food for people who may need extra help, and we hold those less fortunate in our thoughts and prayers.

We are appealing for **donations of non-perishable items of food** for this special event, such as tins or packets (specifically tinned tomatoes). **Donations should be brought in to school before Tuesday 13th October.**

The food collected will be donated to local food banks.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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!





SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE

at Parents Evenings
KS2 Hall



Wednesday 21st &
Thursday 22nd October
3:15 – 5:30pm

ALL USED
UNIFORM ITEMS

50p

CASH ONLY

Get bargains!

Spare items for
children

Various items
available

Great quality &
good value!

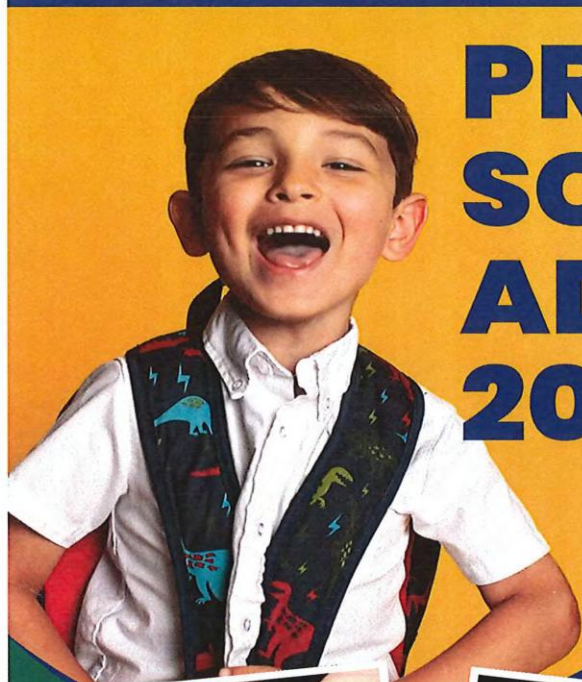


Help support our school
and grab a bargain!





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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Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



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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Headteacher: Mr D. Stitcher BA (HONS), PGCE (Dist), NPQH, NPQEF
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Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



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 28 th September Wednesday 30 th September	Monday 5 th October Wednesday 7 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 3A WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RW	88.6%
RM	95.6%
1F	97.3%
1A	95.0%
2K	97.9%
2H	95.2%
3A	100.0% 
3M	99.1%
4L	98.9%
4W	98.2%
5B	96.7%
5R	97.2%
6M	98.0%
6V	95.3%

95%
and
above

90% -
94.9%

Below
90%

If your child is absent due to illness, the office must be informed before 8:35am 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		Aima Y & M. Ibraheem V Aaima K & Hasnain R	
RM	Hannah M & M. Haider M	RW	Lucie-Marie G & Burhan M
1A	Haider R & Adam D	1F	Rayyan M & Fatima D
2H	Yahya V & Lya C	2K	Ahmad C & Adam A
3A	Rayaan I & Anabia I	3M	Munashe M & Saarah P
4W	Abu -Bakr V & Halima L	4L	Ayat A & Hajrah A
5B	Maheen M & Aaminah P	5R	Haris A & All of 5R
6V	Seyar H & Maryam S	6M	Marius D & Hadi A





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week we have been reading Handa's surprise and focusing on harvest. We have been creating different fruits in the creative area, digging vegetables and identifying the different smells in the playdough.

Action

Can you talk to children about where and how different fruits and vegetables are grown?

Reception

It has been a busy and exciting week in Reception! In English, we have been enjoying the adventures of Paddington Bear, developing our storytelling, vocabulary and communication skills. In Maths, we have been practising our counting skills and exploring numbers through fun, practical activities. In Topic, we have been learning all about healthy eating and healthy activities, talking about different foods and why it is important to make healthy choices. We have loved seeing the children's enthusiasm and curiosity as they learn and explore together!

Action

"Please label all jumpers and school clothing with your child's name. This helps us to make sure lost items can be quickly returned to your child. Please read with your child regularly. Sharing a story together each day helps to develop vocabulary, listening skills, confidence and a love of reading. Please talk about the pictures and story with your child and encourage them to share their amazing ideas."





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"This Week in Year 1 This week in Geography, we went on a local walk to explore Blackburn. We looked carefully at the area around us and identified different human and physical features, such as buildings, roads, parks and natural features. In Art, we began planning our abstract textile artwork. We thought carefully about the shapes, colours and lines we would like to use in our designs. We are looking forward to bringing our ideas to life! In Maths, we have been learning how to compare numbers to 10. We have been using the symbols greater than (>), less than (<) and equal to (=) to compare different numbers and explain our thinking."

Action

Please listen to your child read at home at least 3 times a week and sign their planners. PE is on Monday and Wednesday. Please send your child to school in the correct PE kit and remove any jewellery. Childre are to come to school in normal uniform when it not a PE day. Thank you for your support.

Year 2

"Miss Hussain and Miss Kay are very proud at how the children are settling in year 2. The children have worked incredibly hard this week developing and innovating their own stories. They have been learning to use interesting adjectives and commas to make their writing more descriptive and engaging. In Maths, the children have been comparing numbers and objects, developing their understanding of greater than, less than and equal to. In History, we have been learning about the Wright brothers and their incredible invention, the aeroplane. The children have enjoyed finding out how their ideas and determination helped to change the way we travel today. "

Action

"Please encourage your child to read regularly at home to help develop their reading skills and confidence. A reminder that PE lessons take place every Tuesday and Thursday. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the appropriate PE kit on these days."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant week. In English we have been continuing to read George's Marvellous medicine. In Science we have started to learn about the skeleton and the different bones in our bodies.

Action

Just for next week, PE will be on Wednesday, so please ensure children come in PE kits on Wednesday and NOT Thursday.

Please ensure children are reading regularly at home and reading diaries are signed regularly.

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been busy with lots of exciting learning! In English, we planned a diary entry based on our class book Wave Me Goodbye, imagining that we were Shirley, our protagonist, and exploring her thoughts, feelings and experiences. In Maths, we have been comparing and ordering numbers up to 10,000, developing our understanding of place value. In Science, we have been building electrical circuits and investigating different materials to find out whether they are conductors or insulators. We have enjoyed making predictions, testing our ideas and learning through practical activities.

Action

Next Wednesday, we will be holding our Harvest Church Service, which Year 4 will be leading. For this reason, we have moved our PE day to Thursday so that the children can be dressed smartly in their school uniforms for the service. Please send your child to school in their uniform on Wednesday and their PE kit on Thursday. Thank you for your support.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

"Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about reversible and irreversible changes in Science. The children have been fascinated by exploring how materials can change and whether these changes can be reversed. In Maths, the children have worked hard to develop their fluency when adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers using a range of mental strategies and known facts. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they apply these strategies independently. 5R also delivered a beautiful Parent Worship which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The children spoke confidently and shared their learning about Abraham, with everyone taking away some valuable messages and reflections from the worship. We are incredibly proud of the effort, enthusiasm and maturity they demonstrated."

Action

Please remember to complete your century tech homework nuggets.

Year 6

"This week, Year 6 have been developing their multiplication skills and have successfully completed work on multiplying 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. The children are beginning to understand the relationship between multiplication and division and are applying their knowledge to calculate answers and solve problems. In English, Year 6 have completed their flashback stories. They have worked hard to create engaging narratives, using descriptive language, carefully chosen vocabulary and effective sentence structures to take the reader between different moments in time."

Action

"The children have two homework tasks to complete: 1. Century: Complete the assigned Century homework activities. 2. Purple Homework Book: Complete the homework task set in their purple homework book. Please encourage your child to complete both tasks carefully and to the best of their ability."





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.

