

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 9th October



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A huge thank you to everyone who came to our Harvest Services this week. It was lovely to see so many of you with us at church and I know the children really appreciated your support. I would also like to thank you all for your generous donations of food for Blackburn Foodbank - this week we had a speaker from Blackburn Foodbank come in and talk to the children about where they donations go and who they help. I know they are really grateful for the donations.

We also had two guest speakers from the Mental Health Support Team come and talk to the children in assembly yesterday. They discussed the importance of looking after our mental health in the same way we look after our physical health. If anyone is struggling and would like additional support, please do let a member of staff know and we can either signpost you towards appropriate support or we may be able to offer services in school.

I mentioned recently that parking had been far more considerate. However, this week, one parent (driving a black car with the number plate beginning KN66) has been dropping off in the middle of the road on the brow of the hill. This is the most dangerous place to stop as cars coming up and down cannot see your

child as they cross. I implore you not to stop there but to find a safe place to park. We will ask traffic enforcement to come back to Earl Street if we see a repeat of this!

And finally, just a reminder that children are not permitted to head the ball when playing football at break and dinner time! This is to protect them from accidental head bumps from both the balls and other children. We have reminded them in school, but please reinforce the message at home so that we can ensure all children are playing football safely!

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.

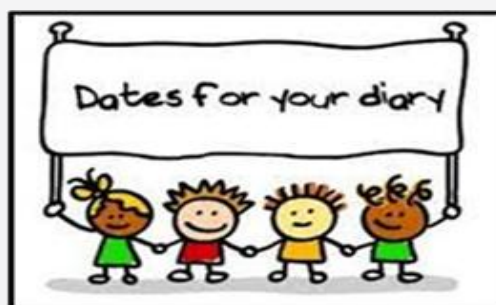
Children should be brought to the KS1 playground gate, where they will be welcomed by a member of staff and can then make their way into school as normal. Any messages for class teachers can be passed to the staff member on duty at the gate or communicated via the school office.

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.





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



stjamesprimaryblackburn.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?**

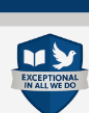
Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'

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



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



BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSION 2027



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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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 2K WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RW	93.6%
RM	99.2%
1F	99.1%
1A	90.9%
2K	100.0% 
2H	95.2%
3A	90.5%
3M	98.6%
4L	91.9%
4W	99.1%
5B	96.0%
5R	99.3%
6M	98.7%
6V	97.3%

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		Yusuf M and Ayaan A, Shahveer and Asma	
RM	Aqsa K & Khadija P	RW	Abo baker H & Fizza S
1A	Fatimah I & Abeeha R	1F	Muhammad Bilal A & Victor R
2H	Haniya B & Husayn A	2K	Khadija C & Abdul Qadir A
3A	Zikra H & Zayn P	3M	Maryam P & Ibrahim M
4W	Amna A & Hamza A	4L	Amaya S & Isra S
5B	M.Isshaq A & Ayesha P	5R	Abdhullah A & Sakeena R
6V	Muhammad J & Inaya M	6M	Ayaan A & Haniya R A





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week we have been continuing our focus on Handa's surprise. We have been stamping fruits and vegetables using paint and creating animal masks. We have also been making marks using chalk outdoors and balancing on the beams.

Action

As we learn more about autumn, we have been identifying acorns and conkers, along with the different colours of the leaves. Can we spot these items outside?

Reception

This week, Reception have been enjoying the story The Gruffalo in English. We have been exploring the characters and have even built our very own Gruffalo den in the discovery area! In maths, we have been learning about the numbers 3 and 4 through counting and practical activities. In our topic work, we have been thinking about what makes us feel happy and sad, sharing our ideas and talking about our feelings. Well done, Reception, for another fantastic week of learning!

Action

"Please can you make sure you have signed up for parents evening as we can't wait to see you all and tell you how your amazing children are doing at school.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"This week in Maths, we have started our new topic of addition and subtraction. We have been using part-whole models to help us understand how numbers can be broken down into parts and combined to make a whole. In DT, we have begun designing and creating our own Tudor houses. We are exploring the features of Tudor houses and developing our skills as we bring our designs to life. In English, we have been inspired by The Gruffalo to create our own imaginative characters. We then wrote character descriptions, thinking carefully about our characters' appearance and using interesting adjectives to bring them to life."

Action

Please listen to your child read at least three times a week and remember to sign their reading planner each time. Thank you for your continued support!

Year 2

"This week, 2H and 2K have been exploring a non-fiction text. We have made predictions about what the text might be about and identified some of the key features of non-fiction texts. In Maths, we have started learning about addition and subtraction. We have been focusing particularly on number bonds and developing our confidence in using them."

Action

"Children should read at home 3 times each week and have their reading planner signed each time. P.E. days: Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure children come to school wearing the appropriate P.E. kit."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

"This week, the children have developed their understanding of addition and subtraction. They have also started to look at the compact method too. In English, we have been writing diaries and using thoughts and feelings to help understand a character. "

Action

P.E. Is Monday and Thursday next week

Year 4

"What another great week! This week the children have been writing a diary based on the book 'Wave Me Goodbye!' They looked at the features of a diary and what they must include within this text type. They have all shared some excellent ideas. In Maths, the children have looked at rounding to 100 and 1,000. They discussed how they would know which number to round to. Well done to all of the children for an excellent performance during their worship. "

Action

"Please continue to read at home. Planners will be checked every week. Thank you."





Year Group Updates

Year 5

"Year 5 have had another fantastic week of learning! In Art, we have thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with layering acrylic paints, taking inspiration from the vibrant and colourful work of David Hockney. The children have loved exploring different colours, tones and textures to create their own artwork. In French, we have been learning how to ask, 'What day is it today?' and respond in French. This has given us lots of opportunities to practise our pronunciation and become more confident when saying the days of the week in French. In Maths, we have been enjoying using the Inverse operation to check our calculations. The children have been developing their understanding of how addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division, are connected, and have enjoyed using this knowledge to check that their answers are correct. Well done, Year 5, for another brilliant week of learning!"

Action

A gentle reminder to parents/guardians to book your parents evening appointments if you haven't already done so. Thank you!

Year 6

"This week, in Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of division using long division method. We have also been focusing on checking our answers and explaining our mathematical thinking. In English, we have continued to explore Skellig in greater depth. The children have been thinking carefully about the characters and how their relationships develop throughout the story."

Action

"It has been fantastic to see all the year 6 engaging so positively with their learning this week and also keeping up to date with their homework. As usual, the children have been given tasks to complete on Century Tech. Thank you for all your 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.

