

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 16th October



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Doesn't time fly! Next week is our last week before half-term!

Well done to everyone for trying their best to help us improve our attendance. The whole school attendance since September is 96.7% but on Thursday this week, 98% of children were in school – which is absolutely fantastic! Let's keep it up!

Next week is our Parents' Evening. As always, we will be hosting two evenings where you will be able to meet with your child's class teacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team (who will be spread out across both buildings).

If you need to speak to me, I will be mostly based in the KS2 building.

I'd also like to give you advance warning that on Thursday 5th November, our kitchen will be putting on a special Bonfire Night lunch. Whilst at first glance, it may look like they have just given firework names to pizza and cake, I can assure you it is much more than that!! We hope as many children as possible will join us for this special lunch!

Thank you to the parents who have spoken to me about their frustrations with dangerous

parking and driving on Earl Street.

This has now been escalated to the local council and we are working with them to come up with as many solutions as we possibly can. However, as the issues are caused by some of our parents, the simplest solution is for everyone to avoid parking illegally, dangerously or inconsiderately! If we can all do that, it will make such a difference.

I've noticed an increasing number of parents dropping their children off and then asking their child to cross in front of their car. The problem with this is that the children cannot clearly see the road. This is why it is much safer for you to drop them off further away from school where you can park more easily.

And finally, a reminder also that school closes for the half-term break after school on Friday 23rd October and re-opens to children on Monday 2nd November.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitcher

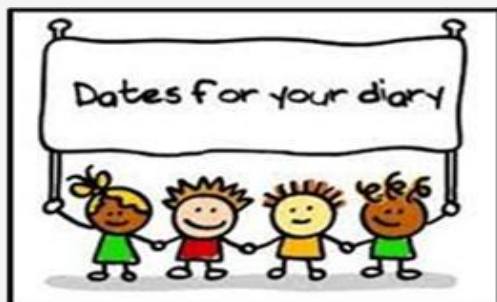


PARENTS EVENING APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE NOW

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.





Wednesday 21 October	School Photographer n School
Tuesday 20 th October	RM Parent's Evening
Wednesday 21 & 22 October	Parent's Evening
Thursday 23 October	Year 1F Parent Worship (8.50am)
Friday 23 October	Closure after School
Monday 2 November	School re-opens
Thursday 5 th November	Bonfire Themed Lunch
Thursday 26 th November	Lancashire Themed Lunch



BONFIRE NIGHT

5th November

Firecracker Sausage in a Bun
served with

Crispy Onions & Tomato Ketchup
or

Catherine Wheel Pizza Whirl
served with

Smokey Ridge Fries
Garden Peas or Baked Beans
or

Oven Baked Jacket Potato
served with
Choice of filling & Salad Selection

~
Sparkling Toffee Cake



**LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE**



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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 7th October 2026

1pm – 3pm

Wednesday 14th October 2026

3pm – 5pm

Wednesday 21st October 2026

5pm – 7pm

Wednesday 28th October 2026

1pm – 3pm



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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!

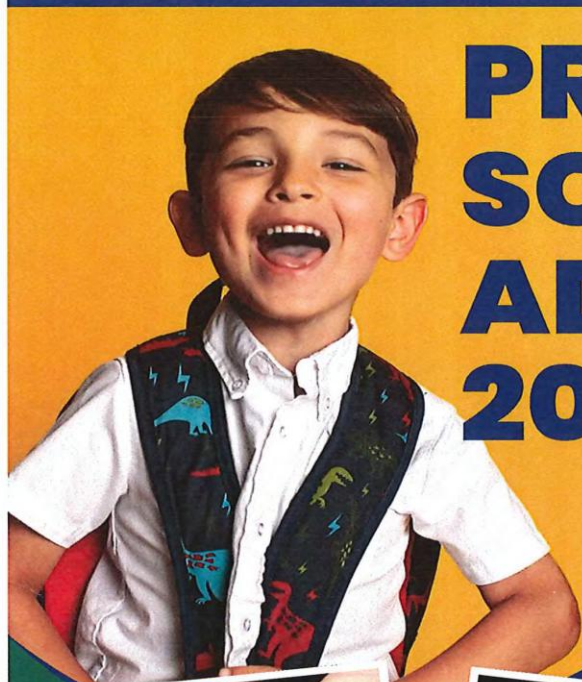


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www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions



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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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



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 23 rd 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 19 th October Wednesday 21 st 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 20 th October Thursday 22 nd 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 19 th October Thursday 22 nd 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 19 th October Thursday 22 nd 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 23 rd 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 20 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 3M WHO ARE THE
ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RW	88.6%
RM	96.0%
1F	97.3%
1A	88.6%
2K	92.9%
2H	96.3%
3A	97.6%
3M	100.0%
4L	93.7%
4W	96.8%
5B	95.3%
5R	98.3%
6M	99.7%
6V	95.7%



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		Amayah & Asghar PM - Hisham & Zakariya O F	
RM	Inaya H & Eliza H	RW	Sahlah M & Ahmed R
1A	Ahmad B & Muhammad S	1F	Abdurrahman P & Muhammad Zayaan A
2H	Haris Y & Talha I	2K	Ahmad Maksud P & Muhammad Asif P
3A	Muhammad P & Hawa I	3M	Firdaus H & Ruhan P
4W	Aaminah G & Aesha I	4L	Hajrah A & Sienna S
5B	Rumaisa R & M.Umar Z	5R	Ayesha G & Fatima K
6V	Mohammed Umar & Khadija B	6M	Rehan Q & Yusuf V





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week, we have been focusing on kindness as our value. We have been discussing how to always be kind with our words and actions. We also focused on black history month as we learnt about important figures, for example, Mae, who was the first black woman to go to space.

Action

Next week our value is respect. Can we talk about how to respect other and always use our manners?

Reception

"In Reception this week the children have been learning new vocabulary linking to the story 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Can your child remember what disguised, bewildered, cunning and lurking means? We have also been learning how to make the number 2,3 and 4 in lots of different ways. They have also been drawing and painting Little Red Riding hood. We are very impressed with their artistic skills. Well done Reception, another great week has been had. "

Action

"Please write your child's name in their coat, the children move their coats next to the lunch hall before dinner time and some children have the same coat. Thank you





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"This week, Year 1 have been busy learning lots of exciting new things! In English, we have been exploring the poem 'Recipe to make a Wolf' by Pie Corbett. The children have enjoyed discovering how poems can be written like recipes and have planned their own poems using their wonderful ideas and imagination. In Maths we have been learning about addition using part-whole models. The children have been exploring how numbers can be split into parts and combined to make a whole, helping them to develop their understanding of addition. We have been learning about the town of Blackburn and identifying its physical and human features in geography. The children have been discussing the differences between natural features, such as rivers and hills, and human features, such as buildings, roads and shops."

Action

"Please listen to your child read at least three times a week and remember to sign their reading planners. Parents' Evening will be taking place next week. If you have not yet booked this, please contact the school office to arrange a suitable time. Please practise the weekly spellings with your child at home to help them feel confident and prepared for their spelling test. Thank you for your continued support."

Year 2

"This week in Science the children completed an experiment called 'glitter germs' where they observed how germs are spread and the importance of washing their hands. In History we have continued to compare transport from the past to the present. We focused on which mode of transport was history changing and why."

Action

"We can't wait to welcome you all to parents evening next week on Wednesday or Thursday. Please remember to keep reading with your child and signing their record books."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant week. In English we have been adding and subtracting using the column method, with and without exchange. In English we have finished reading George's marvellous medicine. Next week, we will be writing our own fantasy story.

Action

Please ensure children are reading at home.

Year 4

In English, we have been exploring historical fiction, focusing on describing settings in detail and identifying the purpose and key features of this genre. We have been developing our understanding of how authors use descriptive language to bring settings to life and help readers imagine when and where a story takes place. In Maths, we began our new unit on addition and subtraction, focusing on adding two four-digit numbers together. In Science, we have been consolidating our knowledge of electricity by revisiting key concepts and exploring the different components of electrical circuits. We have been building on our previous learning to strengthen our understanding of how electricity works and how different components work together to create a complete circuit.

Action

"Please remember that our first parent's evenings are taking place next Wednesday and Thursday. If you haven't already, please book an appointment.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

Year 5 have had another fantastic week of learning! In English, the children have thoroughly enjoyed planning their next chapter of Street Child, using their creativity and imagination to develop exciting ideas for their stories. In Maths, we have been busy spotting patterns to solve missing number problems, as well as challenging ourselves with more complex two-step problems. In Geography, we have been exploring the invisible lines of the Earth, learning about the Equator, lines of latitude and longitude, and how they help us locate places around the world. Well done, Year 5, for all your hard work and enthusiasm this week!

Action

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Year 6

"In Maths, Year 6 have been developing their understanding of the order of operations. They have been applying BODMAS (Brackets, Indices, Division and Multiplication, Addition and Subtraction) to solve calculations accurately and efficiently. In English, Year 6 have been using Skellig as inspiration to write a newspaper article. They have explored the features of newspaper reports, including eye-catching headlines, engaging opening paragraphs, formal language and witness statements, to report on Michael's mysterious discovery."

Action

"We look forward to meeting with you at Parents' Evening next week to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements and share their next steps in learning. We hope to see you all there!"





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.

