

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 23rd October



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

That was quite the week!

As you will all be aware, we were visited by Ofsted this week. Ofsted is the organisation in charge of inspecting schools and making sure that we are doing everything we are supposed to be.

As the report won't be out for around 30 school days, I'm limited in what I am allowed to say. However, I can tell you that we are happy with the outcome!

But now, I really do need to thank our staff. An Ofsted inspection is grueling for all teachers and support staff at the best of times. However, we also had parents' evening which meant our staff had to get through the day with Ofsted and then stay late. Everyone has coped really well, and I hope their dedication is appreciated.

I would also like to thank our parents for the lovely comments they made to inspectors. In the middle of a very busy inspection, it is such a boost for staff to hear these things.

So, thank you! And we look forward to sharing the report with you as soon as we get it!

In other news, this week sees Miss Hussain leave us for a new life in Birmingham. Miss

Hussain joined us in 2022 and has been an integral part of the school ever since. I know staff will miss her sarcasm, and children will miss her enjoyable lessons and caring nature.

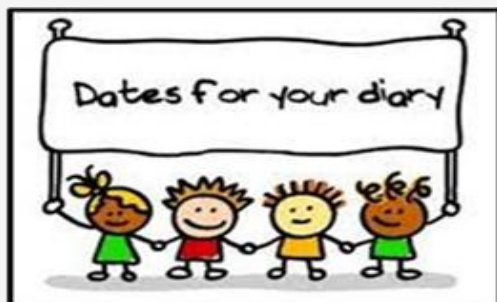
We wish Miss Hussain all the best as she moves on in the futile search of finding a school as special as St James'!

We also welcome Miss Bennett, who will be taking over in Year 2 after half-term from Miss Hussain. Parents of children in her class have had the opportunity to meet Miss Bennett at parents' evening and I'm sure you'll all make her feel very welcome as she joins our amazing team.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a relaxing and restful October half-term! We look forward to seeing all the children back with us on Monday 2nd November.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitcher



Friday 23 October

Closure after School

Monday 2 November

School re-opens

Thursday 5th November

Bonfire Themed Lunch

Thursday 26th November

Lancashire Themed Lunch





**NO
BOOKING
Needed**

October Half Term Activities (0-8 years)

Come along to your Children's Centre or Family Hub to experience an array of Universal Groups and Supportive Services.

Please call 01254 585000 or scan the code below for more details.

Monday 26th October	Tuesday 27th October	Wednesday 28th October	Thursday 29th October	Friday 30th October
09:30am - 11:30am Growing Together with Home Start Darwen Family Hub	09:30am - 12:30pm Drop-in Rock Pool Experience (with Aqua Explora) Little Hanwood Family Hub	09:30am - 10:30am Autumn Fun Shadsworth Family Hub	09:30am - 10:30am Autumn Fun Hancock Street Children's Centre	09:30am - 10:30am Lets Play @ The Hub The Hub @ Shadsworth, Rothesay Road
1:00pm - 2:00pm Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Wensley Fold Children's Centre	10:00am - 11:00am Autumn Fun Darwen Family Hub	1:00pm - 2:00pm Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Shadsworth Family Hub	09:30am - 12:30pm Drop-In Rock Pool Experience (with Aqua Explora) Shadsworth Family Hub	10:00am - 11:00am Pumpkin Play Livesey Family Hub
1:00pm - 2:00pm Pumpkin Play Highercroft Children's Centre	10:00am - 11:00am & 1:00pm - 2:00pm Sounds Fun - Music Hancock Street Children's Centre	1:00pm - 3:00pm Growing Together with Home Start Livesey Family Hub	12:30pm - 1:30pm Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Little Hanwood Family Hub	10:00am - 11:00am Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Darwen Family Hub
Ask us about Toileting Support at any of our groups...	1:00pm - 2:00pm Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Livesey Family Hub	1:00pm - 4:00pm Re:refresh Active Autumn Corporation Park	1:00pm - 2:00pm Autumn Fun Livesey Family Hub	1:00pm - 2:00pm Autumn Fun Little Hanwood Family Hub
 Louie	1:00pm - 4:00pm Re:refresh Active Autumn Queen's Park	 re:refresh Blackburn with Darwen	1:30pm - 2:30pm Peep-Stay and Play Darwen Library	1:00pm - 2:00pm Autumn Fun Highercroft Children's Centre
				



**Family
Hub**



Darwen | Little Hanwood | Livesey | Shadsworth

**BEST
START
IN LIFE**

Scan me →



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



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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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.

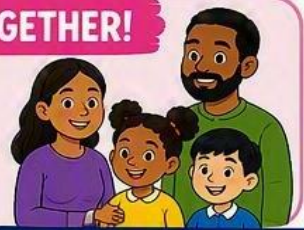


We understand that children can sometimes be unwell or have unavoidable reasons for being absent. However, where possible, please make school attendance a priority and arrange appointments outside of school hours.



★ 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!" ★

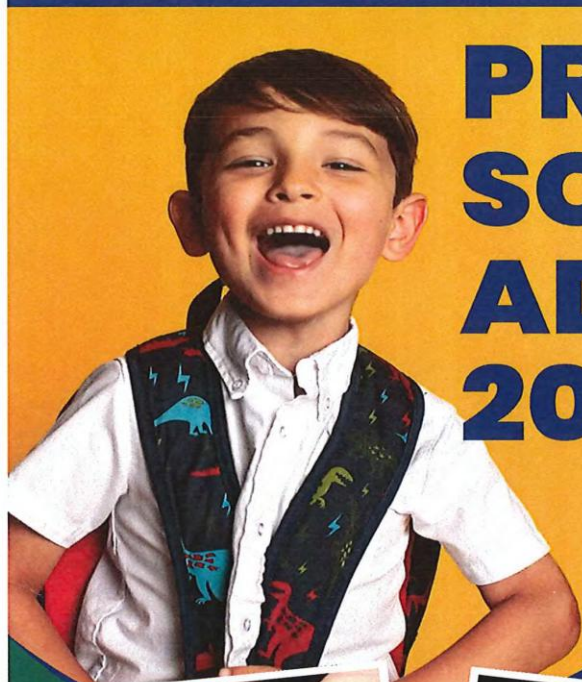


Good attendance today helps build a brighter tomorrow!





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

£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 6th November	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1A	Monday 2 nd November Wednesday 4 th November	Monday Wednes- day	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday
Year 2 2B and 2K	Tuesday 3 rd November Thursday 5 th November	Tuesda- y Thursd- ay	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday
Year 3 3M and 3A	Monday 2 nd November Thursday 5 th November	Thursd- ay	Monday Thursday	Thursday	Monday Thursday	Thursday	Monday Thursday	Monday Thursday
Year 4 4W and 4L	Monday 2 nd November Wednesday 4 th November	Wednes- day	Monday Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday Thursday	Monday Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5R	Friday 6 th November	Monday Friday	Friday	Monday Friday	Friday	Monday Friday	Friday	Friday
Year 6 6M and 6V	Tuesday 3 rd November	Monday Tuesda- y	Tuesday	Monday Tuesday	Tuesday	Monday Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday



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 1F WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RW	90.5%
RM	90.0%
1F	100% 
1A	90.5%
2K	97.5%
2H	97.9%
3A	94.3%
3M	98.2%
4L	92.6%
4W	95.0%
5B	94.3%
5R	99.3%
6M	98.7%
6V	98.0%

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		Everyone!	
RM	Muhammad Ali H & Armaan G	RW	Izyan H & Zuhaib
1A	Miguel C & Mohammed Musa H	1F	Zidan H & Maryam P
2H	Ibrahim P & Safaa A	2K	Fatimah G & M Rayan Miah
3A	Muhammad Ayaan M & Ashir Ali A	3M	Maryam P & Muhammad P
4W	Hassan A & Hawwa A	4L	Hajrah A & Nelson G
5B	Amelia M & Haadi F	5R	Faris C & Mohammed Eesa M
6V	Muhammad M & Inaya M	6M	Ibrahim P & Aaisha U





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week we learned about Diwali. We made diva lamps, henna patterns and Rangoli designs.

Action

Please remember to bring back nappy bags. Reading books are changed every Friday.

Reception

"This week in Reception, we have been enjoying SuperTed in literacy, exploring the characters and stories. In maths, we have been learning about ****more than and fewer than****, comparing groups of objects. We also went on a special ****Walk for Kindness****, thinking about how we can be kind, caring and helpful to others. We are very proud of the children for showing kindness and thinking about how their actions can make others feel happy!

Action

"It was lovely to see you all at Parents' Evening this week. Thank you for taking the time to come in and talk about your child's progress. At home, please continue to practise the sounds with your child to help them begin to blend sounds together and read simple words. Just a few minutes of practice each day can make a big difference!





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"It has been another busy week in Year 1! In English this week, the children planned and performed their own poems inspired by 'Recipe for Making a Wolf'. They enjoyed using their creativity and imagination to develop their own ideas and confidently share their poems with the class. In maths, we explored number bonds within 10, focusing on finding them systematically. The children practised identifying different combinations of numbers and developing their mathematical thinking. In PE, we have been learning the skills needed to skip with a rope. The children have been practising their coordination, timing and control as they develop this important skill. It was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers to our Parents' Evening this week. It was a pleasure to discuss how well the children have settled into Year 1 and share their progress so far. Thank you for your continued support and for working in partnership with us to help your children thrive."

Action

"Please continue to listen to your child read at home at least three times a week and remember to sign their reading planners. Enjoy the half-term break! Have a lovely, restful week, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school refreshed and ready for another exciting half-term."

Year 2

"What a lovely first half term we have had in Year 2! The children have all worked so hard and should be proud of everything they have achieved so far. We can't wait to see their confidence grow and their hard work continue after half term."

Action

"It was lovely to welcome so many parents on Wednesday and Thursday at Parents Evening. Here is a link to Maths Frame, which the children can use to practice their Maths skills.
<https://mathsframe.co.uk/> Please continue to read with your child."





Year Group Updates

Year 3

This week has been a week of hardwork, dedication and commitment to the Year 3 life at St. James. We have never seen them work this hard and we are extremely proud of everything they have achieved. The children have written stories and solved addition and subtraction questions. They have also looked at the city of Rome, and recalled all their facts for science.

Action

"P.E. first day back. Also, during parents' evening, some parents asked for support to help teach children at home especially with homework. So please find below a link to a YouTube video which you can use at home. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H7fGV9_M0 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvYzKWwJOSU>"

Year 4

It has been a fantastic term! In maths, we have been learning about the place value of four-digit numbers and developing our skills using column addition and subtraction. In English, we have explored a variety of writing styles, including character descriptions, setting descriptions and dialogue, allowing us to develop our creativity. In art, we have been learning about architects and exploring their work before sketching our own pieces.

Action

Well done to everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm this term! We hope you have a wonderful break, and most importantly, stay safe.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

What a fantastic final week of the half term we have had in Year 5! In Maths, we have been busy developing our understanding of common multiples and factor pairs, showing great enthusiasm and determination. In Art, we have enjoyed experimenting with different brushstrokes and techniques using acrylic paints to create exciting effects inspired by the work of David Hockney. We have also had some thoughtful discussions about what it means to have an online reputation and the importance of making positive choices online. In English, we have been putting our creative writing skills to the test, completing our next chapter of 'Street Child'. The children have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of their efforts. We hope everyone has a wonderful, well-deserved half-term break!

Action

Have a well deserved rest and enjoy making new memories with your loved ones!

Year 6

"In Maths, we have been learning all about converting units of measurement. The children have been practising converting between different metric units, including millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres, as well as grams, kilograms and millilitres. In English, the children have successfully completed their newspaper reports! They have worked hard to develop their journalistic writing skills, using formal language, eye-catching headlines, introductory paragraphs and reported speech to engage their readers. The children have also focused on organising their ideas clearly and including relevant details to make their reports informative and interesting. We are very proud of the effort and creativity they have shown in their finished pieces."

Action

"It was lovely to see so many parents and carers during our Parents' Evening! It was a pleasure to discuss the children's progress, celebrate their achievements and share their next steps in learning."





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.

