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 6th November



Mr D Stitcher
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Well, what a week! I'm absolutely delighted that we have finally been able to share our Ofsted inspection report with you!

As you will have seen, we achieved a Strong standard for Achievement, with all six other areas meeting the Expected standard and safeguarding confirmed as met. There is so much to celebrate, particularly the recognition of our children's academic achievements, their excellent behaviour, the kindness they show one another and the inclusive and caring environment we have created at St James'.

I am incredibly proud of our children and staff, and I hope you are too! Our motto is Exceptional in All We Do, and this report recognises so many of the wonderful things happening in our school every single day.

However, there is one area where we really do need your help, and that is attendance.

Although our attendance has improved considerably, Ofsted highlighted that too many children are still missing too much school, particularly those whose attendance falls below 90%. This is known as persistent absence, and it is something we are determined to improve.

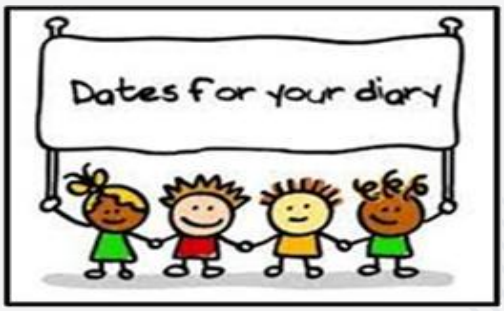
We can put all the support, encouragement and monitoring in place that we possibly can, but ultimately, we cannot improve attendance without the support of our parents and carers. Every day in school really does matter. Even the occasional day off can add up to a significant amount of missed learning over the course of a year.

Of course, children become ill and sometimes absence is unavoidable. We understand that completely and will always work with families who are experiencing difficulties. However, we do ask that you make every effort to ensure your child attends school every day that they are well enough to do so, arrives on time and that holidays are taken during school holidays. We know that our children achieve exceptionally well when they are in school. Now we need to make sure they are here as often as possible to benefit from everything we offer!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We have so much to be proud of at St James', and by working together, we can make our school even better.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr D. Stitcher



Thursday 19th November	School Photographer
Thursday 26th November	Lancashire Themed Lunch
Monday 7th December	Reception & Year 1 Carol Concert @ 2:15 in KS2 Hall
Tuesday 8th December	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert @ 2:15pm in KS2 Hall
Wednesday 9th December	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert @ 2:15pm in KS2 Hall
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumper day (red & green day) & Xmas Lunch
Thursday 10th December	Year 2 Nativity @ 2:15pm in KS2 Hall
Friday 11th December	Nursery Carol Concert @ 11:00am & 2:30pm
Friday 18th December	Closure after school

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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.

BE AN ATTENDANCE HERO!

We want every child to be a school attendance HERO:

H – Here every day

E – Enthusiastic about learning

R – Ready to learn

O – On time



Our goal is simple:
Every child, every day, ready to learn!



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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Free School Meals Applications for Children from Nursery to Year 6

Did you know that even if your child is in nursery and already receives funded meals, you may still be eligible to apply for **Free School Meals (FSM)**?
If you have a child in Nursery to Year 6 and receive **Universal Credit**, we encourage you to complete a Free School Meals application for each child. By applying, you help us identify children who are entitled to **additional funding and support**, ensuring that families receive all the assistance available to them.

Applying is quick and easy, Free School Meals Application: https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-and-pupil-support/free-school-meals

If you think you may be eligible, please submit an application as soon as possible. If your application is successful, please let the school office know so that we can update your child's records.
If you need any assistance with the application process, please visit the school office and we will be happy to help.
Your application could provide valuable additional support for your child and our school community.
Thank you for your support.



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EXCEPTIONAL IN ALL WE DO

LET'S FUEL GREAT DAYS!

HEALTHY LUNCHES HAPPY CHILDREN



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 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



PLEASE AVOID NUT PRODUCTS

LOVE THEM? SAVE THEM FOR HOME!

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



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 13th November	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1A	Monday 2nd November Wednesday 4th November	Monday 9th November Wednesday 11th November	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Monday Wednesday
Year 2 2B and 2K	Tuesday 3rd November Thursday 5th November	Tuesday 10th November Thursday 12th November	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday	Tuesday Thursday
Year 3 3M and 3A	Monday 2nd November Thursday 5th November	Thursday 12th November	Monday Thursday	Thursday	Monday Thursday	Thursday	Monday Thursday	Monday Thursday
Year 4 4W and 4L	Monday 2nd November Wednesday 4th November	Wednesday 11th November	Monday Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday Thursday	Monday Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5R	Friday 6th November	Monday 9th November Friday 13th November	Friday	Monday Friday	Friday	Monday Friday	Friday	Friday
Year 6 6M and 6V	Tuesday 3rd November	Monday 9th November Tuesday 10th November	Tuesday	Monday Tuesday	Tuesday	Monday Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday

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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.

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attendance MATTERS

Every day in school matters

CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASSES 4L WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

95% and above

90% - 94.9%

Below 90%

RW	97.1%
RM	89.6%
1F	96.8%
1A	91.8%
2K	97.1%
2H	97.9%
3A	92.4%
3M	94.1%
4L	98.9%
4W	93.6%
5B	96.7%
5R	94.5%
6M	98.7%
6V	94.3%

If your child is absent due to illness, the office must be informed before 8:35am on that day

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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		Ibraheem A & Zakariya I Hunain H & Aaima K	
RM	Liyana R & Muhammad Uzair S	RW	Ibrahim H & Ahad K
1A	Ahmad T & Ahmad B	1F	Heidi-May G & Ayaan P
2H	Ibraheem A & Abdullah M	2K	Mishal I & Liyana Z R
3A	Yusha D & Duha S	3M	Khadijah I & Aaisha P
4W	Muhammad Isa A & Humaira M	4L	Aayan H & Fathima N
5B	M Wasay S & Emaan S	5R	Shakeel H & Muhammad-Rayhan P
6V	Fatema P & Muhammed P	6M	Zayn H & Zahra A

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Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week we have been learning about bonfire night and fire safety. We have dressed up as firefighters to put out fires, made firework marks in the creative area, and learnt a firefighter song.

Action

N/A

Reception

This week in Reception the children have been laughing at the story No-Bot. Ask your child to tell you about the story and what they have drawn in Drawing club this week. The children have also been put into new Phonics groups- learning to build words with magnetic letters and blend the sounds to try and read words! What fun we have had playing in our new outdoor area too! Have a great weekend.

Action

"We will be selling poppies- please give any cash to staff on arrival. Thank you :)

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Year Group Updates

Year 1

Welcome back, we hope you have had a lovely half term.

We have lots of exciting things happening this half term.

This week, we have started reading the story What the ladybird heard by Julia Donaldson. We have looked at what we can find on a farm, ready to write our setting description next week

Action

In Mathematics, we have finding bonds numbers systematically. E.g

0 + 3 = 3

1 + 2 = 3

2 + 1 = 3

3 + 0 = 3

Can you find all the number bonds to 5 at home?

Year 2

"Welcome back! This week the children have been very busy in English, reading our new fiction text 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs'. We also had a visit from 'Germ Busters' who showed the children the importance of keeping themselves healthy. "

Action

As the weather is starting to get colder, please ensure you are sending your child into school with their jumpers and coats. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

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Year Group Updates

Year 3

This week, the children in Year 3 have been exploring non-fiction texts. They have learnt the features, how to research and make notes and today, they will write their introductions. We have finished our topic of addition and subtraction now. However, the homework will still be on addition and subtraction (with exchanging)

Action

"Please use these videos to help with the homework.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4H7fGV9_M0https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvYzKWwJOSU"

Year 4

"The children have made a great start to the new term! This week, we have continued to use the column method to subtract 4-digit numbers with more than one exchange. In English, we have finished the book 'Wave Me Goodbye' and written some descriptive paragraphs using fronted adverbials, adverbs, conjunctions and subordinate clauses. In science, we started a new topic, sound. For this lesson, the children became 'sound detectives' and worked together to guess the sound. "

Action

"Thank you for reading and signing planners. Please add a date when your child reads as planners are checked weekly. Next week PE is on Wednesday. "

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Year Group Updates

Year 5

What a super first week back in Year 5! The children have continued to work hard with mulitiplication and division in maths this week, learning about square and cubed numbers! Meanwhile in English, Year 5 have began to explore our narrative poem of The Highwayman! We have also began our new topic in PE of Victorian Dance!

Action

Continue to read at least three times per week, signing when you have done so in reading diaries. Complete Century-Tech homework.

Year 6

"In Maths, the children have started to recognise and work with fractions. They have been learning how to simplify fractions by identifying the Highest Common Factor (HCF) of the numerator and denominator. They are beginning to understand how finding the HCF can help them simplify fractions into their simplest form. We encourage children to practise identifying common factors and simplifying fractions at home.In English, we have started exploring an extract from Ken Young's 'Growing Up in London' during World War II. The children have begun to explore life in London during the Second World War, considering what it might have been like for children growing up during this challenging period. We are developing our reading comprehension skills, looking closely at the language used by the author and discussing how the experiences of children during wartime may have shaped their lives."

Action

""Your child has been given homework in their Purple books also on Century Tech, please support them to complete this. If they are struggling, please let a member of Year 6 staff know.PE will be on Monday and Tuesday next week."

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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

Twitter: @st_blackburn

Please note that you don't need to have an account to view our social media pages.

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