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 13th November



Mr D Stitcher
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This week, we paused to commemorate Remembrance Day. We marked the occasion in church with a poignant presentation from 3M – including Mr Mason's excellent rendition of The Last Post. Some children also went to the Town Hall to join with other local schools, dignitaries an d veterans to observe a two-minute silence and participate in the service. You may have seen the Lancashire Telegraph article about the event.

We are very proud of how our school community c ame together to remember those who fell or were injured in defending the freedoms we often take for granted.

As we head unstoppably towards Christmas, I just need to make you aware of a few dates.

Firstly, this Monday (16th November), we encourage your children to wear odd socks to help raise awareness of anti-bullying week. I rarely check whether mine are from a pair, so I doubt this will be a big problem for me!

On Thursday (19th November), our photographer will be in school to take photographs which will be available for purchase (so in years from now you can retrieve them from the attic and see your child's journey from school!). Please remember to ensure your child is dressed appropriately so you get the best photo possible! I still have one from my childhood in Year 6 that was ruined when I decided to wear my dad's jumper to school that day instead of uniform!

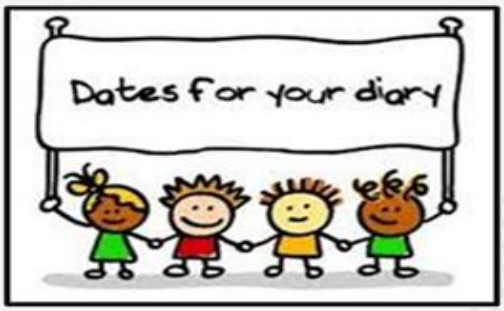
And on Thursday 26th November, we will be holding our ever-popular Winter Warmer event with lots of lovely food available for purchase and a tombola with quite possibly one of the world's longest queues! It's always very well attended, and we look forward to seeing you all there.

This is just a small selection of some of the events we have coming up. Please take some time to read through the rest of the newsletter (even though we all know my bit is the best bit!). We wouldn't want you to miss anything.

And finally, as the weather gets colder, please make sure you send your child to school with appropriate winter clothing suitable for playing outside in the winter sunshine!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr D. Stitcher



Thursday 19th November	School Photographer
Thursday 26th November	Winter Warmer @ 2:30pm
Thursday 26th November	Lancashire Themed Lunch
Monday 7th December	Reception & Year 1 Carol Concert @ 2:15pm 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
Thursday 17th December	Church Service 9:30am KS1 – 10:00am KS2
Thursday 17th December	Selection Box raffle
Friday 18th December	Closure after school

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COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

LET'S KEEP OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CLEAN!

ST JAMES'S CHURCH







SATURDAY
21 NOVEMBER

10AM–12PM

MEET AT CHURCH AND HELP AS MUCH AS YOU CAN

EQUIPMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

REFRESHMENTS AT THE CHURCH

CONTACT: Revd Daniel at Blackburn St James's – daniel@narrow-way.org or 07448324348

In partnership with St James's Primary School and local neighbouhood

EXCEPTIONAL IN ALL WE DO

You're invited to our

WINTER WARMER

Thursday 26th November 2026

Free Entry

2:30PM
KS2
HALL

- Tombola
- Food
- Candyfloss
- Popcorn
- Drinks

We look forward to seeing you there!



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WINTER WARMER PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

Just a reminder that on **Thursday 26th November** all **KS2 children** will finish school at **2:15pm**. Please collect your KS2 child from the normal pick-up point at 2:15pm, if your child walks home alone they will leave school at 2:15pm. **KS1 children (and Nursery if you wish)** can be collected from the normal pick-up point at 2:45pm.

This is so that you can attend our Winter Warmer with your child in the KS2 hall where we will have a selection of food and drink on sale. We are staggering the collection times to ease congestion and ensure the health and safety of everyone attending. All proceeds go to the school fund.



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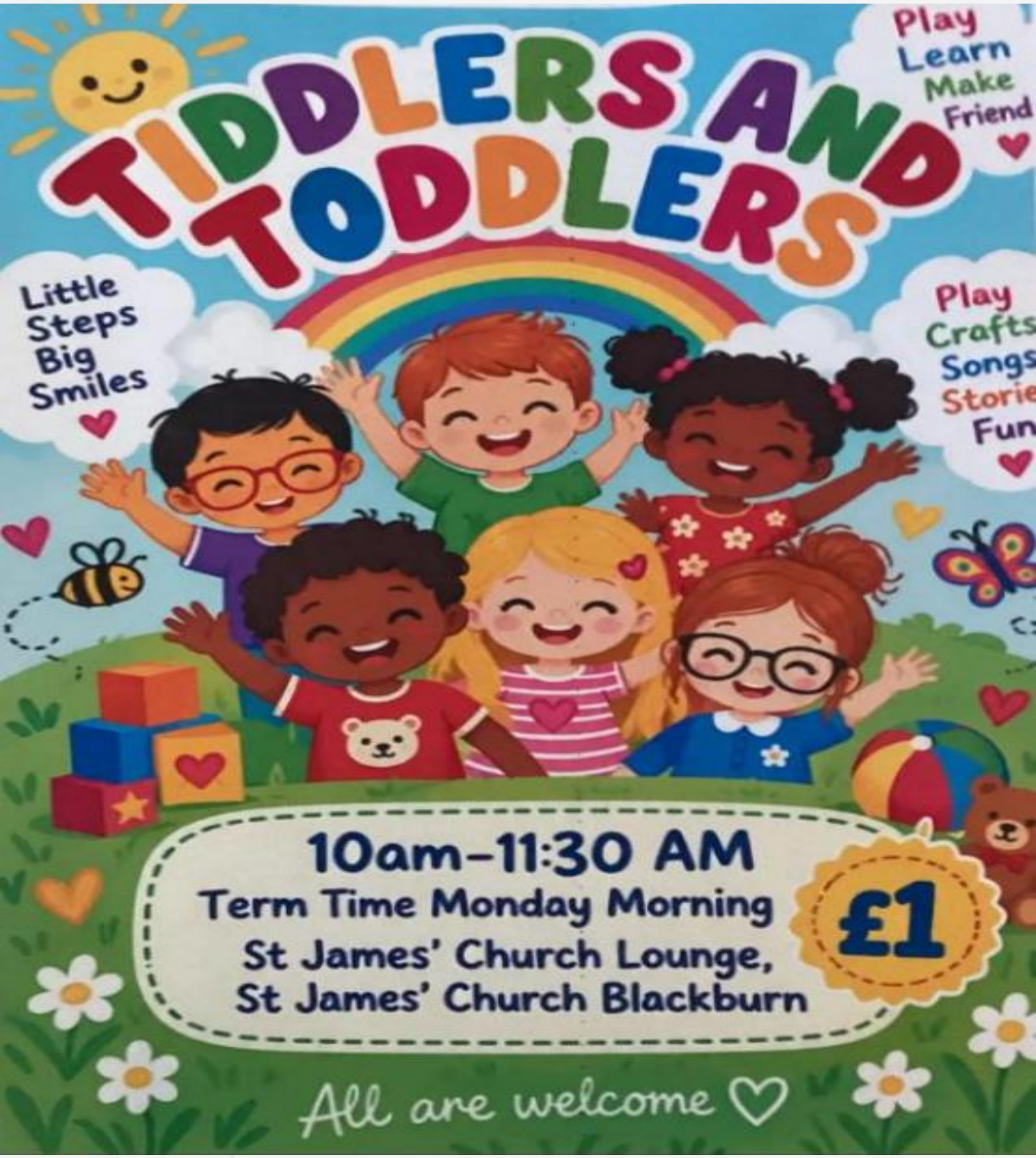


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imo
inspire
motivate
overcome
it's my opportunity
AGES 12-15
#iwill
Your voice.
Your community.
Your impact.
Build confidence, connect with others and make a difference
YOUTH VOICE STRONGER COMMUNITIES
IDEAS PEOPLE ACTION CHANGE
1 Self-awareness & well-being
2 Relationships & dialogue
3 Research local issues
4 Social action
MONDAYS
5–7pm
IMO Hub
Contact Umar Mulla
07394 653 921
01254 781310
umar.mulla@imocharity.org
#iwill movement
HM Government
COMMUNITY FUND


imo
inspire
motivate
overcome
it's my opportunity
CRH Charitable Trust
AGES 11-16 YEARS
Free to attend
Boys and girls welcome
ASPIRE ZONE
Your space to talk, connect & grow.
Weekly wellbeing sessions for South Asian young people.
FEEL BETTER
Talk things through and find ways to manage stress and emotions.
CONNECT
Make friends and get one-to-one mentoring.
LIFE SKILLS
Get creative, get moving, explore STEM and learn useful life skills.
For young people who may be feeling anxious, lonely, overwhelmed, stressed, with low confidence & self esteem or relationship breakdown
A welcoming space where you can feel understood.
Friendly early wellbeing support and mentoring –
NOT a crisis or clinical mental health service
Weekly at the IMO Youth Hub
Audley & Queens Park Children Centre
Pringle Street, Blackburn, BB1 1SF
Want to join or find out more?
Contact Umar Mulla
07394 653 921 | 01254 781310
umar.mulla@imocharity.org
@imocharity | www.imocharity.org

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 20th November	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday
Year 1 1F and 1A	Monday 2nd November Wednesday 4th November	Monday 9th November Wednesday 11th November	Monday 16th November Wednesday 18th November	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 17th November Thursday 19th November	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 16th November Thursday 19th November	Thursday	Monday Thursday	Thursday	Monday Thursday	Monday Thursday
Year 4 4W and 4L	Monday 2nd November Wednesday 4th November	Wednesday 11th November	Monday 16th November Wednesday 18th November	Wednesday	Monday Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday Thursday	Monday Thursday
Year 5 5B and 5R	Friday 6th November	Monday 9th November Friday 13th November	Friday 20th November	Monday Friday	Friday	Monday Friday	Friday	Friday
Year 6 6M and 6V	Tuesday 3rd November	Monday 9th November Tuesday 10th November	Tuesday 17th November	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 5B WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

95% and above

90% - 94.9%

Below 90%

RW	93.1%
RM	89.7%
1F	99.0%
1A	94.5%
2K	98.4%
2H	93.5%
3A	96.2%
3M	92.7%
4L	98.9%
4W	92.9%
5B	99.7%
5R	97.3%
6M	94.3%
6V	89.7%

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	**Syed Luqman Hussain S, Mohammed M, Anabia A & Arayah K**		
RM	**Hakim & Muntha H**	**RW**	**Muhammad Aryan A & Roham R**
1A	**Adam D & Mohammad Adam I**	**1F**	**Jannat M & Skylar M Barker**
2H	**Maryam H & Safa A**	**2K**	**Muhammad Musa R & Eesha H**
3A	**Juwarriya M & Juwiriyah P**	**3M**	**Adrian C & 3M**
4W	**Hassnain A & Amayra M**	**4L**	**Sireen B & Zareesh W**
5B	**Muhammad Wasay S & Muhammad I**	**5R**	**Safia S & Ahmed I**
6V	**Hilal J & Zara R**	**6M**	**Muhammad P & Aaisha U**

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Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week we have been learning about remembrance. We have made poppies with paint and playdough. We have also been learning about doctors and helping people feel better. Some of us also enjoyed playing outside on the new slide and imagination station.

Action

N/A

Reception

This week in Reception, we have been enjoying watching the old animation Trap Door in Literacy, exploring the characters and events in the story. In Maths, we have been learning about the number 5 and developing our counting skills. In Topic, we have been finding out about the United Kingdom and learning about our King, King Charles III.

We have also welcomed some exciting new outdoor equipment for the children to enjoy! This will help them to develop their gross motor skills, build confidence and have lots of fun while being active outdoors.

Action

A reminder that RW will be leading a Parent Worship next week, starting at 8:50am. All parents and families of children in RW are warmly invited to come along and watch. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Year Group Updates

Year 1

"This week, we have be using adjectives to describe the setting on a farm based on the story what the ladybird heard by Julia Donaldson. Watch the story using this linkhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MECuyvwSPVQThis week, we have remember those who have fallen to keep us safe. Thank you for all your donations."

Action

Please remember to sign your the children's reading diaries once they have read.

Year 2

"The children have continued to enjoy our new English text this week and have been fantastic at describing the Wolf and beginning to sequence the story.In PE, the children have enjoyed dancing as jungle animals. We have also started to learn our new Nativity songs, we can't wait to share these with you in December. "

Action

"On Monday please can the children wear odd socks for Anti-Bullying week. We will also be looking at Road Safety and we will have a special visitor on Tuesday. "

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Year Group Updates

Year 3

Congratulations to 3M for their amazing performance at church this week for Remembrance day. All the best to 3A who have their parent worship soon. They will be superb and I'm sure you all can't wait to see it too.

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

This week, we have had another busy and exciting week of learning. In English, we were introduced to the Great Plague, focusing on the role of plague doctors and using our knowledge to write descriptive 4A sentences about them. In Maths, we completed our units on addition and subtraction and are now moving on to measurement. In RE, we explored why Christians describe Jesus as the 'Light of the World' and what this means to them. In Science, we continued our topic on sound, investigating how vibrations create sound and learning about the different parts of the ear and how we use them to hear.

Action

Please practise multiplication facts at home and read with your child at least three times a week to help build their confidence and fluency. As the colder weather approaches, please ensure children come to school dressed appropriately for the weather, with warm coats and suitable clothing.

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Year Group Updates

Year 5

It's been another active week in Year 5 this week! The children have dived headfirst into our latest Maths topic, focusing on funding equivalent fractions. In English we have engrossed in the Highwayman, using figurative language to create our own stanzas and poems. Lastly, we have commenced practicing for the Christmas carol concert later this term.

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

"Year 6 have completed another mock SAT's test. They have worked extremely hard on all papers. Alongside this, the children have been learning adding and subtracting fractions. They have been building on their prior knowledge and explaining their mathematical reasoning to a range of problems.In English, year 6 have been exploring the historical context of the Second World War whilst developing their understanding of life during this challenging time. They have started to write diary entries from the perspective of an evacuee."

Action

""Please complete homework in their purple books and Century Tech.

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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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