



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families,

What a fantastic start our children have had to 2026. As January draws to a close, I want to thank everyone for a positive and productive start to the new term. It has been wonderful to see the children return after the festive break with such enthusiasm, ready for the busy and exciting term ahead.

January is always a month full of fresh starts and renewed energy, and our children have settled quickly back into their routines. I am incredibly proud of how well they have demonstrated resilience, kindness, and a real eagerness to learn this month. We have celebrated a wide range of achievements within our weekly Proud Assemblies, ranging from phenomenal curriculum work to children who have gone above and beyond to look after their friends.

Throughout the Spring Term, our classes will be diving into new topics, and teachers have been working hard to plan engaging learning opportunities. We are also continuing to focus on reading, wellbeing, and developing our teaching and learning provision—making the most of the amazing opportunities our children are fortunate to have here at St James Lanehead. We will also continue to reinforce the belief that one person can make a difference, and that every child makes a significant and positive contribution to our school. This links directly to our firm belief that everyone is special in God's eyes.

A special thank you to all our families for your ongoing support—whether that's through attending events, supporting learning at home, or simply ensuring children arrive at school each day on time and ready to learn. Your partnership is a vital part of our school's success. Thank you.

I look forward to a successful and joyful term ahead.

Warm regards,

Mr M Elliott

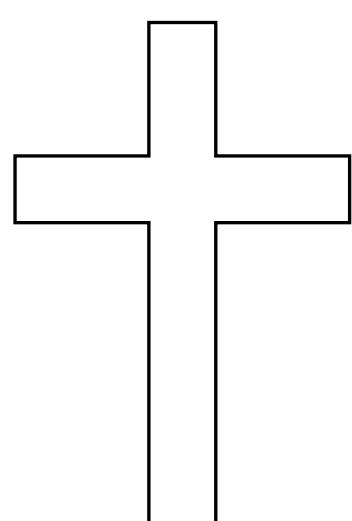


Collective Worship

This year in collective worship we are continuing to learn about Gods Big Story through the Blackburn Diocese Board of Education.

Next month we will be learning all about:

- Mary Jones and Her Bible
- Pictures of The Kingdom
- All For Jesus - Lent 1



PTFA

The School Lottery is a brilliant resource for parents to sign up to. It provides funds for the PTFA and you can also win prizes weekly! If you haven't signed up yet visit our lottery here:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-james-lanehead-church-of-england-primary-school>



Congratulations to the lucky winners of our school lottery over the last month:

- 20th December 2025 Mx G £9.25
- 27th December 2025 Mrs G £9.50
- 3rd January 2026 Mrs G £9.75
- 10th January 2026 Mrs D £10.00
- 17th January 2026 Ms D £12.00
- 24th January Mrs G £9.00

easyfundraising

Support Our School at No Extra Cost!

We've partnered with easyfundraising and Parentkind to make fundraising simple. Every time you shop online with over 8,000 retailers—including Amazon, Tesco, John Lewis, and more—our school receives a free donation. It doesn't cost you a penny extra! Just sign up, shop as usual, and help us raise vital funds for resources and activities. Join today at [easyfundraising.org.uk/parentkind](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/parentkind) and select 'St James' Lanehead Primary PTFA' to make a big difference with your everyday shopping.





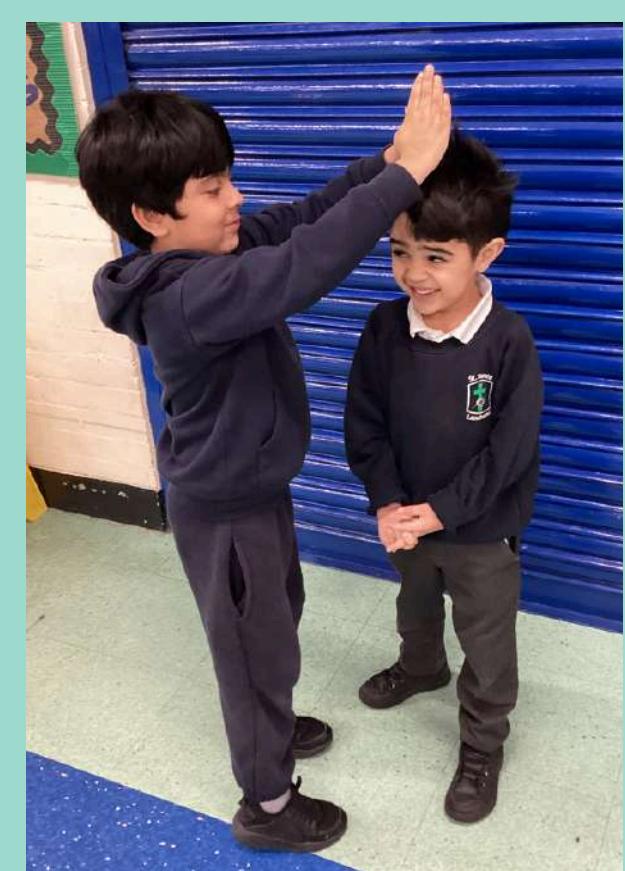
Tudors Workshop

Hazel, Rowan and Sycamore Classes were lucky enough to take part in a Tudor workshop this half term where we enjoyed a range of exciting activities throughout the day. We explored different Tudor weapons and artefacts from everyday life, which helped us to understand how people lived in the past. We made our own Tudor galleon using clay and learned about crime and punishment, matching different crimes to punishments that were used at the time. We also played a Tudor board game, which was great fun! We learnt lots of interesting facts and had a great day!



Explorers Workshop

What a treat Elm, Beech and Willow Classes had this half term! To support their work on Explorers they had a visit from Amelia Earhart. She told us all about her achievements and we learnt about Christopher Columbus through the medium of drama. We worked in pairs to create the shape of objects from the new world, re-enacted the journey to the moon and lots of other imaginative activities. We had great fun and learnt lots too!





forest school

Forest School Adventures – Big Schools' Bird Watch 2026! 🐦

This half term, Willow, Hazel and Rowan classes have been taking part in the Big Schools' Bird Watch 2026 during their Forest School sessions. The children have been busy spotting and identifying the different birds visiting our school grounds, as well as getting hands-on making bird feeders and building structures using natural resources.

They had a fantastic time learning outdoors, working together, exploring nature, and developing their observation skills.





Oak Class - Father Michael

Oak Class were lucky to have Father Michael come into class this half term to help us with our RE learning. Father Michael helped us to extend our knowledge from our learning on the Exodus, by helping us make the connections between Passover, The Last Supper and the Eucharist. We were able to see the chalice and plate that he uses when visiting people at home, to allow them to have communion and he answered lots of questions to support our learning! Thank you Father Michael.



Sporting Events



This half term, some of our Year 6 pupils attended an event at Barden Primary School. They took part in events such as curling, basketball, target throwing and parachute games. They were amazing, represented our school brilliantly, supported each other and tried their very best. They were FANTASTIC and loved every minute! Thank you Burnley School Sport Partnership.

Our girls' football team played their very first matches this half term, and they were amazing! They represented our school brilliantly and had a fabulous time on the pitch. ⚽

We drew one match and lost the other — a fantastic start for their first games. We're so proud of each and every one of them! Here are the team showing off our brand-new football kit, kindly sponsored by Pro Print Solutions. How smart do they look?

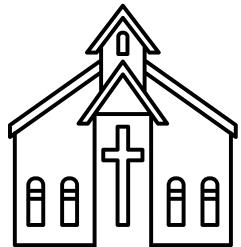




Upcoming Events:

Friday 6th February

Sycamore Class - Family Friday @ 2.30pm



Tuesday 10th February

Hazel Class Worship @ St James' Church @ 2.30pm

Thursday 12th February

Oak Class - Knowsley Safari Park



Friday 13th February

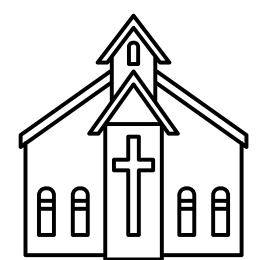
School closes at 3.30pm - February Half Term

Monday 23rd February

School re-opens to pupils

Friday 27th February

Hawthorn Class - Family Friday @ 2.30pm



Wednesday 4th March

Parents Evening 1 of 2

Tuesday 10th March

Willow Class Worship - St James' Church @ 2.30pm

Wednesday 11th March

Parents Evening 2 of 2



Friday 13th March

Mother's Day Coffee and Cake - 1 of 2



School Term Dates 2026/2027



School Term & Holiday Patterns 2026-27

Autumn Term 2026

Re-open to pupils	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30th October 2026 (inclusive)
Re-open to Pupils	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Closure after school	Friday 18 th December 2026 at 1.30pm

Spring Term 2027

Re-open to pupils	Monday 4 th January 2027
Mid Term Closure	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February 2027 (inclusive)
Re-open to Pupils	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Closure after school	Thursday 25 th March 2027 at 1.30pm

Summer Term 2027

Re-open to pupils	Monday 12 th April 2027
May Day Closure	Monday 3rd May 2027
Mid Term Closure	Monday 24 th May to Friday 4 th June 2027 (inclusive)
Re-open to pupils	Monday 7 th June 2027
Closure after school	Wednesday 21 st July 2027 at 1.30pm



PE & Forest School Timetable

Forest School Timetable - 2025/2026

Spring term

Date	Class
6/01/26	Willow
13/01/26	Hazel
20/01/26	Rowan
27/01/26	Willow
3/02/26	Hazel
10/02/26	Rowan
24/02/26	Willow
3/03/26	Hazel
10/03/26	Rowan
17/03/26	Willow
24/03/26	Hazel
31/03/26	Rowan

Summer term

Date	Class
14/04/26	Ash
21/04/26	Elm
28/04/26	Beech
05/05/26	Elm
12/05/26	Ash
19/05/26	Beech
9/06/26	Ash
16/06/26	Elm
23/06/26	Beech
30/06/26	Ash
07/07/26	Elm
14/07/26	Beech

PE Timetable - Spring 1

Ash Class - Friday

Elm Class - Wednesday & Thursday

Beech Class - Tuesday & Thursday

Willow Class - Monday & Wednesday

Hazel Class - Monday & Friday

Rowan Class - Monday & Wednesday

Sycamore Class - Tuesday & Thursday (Year 5 Only)

Hawthorn Class - Monday & Tuesday

Oak Class - Tuesday & Wednesday

Swimming will continue on a Thursday morning for Year 4 pupils.

