

ST JAMES' Newsletter

St James' Blackburn
C of E Primary School
Earl Street, Blackburn
BB1 8EG
01254 698335

Date: Friday 1st March 2024



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Headteacher

GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE FINES FOR POOR ATTENDANCE!

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am sure you've all seen the government have announced that fines issued to parents for keeping their children out of school will increase from September.

The Department for Education have also made it compulsory for schools to share with them when children are not in school.

Our attendance has improved over the last year, but we are still 2% lower than the rest of the country.

We do not like issuing fines – it's a lot of paperwork and it causes upset and worry for families. But the best way for school and home to avoid the process is for everyone to do their best to ensure that children are in school every day.

There are 190 school days for children per year; that leaves 175 days per year (176 this year, as it's a leap year) to go on holiday or to visit family.

So please try to book holidays during the school holidays. We won't be able to approve any holiday requests so going during school time could result in a fine being issued as well as your child missing valuable time in school.

And to the vast majority of you who ensure your child is in every day, thank you! It really makes a difference.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mr Stitcher



St James' Blackburn
C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Mr D Stitcher BA (Hons), PGCE (Dist.), NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (Hons), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

“Children who attend 100% are 5 times more likely to work at, or above, the expected standard”.

ATTENDANCE/ PUNCTUALITY

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time for registration.

The school gates are open from 8.30am till 8.40am. All children should be in class by 8.40am.

Arriving to school on time is important for your child so they don't miss important introductions to the lesson. Please make sure every effort is made to ensure that your child/ren arrive on time.

Any absences from school must be reported on the school spider app or the school answerphone each day of your child's absence .

EXTENDED LEAVE

Please refer to our Discretionary Leave Policy (available on the website) for further information and clarity around taking your child out of school during term time. Please be aware that parents who take their child/ren away in school time may be issued with a penalty notice, or may be removed from the school roll. All planned and unplanned leave must be discussed in advance, with Mrs Rehman.

APPOINTMENTS

Routine health appointments are better made out of school hours or during holidays. We are aware that this is not always possible, and request for appointments to be made at time where there is minimal disruption to your child's learning. The school office should be notified as soon as possible of appointments, and shown appointment letters, cards or text messages.





SPRING TERM DATES:

7th March – World Book Day

10th March – Ramadhan commences

17th March -St Patrick's Day

21st March – World Poetry Day

26th March – Robinwood Residential Meeting @ 3:15pm in KS2 Hall

28th March - Easter Egg Raffle

28th March - School Closure at end of day @ 3:05pm



Are your
**CONTACT
DETAILS**
up to date?

Contact the school office
immediately to inform us of **any**
changes to your **contact details** or
childs medical details



Fasting during Ramadan

As Ramadan is approaching, we are aware that some older children in **Years 5 and 6**, may want to fast from the 10th March 2024. We cannot, however, support younger children fasting during the school day.

All normal school activities will continue during this time, including PE lessons. As the days are getting longer, we encourage you to consider whether your child wishes to fast during the school day as part of their observance of Ramadan.

If your child is in Year **5** or Year **6** and you have decided that you would like your child to fast, a letter has been sent home with the pupils today so please sign and return to school as soon as possible.



attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 6S WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FOR LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RS	91.9%
RJ	92.1%
1S	92.1%
1J	92.8%
2S	94.4%
2J	93.9%
3S	92.7%
3J	94.5%
4S	95.2%
4J	93.0%
5S	91.5%
5J	95.0%
6S	95.6%
6J	92.9%

95%
and
above

90% -
94.9%

Below
90%



If your child is absent due to illness, the office must be informed before 08:35 on that day.



St James' Blackburn
C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Mr D Stitcher BA (Hons), PGCE (Dist.), NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (Hons), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

WHOLE SCHOOL *updates*



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		Khadija S & Muhammad Bilal A & Polina H & Yusuf R	
RS	Rayyan A & Khadijah A	RJ	Ibrahim M. & Khadijah I.
1S	Farah A & Momina S	1J	Dulnitha E & Alyan I
2S	Ahmed I & Safia S	2J	Muhammad K & Hassan Ali S
3S	Ali A and Ibrahim Q	3J	Zain D & Maryam S
4S	Ismaeel A & M Zayn B	4J	Muhammed G & Nabeeha M
5S	Ayra K & M.Ismaeel R	5J	Ayra K & M.Ismaeel R
6S	Mihai A & Subhaan S	6J	Aleena K & Sufyaan K



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week we have been listening to a different version of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. All the teachers are massively impressed with the children's ability to retell the story with exact words and phrases along with using expression in their voices. This week the children showed off their knowledge about how to keep safe around the roads. Well done everyone for a great week!

Action

- Listen to the Jack and the Beanstalk songs on YouTube by Debbie and Friends and BBC Teach. Can your child sing these songs to you?

Reception

This week we have been looking at the life cycle of a butterfly and exploring non-fiction texts. The children have made bird feeders in the discovery area to try and encourage more wildlife to visit. In maths we are looking at teen numbers as well as addition. We have begun renovation our outdoor space and will be planting vegetables and flowers! The children have worked hard to dig up the planters and remove all the weeds.

Action

- RJ parent worship is on the 6th March.
- World book day is the 7th March. Please do not spend lots of money on costumes, have a look online for ideas on how to make a homemade costume instead! :) For world book day KS1 children are looking at Julia Donaldson so please try to come as a character from one of her books. "



YEAR GROUP updates



Year 1

"This week, we have deepened our minds and explored space and time! We have looked at one of the Great Thinkers of our time, Stephen Hawking. Our brains are amazing! We have learnt about the different parts and their functions.

Action

- If your child does any outside of school activities such as; community work or clubs, where they have received certificates or medals. Please bring them in to share their achievement with the school during whole school worship on Fridays.

Year 2

Year 2 have had a brilliant week with a visitor discussing road safety! Year 2 now know how to cross the road safely and carefully. We have also learned about Florence Nightingale and how she is a 'Great Thinker', and the amazing work she has done.

Action

- "Please bring in cardboard boxes e.g. cereal boxes, breadstick boxes, for our DT unit this term. It is crucial that you read with your child daily at home and sign their planner 3 times a week, thank you for your continued support."



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant week. We have enjoyed learning Basketball skills in PE and developing our dribbling skills. In PSHE, we have been learning about what a family is and the different types of families. We are learning a new song in Ukulele with a much faster tempo!

Action

- "If you haven't already, please can you bring in your resources for Design Technology. Please ensure that you are reading 3x a week and that your diary is being signed. Practise spellings and timetables."

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week. we have been reading 'The Dancing Bear' in English and we have been looking at fractions in Maths. 4S really enjoyed visiting the church gardens this week!

Action

- Thursday 7th March is World Book Day. Please remind children to dress up as a Roald Dahl book character.



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 5

Year 5 have really enjoyed researching and learning about Leonardo Da Vinci for our 'Thinking Great' ELO day. In Maths we have started to look at decimals. In English we have begun to plan our fantasy story which we will be writing next week.

Action

"5S parent worship is on the 7th March. Please listen to your child read at least 3x. Math's homework is on century tech.

Year 6

This week, Children in Year 6 have been learning all about William Shakespeare. They have studied why he has such a great mind and how he inspired all of us today. The children have enjoyed singing the song about him especially when it came to rapping.

Action

- Please can you keep encouraging your child to complete all their homework in books and online.
- Thank you!



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



After School Clubs

- **Monday**
Y4 Multiplication Club
Year 6 SATs Booster Club
- **Tuesday**
- Year 1/2 STEM Multi-skills club
-Year 1 Phonics club
- Year 5/6 Girls' Football Club
- **Thursday**
KS2 tag Rugby
KS1 Well Being Club

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.

