

ST JAMES' Newsletter

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

01254 698335

Date: Friday 28th Feb 2025



Doug Stitches

Mr D Stitches, Headteacher

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you all had a relaxing half-term and are feeling refreshed. This is a fairly short half-term, only lasting six weeks before the two week break for Easter.

As it is the start of a new half-term, I'd just like to remind you about the need to park and drive carefully on the surrounding roads at drop-off and pick-up times. We have seen an increased number of people parking on the yellow lines and some very selfish driving. We aren't putting out cones every day and standing on the side of the roads because we are bored! We do this to keep the children safe! I'm sure you'll agree that the improvement in the situation has been significant, but we need to keep going.

In particular, can I remind you not to park directly opposite the lollipop patrol. This makes it really difficult for

Mr Cameron and I to get the children across safely. We've paid our dues by getting through the cold winter! So, help us enjoy the summer lollipop season by parking considerately!!

A reminder about attendance - we had been having an amazing year with our attendance above the national average, but this has dropped recently – in part due to bouts of Chicken Pox but also with unauthorised absences. Please try to ensure your child is in school every day and on time ready to learn!

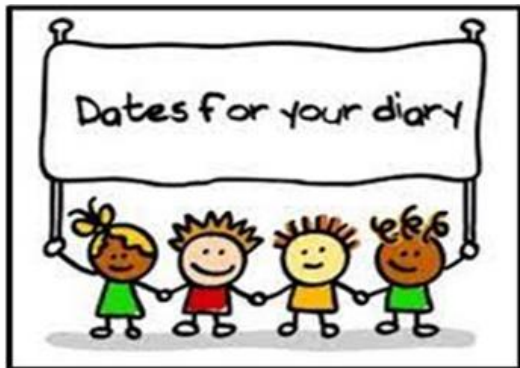
Let's see if we can improve this year!

And finally, I would like to wish all those observing a very peaceful Ramadan.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitches





Thursday 6th Mar

World Book Day

Thursday 20th Mar

Year 6 SATs Parent Meeting, KS2 Hall at 3:15pm.

Wednesday 2nd Apr

Eid Lunch

Tuesday 10th June 2025 Class photographs





WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

We are delighted to be involved in World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March 2025**. The whole day will be dedicated to reading and activities will be linked to a variety of books. As part of our intent, we want children to develop a lifelong love of reading, books and authors.

All children are invited to dress up on this day as their favourite character from a children's book. This could be a full costume or just a prop relating to their favourite character or book.

Here are some ideas:

George from George's Marvellous Medicine- a red top, jeans and a wooden spoon.

Mr Bump- a blue outfit with some white fabric as the bandage.

Little Miss Sunshine- a yellow top and black trousers or leggings with a drawing of Little Miss Sunshine.

Matilda- a blue dress, white cardigan and red head band.

Harry from Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs- a small bucket with dinosaurs and clothes with dinosaurs on.

Stick Man- brown clothes with some drawn or stuck on leaves.

Goldilocks- a dress with three teddy bears.

We are always really impressed with the inventive costume ideas everyone has. Thank you in advance for all of your support. If possible, please bring the book that relates to your book character to share with the class.





Blackburn with Darwen

ADULT LEARNING

Little Harwood Family Hub

Free learning at Little Harwood Family Hub

Spaces are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

To book visit: [Blackburn with Darwen Adult Learning](#)
or call 01254 581175/01254 507720

Course Code	Course Title	Day	Start Date	End Date	Time	Number of Sessions
353	E3 Award in Caring for Children	Wednesday	05/03/25	02/04/25	09:30am 2:30pm	5
320	Level 1 Mental health and Wellbeing	Wednesday	23/04/25	30/04/25	09:30 am 1:30pm	2
317	Managing Stress & Anxiety through Mindfulness	Wednesday	07/05/25	21/05/25	0930am 11:30am	3
259	Level 1 Food Safety in Catering	Wednesday	04.06/25	04/06/25	09:30am 2:30pm	1



Family Learning

For more information ask for Marie on
01254 222153



St James' Blackburn
C of E Primary School

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

SPIRITED ARTS COMPETITION 2025



We'd like to draw your attention to the Spirited Art Competition 2025. This annual competition gives children the opportunity to get creative and all art forms are welcome including:

- Painting, drawing, sketching, etc
- Poetry
- Photography
- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Sculpture

As a school we are able to submit 10 entries and we have chosen the theme of 'Living in a Diverse World' which supports our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Justice. This is the guidance given for this theme:

Strong communities cope well with diversity. RE can make a good contribution to communities by teaching pupils about the wisdom of religious and non-religious worldviews on human equality and by challenging negative attitudes. We are all different, and all religions are different – but are we all the same too? What holds our communities together? Is it faith? Hope? Love? Music? Sport? What threatens to tear us apart – racism, hatred, bigotry? How can we conquer the forces of division? You might focus on your local community, look at a national perspective or even consider a global community.

Any work submitted should include a written commentary of up to 400 words. Here is some guidance for this writing:

Prompts for pupils' writing

Pupils might use a selection of these. Approximately 8 makes a good set, but please don't use them all!

Adapt them freely for different age groups and in any way suitable. Written commentary on artwork should be under 400 words.

- The title I chose is ... because ...
- The deepest thing about my work is ...
- The religion that inspired my work is ...
- My RE art work ...
- This art work is spiritual because ...
- I think my work connects to religion because ...
- A quote from a holy book that fits with my work is ...
- I've been investigating ...
- This picture is all about ...
- My 'Art is Heaven' work is about ...
- In RE it is good to explore ... so ...
- Doing this work has made me think ...
- I've tried to show my thoughts/ideas/vision/feelings by ...
- I've discovered ...
- In my picture, you can see ...
- What I like best about my work is ...
- I hope people will notice ...
- This work has helped me to realise ...
- If you look carefully at the work, you will see ...
- My vision is ...
- To make the image, what I did was ...
- I like the theme I have been working on because ...
- My main ideas are ...
- My inspiration came from ...
- While I was making this, I thought a lot about ... and I would like to say ...

Please can all entries be sent into school and passed to class teachers by **Friday 25th April**. We look forward to seeing what you create!



PE Dates

Spring 1

This is a list of dates your child will have PE this half term. It is important that your child wears the correct PE uniform for their PE lesson.

As of this half term your child will be doing Gymnastic in PE, they will need to wear suitable **INSIDE** clothing, including pumps.

A reminder that when it is your child's PE day they must **NOT** wear earrings to school.

Week 1 will start from Tuesday 7th January 2025 as Monday 6th is an INSET day.

	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Week 6</u>
Reception (RG & RW)	Friday 28th Feb	Friday 7th March	Friday 14th March	Friday 21st March	Friday 28th March	Friday 4th April
Year 1 (1A & 1F)	Monday 24th Feb	Monday 3rd March	Monday 10th March	Monday 17th March	Monday 24th March	Monday 31st March
	Wednesday 26th Feb	Wednesday 5th March	Wednesday 12th March	Wednesday 19th March	Wednesday 26th March	Wednesday 2nd April
Year 2 (2K & 2W)	Tuesday 25th Feb	Tuesday 4th March	Tuesday 11th March	Tuesday 18th March	Tuesday 25th March	Tuesday 1st April
	Thursday 27th Feb	Thursday 6th March	Thursday 13th March	Thursday 20th March	Thursday 27th March	Thursday 3rd April
Year 3 (3B & 3M)	Monday 24th Feb	Wednesday 5th March	Monday 10th March	Wednesday 19th March	Monday 24th March	Wednesday 2nd April
	Wednesday 26th Feb		Wednesday 12th March		Wednesday 26th March	
Year 4 (4A & 4S)	Monday 24th Feb	Thursday 6th March	Monday 10th March	Thursday 20th March	Monday 24th March	Thursday 3rd April
	Thursday 27th Feb		Thursday 13th March		Thursday 27th March	
Year 5 (5B & 5R)	Friday 28th Feb	Monday 3rd March	Friday 14th March	Monday 17th March	Friday 28th March	Monday 31st March
		Friday 7th March		Friday 21st March		Friday 4th April
Year 6 (6H & 6V)	Tuesday 25th Feb	Monday 3rd March	Tuesday 11th March	Monday 17th March	Tuesday 25th March	Monday 31st March
		Tuesday 4th March		Tuesday 18th March		Tuesday 1st April



attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 6V WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	76.2%
RW	64.6%
1A	73.6%
1F	85.5%
2K	82.2%
2W	80.0%
3B	92.7%
3M	84.7%
4A	86.7%
4S	93.5%
5B	94.0%
5R	86.8%
6H	83.7%
6V	96.7%

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.



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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		Muhammad Bilal A & Mohammed Raees A & Eliza H & Khizar K	
RG	Hisham K. & Yahya V.	RW	Ayman M & Momin J
1A	Ibrahim M & Nasr A	1F	Unaysah R & Melissa F M
2W	Sienna S & Dulnitha E	2K	Amyra M & Kulsum L
3M	Aisha C & Anaya M	3B	Ayesha G & Sakeena R
4S	Haris A & Zara RM	4A	Mohammed Hadi A & Zahra A
5B	Malaika H & Asfa S	5R	Nazir S & Veronika H
6V	Muhammed M & Huda S	6H	Issa P & Noor A



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Forest Pre-School & Nursery

We would like to say a big thank you to Miss Ahmed who has been supporting the children's learning over the past six weeks. We wish her the best of luck for the rest of her teacher training.

Action

Have a lovely weekend!

Reception

The children have made an excellent start to the new term.

This week they immersed themselves in the book 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. They created story maps of the main events and painted their very own beanstalks.

In maths they recognised and ordered numbers 1-10; then looked at numbers beyond 10.

Action

- Next Thursday is World Book Day. The day will focus on reading and there will be lots of activities linked to a variety of children's books.
- This term is very busy so please check the Spider App for any key messages.



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 1

"Run, run as fast as you can you can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread man. This week, we have been looking at the text of the Gingerbread man. Can the children retell the story to you? For those of you who are celebrating Ramadan,

Ramadan Mubarak :)"

Action

- World Book day next week! We look forward to exploring the children's love of reading! Please don't go out and buy a new customer. Be creative, they can bring in props for a character from their favourite book.

Year 2

Welcome back, we hope you had a nice week off. We have started a new fiction text in English, called Traction Man is Here! We have continued our plants unit in science, can they remember what their cress seed will have to grow.

Action

- Next week we are celebrating World Book Day. The children are more than welcome to come dressed up as one of their favourite book characters. Can't wait to see what they choose!



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 3

Welcome back to another term. This week the children have dived into a new book called "Cliffhanger" by Jacqueline Wilson. This book is a recount and will be the focus of the children's writing for the next 3 weeks. Also this week, the children have started to look at angles, parallel and perpendicular lines.

Action

We are going to be completing a DT project with moving parts. Please may you start bringing in things from home for the children to make a car or a moving monster. The items are egg boxes, bottles, bottle tops and other cardboard for cutting. We will provide the balloons and straws.

Year 4

Year four have had a wonderful first week back in school. We have been reading a new novel in English called The Dancing Bear by Michael Morpurgo while in maths we have been adding and subtracting fractions. Science was lots of fun as we explored mastication, the first part of the digestive process. The children used utensils and water to replicate different types of teeth and saliva and 'chewed' food with varying amounts of glee and disgust! They are looking forward to exploring what happens to food inside our bodies over the coming weeks.

Action

- Please read with your child three times each week. It is important that you discuss what has been read to ensure your child's understanding.



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 5

It has been great to see everyone back after the break. We've had a great start to half term. We have started a new novel, Beowulf, and have been exploring the character of Grendel using lots of interesting vocabulary. In Maths we have started by looking at area and perimeter. We are also really excited and engaged by our Art and DT at the moment and are really excited to make our final pieces.

Action

"Don't forget to read at home at least three times a week and get your planner signed. Homework will continue to be assigned on Century Tech."

Year 6

"Year 6 have started a new topic of 'Ratio' in Mathematics. In English they will be reading a book called Tom's Midnight Garden, a fantasy novel by English author Philippa Pearce."

Action

- "Please ensure your child is reading at least 3x a week and sign their planners. Please continue to support your child on CT, they have assignments which need to be completed by next week. If your child will be fasting in Ramadan, please ensure they are well rested and a consent letter to be sent into school. Wishing all those observing in this holy month, a healthy and blessed Ramadan."



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:

Year 1 Phonics club
(Mon & Tues – 3:05 – 3:35pm)

Year 4 MTC club
(Tue 3:05 – 3:50pm)

KS2 Tri Golf Club
(Thurs 3.05 – 3:50pm)

Year 6 Reading Club
(Thurs 3.05 – 3:50pm)

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.

