

ST JAMES' Newsletter

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

Date: Friday 7th March 2025



Doug Stitchek

Mr D Stitchek, Headteacher

Dear Parents/Guardians

With the exception of this morning, it's been a wonderful week of weather in school! The sun has been shining on us all and Spring is definitely in the air!

Yesterday was World Book Day and I'd like to thank you for your support in organising costumes and props! There were so many great costumes – I saw 73 Elsa's, 54 Harry Potters, a Polar Express Conductor to name but a few! (And, of course, a few Mo Salahs!)...

The staff also had fun dressing up! Miss Kay found her calling as an alien, Mrs Gell was a superb Green Crayola Crayon, Mrs Williamson was convincing as Bob the Astronaut, Mrs Riaz really got into the Harry Potter theme – the whole class dressed up as characters from Harry Potter – it was like walking into Hogwarts!

Mrs Madbouli was the Queen of Hearts! Ms Moore dressed in her

usual(ish) clothes but brought Mable, her dog, into school to be Hairy Maclary (although after her recent groom, she was more like 'Hairless Maclary'!)

But my favourite was Mr Cameron who came in with what looked like an old apple around his neck! Apparently, it was actually a nectarine... He had come as James and the Giant Peach! But it shows how seasonable availability of fruit can negatively affect World Book Day costumes!!

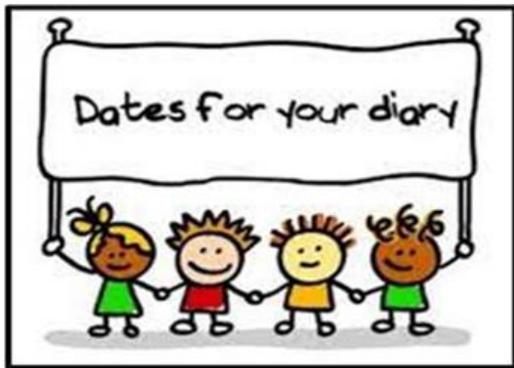
Well done to everyone who got involved and helped bring reading to life!

Why not ask your child what their favourite story is this weekend and take some time to read together?

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitchek





Monday 10th Mar

KS1 Cake Sale

Thursday 20th Mar

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

Wednesday 2nd Apr

Eid Lunch





St James' Blackburn
C of E Primary School

KS1 CAKE Sale

*a fundraiser to raise money for
children's educational visits*



**MONDAY 10TH MARCH
BREAKTIME**

KS1 Hall

All cakes are 50p!



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



Eid Celebration Meal

Wednesday 2nd April 2025



Lentil curry, rice and naan bread
or
Spicy roast chicken and roast potatoes
❖
Celebration cake
❖

Available to order on the school spider app now



Win a £100 Gift Voucher

- To enter, you must sign up for free school meals at <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-meals>
- Then, email or bring in your email receipt from Blackburn with Darwen to demonstrate that you entered (this can be sent to office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk)
- You must send us your proof no later than 3:30 pm on Friday 28th March 2025.
- All entries will be treated in the strictest confidence.
- Only one entry per family – this means the children or dependents of the person who submitted the form.
- The winner will be drawn at random from all of the entries on Friday 4th April 2025.
- We will notify the winner by email or phone that day and make arrangements to get the voucher to you within the next month.
- We will not publicly announce the winner (unless the winner is happy for us to do so).

And remember, even if you do not win, if you are successful in signing up, your child(ren) will receive free school meals throughout their time at primary school, and breakfast club and school will receive additional funding to spend on resources and staff to support them - For example, this year we have reduced the price of the Year 6 residential trip for entitled pupils by £70!

PUPIL PREMIUM
PARENT INFORMATION

WHAT IS IT? ? ?
'Pupil premium' is **additional funding** for our school to ensure we can support all pupils to **achieve their best**.

It's not a personal budget for individual pupils, but we will aim to **prioritise the academic support** of eligible pupils with it.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?
Your child may be eligible if you receive: income support, jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance, asylum seeker support, universal credit, child tax credit, working tax credit, or state pension.

Remember: Our school can only receive pupil premium for your child if you claim it.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Get in touch with your **local council as soon as possible** to see if you're eligible.



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 5B WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	83.5%
RW	89.6%
1A	90.0%
1F	85.7%
2K	77.6%
2W	87.1%
3B	97.3%
3M	93.0%
4A	93.1%
4S	93.7%
5B	97.7%
5R	95.8%
6H	94.0%
6V	89.3%

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 Sticher 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		Khadijah S, Zidan H, Suleman & Fatimah I	
RG	Aisha K. & Farhan I.	RW	Haniya B & M.Husayn A
1A	Abeer S & Ibrahim S	1F	Muhammad Ayaan M & Juwairiyah P
2W	M. Dawwod & Ayat A	2K	Hassnain A & Hawwa A
3M	Haashir H & Emaan S	3B	Noor H & Raees K
4S	Haniya H & Zain D	4A	M. Anas A & Yusuf V
5B	M.Siddiq M & Joudy M	5R	Ajwa M & Umar K
6V	Angel R & Hira M	6H	Noor A & Hassan s



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a fantastic week learning about Jack and the Beanstalk and exploring the weather changes outside. The children are thoroughly enjoying their forest school sessions every week.

Action

Have a lovely weekend!

Reception

"This week the children immersed themselves in reading. They retold the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk', listened to new stories, made their own bookmarks and acted out 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. In maths they counted objects to represent a number and continued to look at numbers beyond ten. "

Action

- Thank you for continuing to sign planners and reading with your child.



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 1

"We just wanted to say a big thank you Miss Bau who has completed her placement with us in Year 1. We wish her all the best for the future."

Action

- Monday we are having a cake sale. We are selling cakes for 50p each. If your child would like to buy one bring in the money on Monday.

Year 2

"What another fun week we have had! It was lovely to see all the fantastic World Book Day costumes. Our focus for the day was 'Man on the Moon (a day in the life of Bob)'. Mrs Williamson dressed up as Bob and Miss Kay the cheeky alien who sneaks back to planet Earth! We also created our own alien and became illustrators, where we created a new front cover for the book. Our plants in science are all starting to grow. We can even see the flower starting to bloom too!"

Action

- Thank you to those who have returned the trip letter with money. Please continue to send these in with your child. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



YEAR GROUP updates



Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant week doing lots of fun activities for World Book Day, thank you for your time and effort for this! We even had a visit from Hairy Maclary! Year 3 have also be using a formal written method for addition, with two lots of exchanging which has been very challenging.

Action

Timestables on:
<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

Year 4

It's been a busy week in year 4! We've learnt lots of new vocabulary whilst reading our fiction text, The Dancing Bear, and the poem Romulus and Remus. In maths we have been adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers with decimals and in art we have continued with our still life topic, progressing from sketching and painting to making ceramics. World book day was wonderful with lots and lots of book talk and everyone getting enthusiastic about reading. We shared favourite stories and facts, designed a cover on the computer and performed passages from a text. This week we have also practised some of the skills needed to play short tennis.

Action

- Please read 3 times per week and practise times tables as often as you can. Being able to instantly recall times table facts will support you child in all other aspects of maths.



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 5

It's been a busy week in Year 5. In Maths we've been completing Maths assessments. We used this opportunity to talk to children about test technique and the importance of trying our best and trying not to be overly nervous! In English we've continued reading Beowulf which we're really enjoying. We had busy afternoon on Wednesday experimenting with collage techniques to create height and texture in our artwork. Thank you to everyone for promptly returning permission slips for children who wish to fast.

Action

"PE will be basketball and tennis so for these units pupils can wear trainers if they wish to rather than PE pumps (but either will be fine!) We've talked to children about collecting collage materials for our final art pieces- scraps of paper, recycling, bottle lids etc."

Year 6

Ramadan Mubarak for those who are fasting. The children really enjoyed world book day this week. We completed a range of world book day activities. We have looked at ratio this week as well as looking at enlarging shapes.

Action

- Make sure to read at least 3x a week. Log on to century tech and complete recommended path to help you prepare for your SATs.
- Have a lovely weekend.
-



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.

