

ST JAMES' Newsletter

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

01254 698335

Date: Friday 25th April 2025



Doug Stitches

Mr D Stitches, Headteacher

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back! I hope you all had a good holiday and enjoyed the break!

The summer term is always the busiest of the three terms so please do check the newsletters and website regularly to ensure you don't miss any important dates!

Hopefully, you will have noticed the new speed bumps outside school. We are very grateful to the council for sorting these out for us – we can already see a reduction in traffic and speed at pick-up and drop-off times. This will add to our continued commitment to keeping your children safe on the road outside the school.

We have also recently changed our waste management company – I know this sounds a bit boring but it does have important implications for everyone.

Previously, not much of our waste was recycled. However, going forward, we will be recycling plastics, card and paper but also food waste.

This means that from Tuesday 6th May, all children who bring in a packed lunch will be required to take their rubbish home with them in their lunch box. This has a number of benefits. Firstly, it means you can see exactly what they have eaten (or not!). But also, it means that our children do not have to waste time separating their food waste from their packaging – giving them more time to play at lunchtimes! We will be sending out a reminder about this next week!

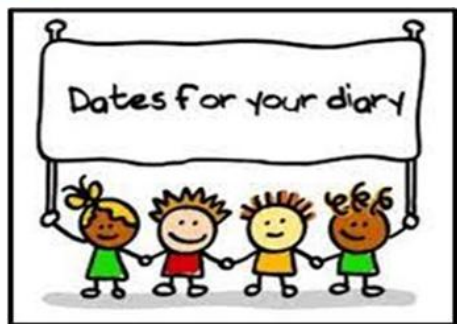
Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Stitches



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Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (Hons), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



Monday 28th April

Year 5 trip – Bowley Scout Camp

Wednesday 30th April

Year 2 trip – Blackpool

Monday 12th May

SATs week

Monday 5th May

School closed for May Day Bank holiday

Friday 23rd May

School close for half term

Monday 19th May

Year 3 & 4 Sports Day

Tuesday 20th May

Year 5 & 6 Sports Day

Wednesday 21st May

Reception & KS1 Sports Day

Friday 23rd May

EYC Sports Day

Important
Dates



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School Meals & Breakfast Club - Charges from September 2025

We would like to advise that from Wednesday 3rd September 2025 there will be a price increase to the cost of breakfast club and school meals. The current price for breakfast club is **£1.50 per day**, this will rise to **£2.00 per day**, to ensure all children attending continue to receive a healthy breakfast and the best supervision before they start the school day.

School meals will also increase to **£2.60 per day** for a nutritionally balanced two-course meal would still proves excellent value for money. We continue to work closely with LCC who provide the catering service and have taken their advice with the price increase but still remained lower than their recommended charge per meal. They continue to offer an exciting and varied range of meals which are both healthy and nutritious. All of the menus are developed in line with the nutritional standards which meets the government food standards and gives value for money.

There will be no impact for KS1 children who receive the government funded Universal Infant Free School meal offer, or our students in receipt of Free School Meals.

For parents who pay for school meals we would like to remind you that it may be worth making an application for Free School Meals

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-meals>

I ask for your understanding with these price increases and fully appreciate that times are tough. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask them and I'll do my best to answer them.

Please be reassured that, we will continue to assess the meals to ensure that their quality is maintained.



PE Dates

Summer 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.

This half term your child will be outside completing their PE lessons, so suitable clothing should be worn, including trainers. Please make sure your child does not wear studs.

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

Week 1 will start from Tuesday 22nd April.

	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 5</u>
<u>Reception</u> <u>(RG & RW)</u>	Friday 25th April	Friday 2nd May	Friday 9th May	Friday 16th May	Friday 23rd May
<u>Year 1</u> <u>(1A & 1F)</u>	Wednesday 23rd April	Monday 28th April Wednesday 30th April	Wednesday 7th May	Monday 12th May Wednesday 14th May	Monday 19th May Wednesday 21st May
<u>Year 2</u> <u>(2K & 2W)</u>	Tuesday 22nd April Thursday 24th April	Tuesday 29th April Thursday 1st May	Tuesday 6th May Thursday 8th May	Tuesday 13th May Thursday 15th May	Tuesday 20th May Thursday 22nd May
<u>Year 3</u> <u>(3B & 3M)</u>	Wednesday 23rd April	Monday 28th April Wednesday 30th April	Wednesday 7th May	Wednesday 14th May	Monday 19th May Wednesday 21st May
<u>Year 4</u> <u>(4A & 4S)</u>	Thursday 24th April	Monday 28th April Thursday 1st May	Thursday 8th May	Thursday 15th May	Monday 19th May Thursday 22nd May
<u>Year 5</u> <u>(5B & 5R)</u>	Friday 25th April	Friday 2nd May	Friday 9th May	Monday 12th May Friday 16th May	Friday 23rd May
<u>Year 6</u> <u>(6H & 6V)</u>	Tuesday 22nd April	Tuesday 29th April	Tuesday 6th May	Monday 12th May Tuesday 13th May	Tuesday 20th May





Blackburn with Darwen

ADULT LEARNING

School is offering a FREE 5 – week pre – entry ESOL course for parents. The sessions will include developing key languages to promote communication between home and school.

Venue : St James' C E Primary School (Early Years Centre)

Day: Wednesday

Start Date: 23/04/2025 till 21/05/2025

You will need to enrol on the course.

For more information contact the school office.

Please attend all classes every week.



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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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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 Musa M, Muhaamad Zuhaib, Shabana A, Fatimah I	
RG	Zohan S. & Noman A.	RW	M.Talha I & Zaynab B
1A	Kendrick M & Adrian C	1F	Khadijah A A & Muhammad Ayaan M
2W	M. Aayan H & Zara A	2K	Inaaya M M & Mubarak Hassan A
3M	Mohammed D. & Ayesha P.	3B	Anaya P & Safia S
4S	Yahya S & Zoya A	4A	Marius D & Muhammad P
5B	Mitzie - Leigh R & Mohammad Siddiq M	5R	Alishba A & Amaan M
6V	Sabeeh A & Aamir Z	6H	Eshal A & Fahim P



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YEAR GROUP *updates*

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a lovely first week back. We have been reading the book 'Monkey Puzzle' and learning about jungle animals. The children have moved like different animals, created monkey pictures and tried to identify animals by listening to different sounds.

Action

Please can all children come to nursery with a water bottle where possible.

Reception

This week the children have been looking at repeating patterns and have done a fantastic job at recognising and creating them! In literacy we have started our new story Tiddler and have learnt about characters, setting and rhyming words. The children enjoyed using their imagination to innovate the story.

Action

- We are going to be moving on to doubling and halving numbers and looking at number bonds up to 10 this term. To support you could practise this at home with your child for a few minutes a night. There are lots of free websites to support with this such as Top Marks and BBC early years maths.



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 1

"Welcome back! This week we are reading the book *Room on the Broom* by Julia Donaldson. We have started to create a character description about the witch. Why not write a character description at home. We are now building up to the Phonics screening in June. We have added some Phonics resources on Google Classroom."

Action

If you have any questions about the Phonics screening please let a member of the Year 1 team know.

Year 2

"Welcome back Year 2 to our Summer term! What a fun and busy week we have had. We have started a brand new English text called 'The Magic Finger' and look forward to reading more about it. We have started to look at Blackpool in different subjects. Also, we had a visitor from the RNLI who spoke to the children all about water safety. This all links to our trip to Blackpool next week. "

Action

"A reminder our school trip to Blackpool is on Wednesday 30th April, a letter with further information will go out on Monday. But, if you have any questions please come and speak to your child's teacher. Miss Kay's Performing Arts club starts on Monday, so if your child would like to attend please make sure the reply slip has been handed in. Thank you for your continued support. "



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 3

Year 3 have settled in superbly in our first week back. We have finished our unit on time whilst also starting to read our playscript 'All Gone!'. We have also started to plant our own seeds comparing what plants need to grow and soon will be able to record our results.

Action

Please bring in your child's money for the Ribchester Trip on or before Friday 9th May.

Thank you.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant first week back. In Maths we have been looking at measurement and in English we have started reading 'The Waterhorse'. For our Science topic this term, we will be looking at the different states of matter.

Action

Please ensure children are practising their times tables as the official MTC test is only a few weeks away.



YEAR GROUP *updates*



Year 5

It's great to see everyone back at school after the holidays. We hope you all had a lovely break and some time to rest. This half term will be short but busy! This week we've started reading a new novel, Kensuke's Kingdom. We have also started new topics across the curriculum including looking at the jungle artwork of Ruth Daniel and Henri Rousseau. In Geography we have found out about Earth Day which was linked to our Science topic of Life Cycles.

Action

It's our visit to Bowley Scout Camp on Monday. Don't forget comfortable clothing and shoes with a coat, caps and suncream and packed lunches and water unless your child has ordered a school lunch.

Year 6

"Welcome back Year 6! We have had a wonderful week back after a restful break. In Maths, we have started our topic on 'Angles'. Year 6 are using their key knowledge to work out missing angles. In English, Year 6 are revisiting their grammar skills and identifying them as SATs questions. In reading they have started with non-fiction texts and using all our reading skills to answer the comprehension questions."

Action

"Thank You for your continued support and also in supporting your child completing their revision booklet during the holidays. We have 2 more weeks before the SATs!"



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:

No after school clubs until after
Easter Holidays!

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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