

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
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Date: 27th June 2025



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The sunshine didn't last long, did it! However, I have some wonderful news to share with you that brightened up our week in school...

Last year, we were in the top 2% of the country for our Year 4 Times Table Check (known as the MTC). Last year's results were amazing – 63% of our Year 4 children (now in Year 5), got **full marks** in the test!

We knew that would be a tough act to follow, but we found out on Monday that, this year, **78%** of our current Year 4 managed to score full marks and **93%** of Year 4 got 20 or above (out of 25)!

We don't yet know how that compares with other schools locally or nationally, but needless to say, we are thrilled with such outstanding results. Knowing your times tables by heart is a life-skill that makes mathematics easier and quicker throughout your time at school and in the real world!

As much as I would like to take all the credit, this is really down to the Year 4 staff – Miss Ahmed and Mrs Stott, you - the parents who are probably fed up of reciting them, and of course, the children in Year 4 who worked so hard!

A huge well done to everyone involved! I'm not sure how we're going to beat it next year... but we'll give it a shot.

And finally, just a reminder that the children will find out who their new teacher is on **Thursday 3rd July** so please make sure they are in school that day as it's such an exciting day for them!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitcher

Year 4 MTC Results

78% Full Marks
93% scored 20 or above



St James' C of E
Primary School

Headteacher: Mr D. Stitcher BA (HONS), PGCE (Dist), NPQH, NPQEF
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (HONS), NPQH
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Diary Dates:

Wednesday 2nd July Class 5B Linking Schools visit to Shadsworth

Thursday 3rd July (one-hour slot to be confirmed) - New Reception Intake 2025 Parent and Child's transition session in school

Thursday 3rd July Transition day in school

Monday 7th July (pm – timings to be confirmed) New Reception Intake 2025 Parent and Child Teddy Bear's Picnic

Tuesday 8th July EYC Graduation in KS2 Hall **10:30 am**
2:15pm

Friday 11th July Vision Screening - Reception children

Thursday 17th July Church Service **KS1 at 10:30am**
KS2 at 11:00am

Thursday 17th July Year 6 Leavers Celebration at 1:30pm (Parents welcome)

Thursday 17th July School closure for summer

Wednesday 3rd September School reopens





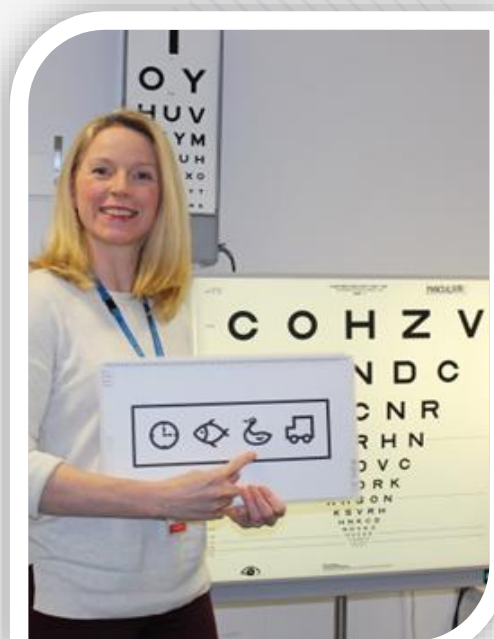
Friday 11th July Vision Screening - Reception children

Vision Screening in Lancashire

Vision screening is an integral part of the universal delivery of the national Healthy Child Programme.

Every child in the Reception class will receive an invitation to have their vision tested in school.

A detailed letter will be sent home with your child closer to the screening date.



Vision Screening in Lancashire

Vision screening will be taking place for the reception class children on

Friday 11th July

An Opt-out consent form will be sent home with your child closer to the screening date. If you do not receive one and wish to Opt-out, please contact the school.

If you have a child in the Reception class and have not received a letter about vision screening, please contact the school.

Email: lancashirescreening.elht@nhs.net





Current Year 2 Transition to Year 3 (KS2)

Next term, your child will be moving into Year 3 (Key Stage 2). This is the transition from the infant part of the school to the juniors.

As your child moves into Year 3 there are some changes we need to make you aware of.

Please remember your child's entitlement to Universal Infant Free School Meals expired at the end of Year 2 and meals must be paid for in advance via School Spider, at a cost of **£2.60** per meal. If you believe you may be entitled to free school meals, due to your financial circumstances, please ensure you apply as soon as possible.

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

Parents will continue to be able to book their child's meal on a termly basis, which allows your child their choice of meals. If a meal is not pre-booked your child will be receive the Kitchen Choice for the day.





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.





Household Support Fund

Practical help and advice to support you with the rising costs of food, energy and other household bills

You may be aware that the Department for Work and Pensions has extended the Household Support Fund until 31st March 2026. Household Support Fund has been provided to local authorities to help those who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials. In Blackburn with Darwen, an application portal has been created for eligible residents to access this support:

<https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/cost-living-support/household-support-fund>





PE Dates

Summer 2

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 Monday 2nd June.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Reception (RG & RW)	Friday 6th June	Friday 13th June	Friday 20th June	Friday 27th June	Friday 4th July	Friday 11th July	n/a
Year 1 (1A & 1F)	Monday 2nd June	Monday 9th June	Monday 16th June	Monday 23rd June	Monday 30th June	Monday 7th July	Monday 14th July
	Wednesday 4th June	Wednesday 11th June	Wednesday 18th June	Wednesday 25th June	Wednesday 2nd July	Wednesday 9th July	Wednesday 16th July
Year 2 (2K & 2W)	Tuesday 3rd June	Tuesday 10th June	Tuesday 17th June	Tuesday 24th June	Tuesday 1st July	Tuesday 8th July	Tuesday 15th July
	Thursday 5th June	Thursday 12th June	Thursday 19th June	Thursday 26th June	Thursday 3rd July	Thursday 10th July	Thursday 17th July
Year 3 (3B & 3M)	Wednesday 4th June	Monday 9th June	Wednesday 18th June	Monday 23rd June	Wednesday 2nd July	Monday 7th July	Wednesday 16th July
		Wednesday 11th June		Wednesday 25th June		Wednesday 9th July	
Year 4 (4A & 4S)	Thursday 5th June	Monday 9th June	Thursday 19th June	Monday 23rd June	Thursday 3rd July	Monday 7th July	Thursday 17th July
		Thursday 12th June		Thursday 26th June		Thursday 10th July	
Year 5 (5B & 5R)	Monday 2nd June	Friday 13th June	Monday 16th June	Friday 27th June	Monday 30th June	Friday 11th July	Monday 14th July
	Friday 6th June		Friday 20th June		Friday 4th July		
Year 6 (6H & 6V)	Monday 2nd June	Tuesday 10th June	Monday 16th June	Tuesday 24th June	Monday 30th June	Tuesday 8th July	Monday 14th July
	Tuesday 3rd June		Tuesday 17th June		Tuesday 1st July		Tuesday 15th July



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.**





attendance **MATTERS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 3M WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	96.2%
RW	93.1%
1A	90.9%
1F	95.5%
2K	96.1%
2W	96.9%
3B	93.3%
3M	97.0%
4A	93.3%
4S	96.3%
5B	95.0%
5R	96.3%
6H	95.9%
6V	92.7%

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.





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		Hamza C, Aamina A, Aisha B & Eliza H	
RG	Zohan S. & Ahmed C	RW	Safaa A & Abdullah M
1A	Maryam P & Kendrick M	1F	Zoya N & Juwarriya M
2W	Muhammad Hussain F & Zareesh W	2K	Kulsum L & Abu-Bakr V
3M	Umar Z & Aisha C	3B	Uzair M & Fatima R
4S	Muhammad Zain AA & Haris A	4A	M Anas A & Muhammad P
5B	Lubabah B and M.Zayn B	5R	Fatima P & Zidan S
6V	Phoenix A & M. Saad Z	6H	Aazim H & Mohmmad P





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a fantastic week exploring the changing weather during our forest school sessions. They have developed their resilience whilst dressing themselves in water proofs and wellies, problem solved in the water area and tested how fast they can go down the slide in their suits. Well done everyone!

Action

Please can all parents send in spare clothes for their child in case they get wet at nursery.

Reception

Well done to RW who did their parent worship this week, you did a fantastic job and we are all proud of you! This week the children have been looking at non-fiction texts. We have learnt facts about dinosaurs, written about them, crafted and even coloured them! We have continued our jungle themed topic, junk modelling our own animals., learning African songs and painted our favourite jungle animal. In maths we have been exploring subtraction facts and deepening our understanding of number composition further.

Action

RG class worship will take place on Wednesday 9th July. Please continue reading with your children at home.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"This week, we have been reading the story of the Biscuit Bear. We have retold parts of the story and sequenced the main events. You can listen to the story of Google classroom. In Math we don't do things have halves. We have been finding a fraction of an amount. The children have been looking at halves ($\frac{1}{2}$) and quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$)."

Action

As the weather is unpredictable at the moment please can ensure the children wear appropriate clothes such as coats and hats.

Year 2

"In Year 2 we have started a new non-fiction text called 'How Does a Lighthouse Work?'. The children have enjoyed learning about the different parts of a lighthouse and some famous ones too! In science the children created fantastic bug hotels. These are now outside and are home to a range of minibeast. "

Action

2W have been working very hard practising their Class Worship. They can't wait to share it with you on Wednesday 2nd July. The blue door in the yard will be open from 8:50, looking to start their worship at 9:00am. We look forward to seeing you all there.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 have been coding during their computing lessons this week and have done amazing. They have also solve some tricky problems too! We have been completing our assessments this week and the children have tried super hard!

Action

Please make sure you read with your child 3x a week.

Year 4

It's been another jam packed week here in year 4. We have completed NFER tests in maths, reading and grammar, all tried swimming lessons, written a mystery story, and made a boat!

Action

Please continue to read 3 times per week with your child. Could you also check that your child has ALL of their swimming kit in their bag on their swimming days. Thank you





Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week we were incredibly proud of our Year 5 children on Wednesday during our linking school project with Shadsworth Junior School. They showed fantastic teamwork, kindness, and enthusiasm throughout the day, making new friends and representing our school brilliantly. Back in class, they've also been busy editing and improving their Head Boy, Head Girl and Prefect letters and they can't wait to impress Mr Stitcher during the interview process!

Action

"Please remember to read and sign your planners and complete your homework on Century Tech. Thank you!"

Year 6

"We are excited to share that the Writing Moderation has now been completed, and we are incredibly proud of the fantastic effort put in by all our of our Year 6 children! Well-done to you all, you did extremely well. Year 6 are now enjoying their swimming lesson, and a special shout-out to those children who are learning to swim for the very first time, your effort, courage, and determination are truly inspiring. Keep it up!"

Action

Please remind your child to look at the swimming timetable in order to bring their kit to school on the day of their swimming."





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

KS1 Art Club 3:05pm – 3:30pm

Year 2 Performing Arts

3:05pm – 3:30pm

TUESDAY

Year 3 & 4 Gymnastics Club

3:05pm – 3:30pm

KS2 Athletics Club

3:05pm – 3:30pm

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.

