

# St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School  
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Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025



*Doug Stitcher*

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's the end of one of my favourite weeks in school – where the children spend some time in their new classes!

Our current Year 6 children have had a day at their new secondary schools, and yesterday everyone else got to meet their new teacher.

This means I can now update you about staffing for the next year.

Firstly, it's the time of year where we sadly say goodbye to members of staff moving onto new adventures. This year is no different.

**Mr Brindle**, who has been with us since qualifying as a teacher, is relocating and so has secured a post in a school closer to where he will be living.

**Mrs White**, who has been with us for over 15 years, has secured a position closer to home.

Both Mr Brindle and Mrs White will be

deeply missed, and we wish them every success for the future!

We are delighted to welcome back Miss Clutterbrook who has been away on maternity leave. And next year, Miss Lavelle, who has been with us as a teaching assistant for a couple of years, will be taking on the role of class teacher in Year 3.

So, as in every school, this time of year is all about change. But please do not hesitate to contact us at school if you have any worries or concerns.

Finally, just a reminder that we break up for the summer on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 3:05 pm** and we re-open to children on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Stitcher





## Diary Dates:

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

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> July** School closure for summer

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** School reopens





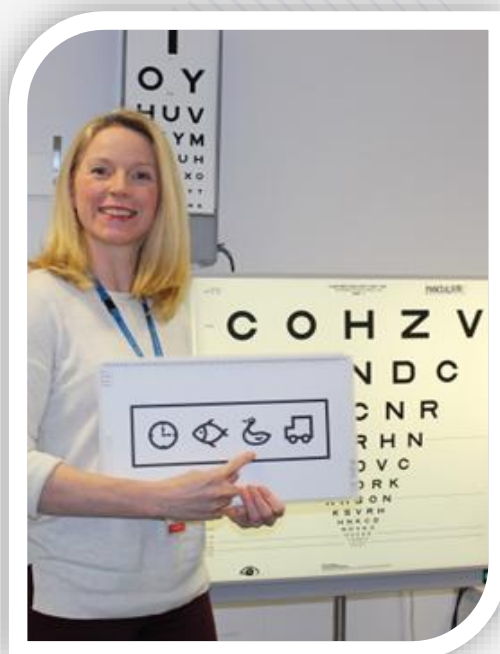
## Friday 11th July Vision Screening - Reception children

### 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
<b>Reception</b> <b>(RG &amp; RW)</b>	Friday 6th June	Friday 13th June	Friday 20th June	Friday 27th June	Friday 4th July	Friday 11th July	n/a
<b>Year 1</b> <b>(1A &amp; 1F)</b>	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
<b>Year 2</b> <b>(2K &amp; 2W)</b>	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
<b>Year 3</b> <b>(3B &amp; 3M)</b>	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	
<b>Year 4</b> <b>(4A &amp; 4S)</b>	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	
<b>Year 5</b> <b>(5B &amp; 5R)</b>	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		
<b>Year 6</b> <b>(6H &amp; 6V)</b>	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



## HAF Summer Activities (0-8 years)

Free lunches also available at the Hubs and Hancock street children's centre. Ring 01254 585000 to register

### Week 1

HAF groups Monday 28th July

Family Hub Livesey 10:30am- 11:30am- Fun in the Sun

Wensley Fold Children's Centre 1pm-2pm - Breastfeeding Support group

Highercroft Children's Centre 1pm- 2pm- Messy Madness

Family Hub Darwen 1pm-2pm- Minibeast adventure

Family Hub Livesey 1pm-2pm- Move and grove (0-5 years) Tuesday 29th July

Family Hub Darwen 10am-11:30am- Little potions

Family hub Livesey 1pm-2pm -Breastfeeding Support group

Family Hub Little Harwood 1:00pm- 2:30pm- Water fun

Wednesday 30th July

Family Hub Shadsworth 10:30am-11:30am- Build your own picnic

Family Hub Shadsworth 1:00pm- 2:00pm- Breastfeeding support group

Family Hub Livesey 1:00pm- 2:00pm – Outdoor explorers

Family Hub Darwen- 1pm – 2pm – Baby Sensory (0-9 months)

Thursday 31st July

Family Hub Shadsworth 10:30am-12pm- Multi-sports

Family Hub Little Harwood 12:30pm-1:30pm- Breastfeeding Support group

Family Hub Livesey 1pm-2pm- Water fun Family Hub Darwen- 1pm- 2pm- Move and Grove (0- 5 years) Family Hub Shadsworth 1:30-3.00- Early Years development drop in session

Friday 1st August

Family Hub Livesey 10am-11:30am- Puppet making (Please bring a spare sock)

Family Hub Shadsworth- Starting solids workshop Family Hub Little Harwood 10:30-

11:30- Fun in the Sun Family Hub Darwen 10am-11am- Breastfeeding support group

Family Hub Little Harwood 1pm-2:30pm- Little potions

Highercroft Children's Centre 1pm-2pm- Multi-sports







# 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	<b>15 October - 30 November</b> (no later than 31 December)
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	<b>15 January - 29 February</b> (no later than 31 March)
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	<b>15 June to 31 July</b> (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 5B WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	93.5%
RW	91.6%
1A	97.4%
1F	97.2%
2K	96.1%
2W	94.5%
3B	97.0%
3M	93.7%
4A	96.3%
4S	97.7%
5B	98.3%
5R	96.3%
6H	90.1%
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.





## 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		Muntaha H, Aima B, Adam I & Humaira A	
RG	Yahya V. & Mohammed Rayan M.	RW	Hamza P & Ibraheem P
1A	Adrian C & M.Ruhan P	1F	Muhammad P & Unaysah R
2W	Sienna S & Fathima Noorah	2K	Amyra M & Humaira M
3M	Amelia M & Ibrahim M	3B	Gamar A & Barrera B
4S	Inaya M & Maryam S	4A	Judyta A & Inaaya A
5B	Isma'eel A & Safa M	5R	Umar K & Aizah N
6V	Shujah A & Hasan S	6H	Fahim P & Umaymah F





# Year Group Updates

## Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a fantastic week and we have spent lots of time outdoors. We have enjoyed finding ladybirds, spiders and other bugs, making birds nests, building our own go-karts and playing group games outside. It has been fantastic to see the children's problem solving skills develop this week. Well done everyone!

## Action

"Please check the Famly App for any updates. Pre-School Graduation will take place next Tuesday. "

## Reception

The children have enjoyed writing letters to their new teachers this week and had lots of fun meeting them. They shared the day with their new class teacher getting to know them and carrying out art activities. I am sure they will tell you all about it.

## Action

RG have their class worship in the KS1 hall on Wednesday 9th July. We hope to see you there! We will begin to collect all the reading books over the next week so please send your book back in daily. Please dress appropriately for the weather.







# Year Group Updates

## Year 1

This week in Geography, we have been discovering how the climate and seasons in Africa differ from the UK. In RE we explored a range of artwork depicting Jesus and discussed how these representations differed across different cultures. On Thursday, the children had a fantastic transition day, where they met their Year 2 teachers and took part in a variety of fun activities.

## Action

Please remember to keep safe during the hot weather. Make sure your child comes to school with a water bottle, sun hat or cap, and has suncream applied before the day begins.

## Year 2

"Year 2 this week have been looking at instruction writing. They have followed instructions to make amazing lighthouses. They have looked again at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. They all seemed to have a great time yesterday in KS2 with their new teachers!"

## Action

Please read with your children, just 2 weeks left. It's so important for their development. Thank you!





# Year Group Updates

## Year 3

Year 3 have had a very exciting week meeting their new teacher and have modelled our school values extremely well within their transition. We have done lots of writing this week and also started to create our belts in our DT project. As the end of the year is approaching, please can you child bring a large plastic bag into school to take home any full books they have used this year.

## Action

Bring a plastic bag into school.

## Year 4

Year 4 were very excited to meet their new teachers yesterday and enjoyed spending the day in their new classrooms. They have also been learning about hunting to prepare for a debate, considering the effects of climate change and rehearsing for a variety of end-of-year activities.

## Action

"Please ensure all reading books and planners are returned to school next week. It is the Cathedral trip on Tuesday so children should wear trainers with their usual uniform (not PE kit or own clothes), bring a packed lunch, and make sure they have suitable accessories for the weather on the day eg rain coat, sun hat etc.4S Parent Worship on Thursday 8.55am"





# Year Group Updates

## Year 5

"What a fantastic week it's been for our Year 5 adventurers! They kicked things off by teaming up with their friends at Shadsworth Junior School, where they put their engineering hats on to build bridges that could rival the Golden Gate (well, almost). In art, they unleashed their inner Picassos, creating abstract portraits that were as colourful and expressive as their personalities. The excitement didn't stop there. On transition day, our soon-to-be Year 6s had a lovely time stepping into their future classrooms. They were a delight to welcome and produced outstanding portraits, proudly displaying the school values! All in all, it was a week filled with creativity, collaboration, and a glimpse into the exciting year ahead. If bridge-building and abstract art are any indication, Year 6 better brace itself for a whirlwind of talent and excitement!"

## Action

"Please complete your homework on Century Tech and read at least 3 times per week. Thank you!"

## Year 6

Year 6 visited their new high school this week. It was a great opportunity for them to explore the campus, meet some of their future teachers, and get a feel for the exciting journey ahead. The students came back full of enthusiasm and questions — a wonderful step towards easing the transition and building confidence for the next chapter in their education.

## Action

Please regularly check your child's swimming time table.





# 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.

