

# St James' Weekly News

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

01254 698 335

office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

Date: 17th July 2025



*Doug Stitcher*

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

Well, we made it to the summer holidays!

And what a lovely way to finish the year. We started by congratulating our new head and deputy boys and girls and awarding the SLT Stars of the Year certificates to children who have really impressed us with their attitude and commitment this year!

Then, on Tuesday, we held our International Song Contest which saw Year 2 emerge victorious with their amazing Abba Medley!

Wednesday was a slightly more sombre tone as we said goodbye to three staff members who are leaving us this year, Miss Sufi, Mr Brindle and Mrs White. We wish them every success in their new roles.

And today, we were moved to tears as we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children who have worked so hard over the last few years overcoming everything Covid threw at them when they were in Key Stage 1 to finish the year with our best SATs results in years!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated staff, without whom the school would not be the happy and safe place that it is. This has been our most successful year since I started in January 2021 for so many reasons and I am sure

this is down to our committed staff and the partnerships we have with you at home. So, thank you to everyone who has helped make St James' such a wonderful place to learn and to work over the last academic year

I would also like to thank our governing body (whom many of you may not know) for their support over the year in helping us to keep improving the provision we are able to offer.

I hope you all have a lovely summer holiday filled with adventures, family-time and relaxation.

And to our Year 6s who are leaving us today, we all wish you all the success in the world! Go and be whatever you want to be! Change the world!

For those of you with us for another year, we re-open to children on **Wednesday 3rd September 2025**. We look forward to seeing you all then as we do it all again in 2025-2026!

Have a lovely holiday!

Mr Stitcher



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  
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



## ST JAMES' SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY PATTERN 2025/2026

<b>AUTUMN TERM 2025</b>  INSET 1 & 2 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on INSET 3  Number of openings 75	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025</b> <b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025</b> <b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b> <b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 (inc)</b> <b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025</b> <b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b> <b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b>
<b>SPRING TERM 2026</b>  INSET 4 Re-open on Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school on  Number of openings 55	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> <b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b> <b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (inc)</b> <b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b> <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>SUMMER TERM 2026</b>  Re-open on May Day Closure Closure after School Mid Term Closure Re-open on Closure after school INSET 5  Number of openings 65	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b> <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026</b> <b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (inc)</b> <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026</b> <b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b> <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>





## 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 - 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 school meals. School meals will 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>





# 2ND HAND UNIFORM DONATIONS



All Donations Welcome

## Drop Off

School Office





## 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





# 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



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.

