

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
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Date: 5th September
2025



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely, restful break! I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and families joining us in Reception and Nursery (and in some of our other classes).

This is always an exciting time of year as we start to think about all of the adventures we will share over the year. Last year saw us smash records with our children reaching new heights in both the multiplication check in Year 4 and in the Year 6 SATS. I am sure we can do even better this year!

I thought I would update you on some the things that have been going on over the summer. You may have noticed the roads around school have been resurfaced as part of the local authority's planned maintenance work. In addition, we have received funding to upgrade our fire alarm system in Key Stage 2 – which may not sound very exciting, but it is far superior to our old system and contributes to keeping everybody safe.

We have also been working hard to set up our new extended wrap-around care. You will have received information about how to book your child into our breakfast and after-school clubs. This is a trial year. We would love to keep the after-school club running indefinitely. Unfortunately, if we do not get the uptake

required to be able to keep it going, we will have to stop offering it next academic year. We have been fortunate to have received additional funding to help support this trial this year but to keep it going, we will need to be able to cover the cost of staffing it without this additional help – so please, consider using our after-school facility! We're cheaper than other providers and private child minders!

Whilst I have been out of school today, I was thrilled with how considerably parents parked on our first day back! We had even forgotten to put out the cones and yet nearly all of you avoided parking on Earl Street outside the entrance and on the yellow lines! This made it so much safer for your children! So, thank you! Hopefully, we can keep this up as the winter draws in!

Have a lovely weekend. I look forward to our first full week back next week!

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D Stitcher
Head Teacher



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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New Breakfast and After-School Club Guidance

We're pleased to announce that from Wednesday 3rd September 2025 our wraparound childcare provision for school aged children is expanding to include a **7:00am start for Breakfast Club**, as well as an **After-School Club running until 5:00pm**.

How to Book and Pay:

- Booking and payment will be managed through the **School Spider app**. Payments are made securely online at the time of booking.
- You can book sessions for **Breakfast Club (7:00am – 8:35am) £2.50 per session**, and/or **After-School Club (3:05pm – 5:00pm) £7.50 per session**. If your child is entitled to pupil premium they may attend **for free**.
- Bookings must be made **at least 1 school day in advance** to help us plan staffing, consumables and activities.

If you need help accessing School Spider or making a booking, please contact the school office.

Important Information:

- Breakfast Club and After school club **must now be booked in advance – this means that the old drop in system no longer applies.**
- Cancellation policy – You can cancel your booking up to 1 school day before your chosen session to avoid being charged.
- Late collections after 5:00 pm will incur an additional fee.
- If a child is **not collected on time at the end of the school day (3:05pm for school and 3:10pm for nursery)**, they will be taken to After-School Club for supervision, and **you will be charged the full session fee**





Wraparound care Pricing Policy

Session timings and fees:

Breakfast Club (7:00am – 8:35am): £2.50 per session

After-School Club (3:05pm – 5:00pm): £7.50 per session

These sessions are free of charge for children entitled to pupil premium.

Payment Terms:

All payments must be made online via the School Spider app at the time of booking. Late or non-payment may result in withdrawal of wraparound care places.

Additional Charges:

Late collection fee: £5.00 per 15 minutes after 5:00 pm.

Wraparound Booking Terms and Conditions

1. Booking and Payment

- All bookings must be made in advance through the School Spider platform.
- Payment is due at the time of booking to confirm your child's place.

1. Booking Deadline

- Bookings must be made at least 1 school day before the session starts.

1. Cancellations

- Cancellations must be made at least 1 school day before the session.
- Late cancellations or no-shows will be charged in full.

1. Late Collection

- Children must be collected by 5:00pm.
- A late fee of £5.00 per 15 minutes will be charged for late pickups.

1. Uncollected Pupils from school or nursery

- If a child is **not collected on time at the end of the school day (3:05pm for school and 3:10pm for nursery)**, they will be taken to After-School club for supervision and **you will be charged the full session fee.**

1. Behaviour

- The school's behaviour policy applies during wraparound sessions.
- Persistent disruptive behaviour may result in loss of wraparound care privileges.

1. Health and Safety

- Parents must inform staff of any allergies or medical conditions at the time of booking, please call the main school office.
- Staff follow all school safeguarding and health & safety policies.

1. Changes to Provision

- The school reserves the right to alter session times, prices, and policies with notice.





Here to help
you juggle
family life

**In the beautiful chaos
of parenthood, balance
is everything – but it can
sometimes be hard to find.**

Childcare Choices is here to support you with expanded childcare options that can help give your child a great start, get them ready for school, and make the juggle a little easier.



HM Government

Childcare
Choices



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How to get your code

- 1 Visit ChildcareChoices.gov.uk** to check your eligibility.
- 2 Speak to your provider** to understand their arrangements and to see if they can offer your child a place.
- 3 Apply for your code online.** You'll need your National Insurance number (or unique taxpayer reference if self-employed), the date you started or are due to start work, details of any government support or benefits you receive, and your child's UK birth certificate reference number (if available).
- 4 Give your code to your provider.** You may find out if you're eligible straight away, but it can take up to 7 days to get your code.
- 5 Reconfirm your details** on your childcare account every 3 months.

Application deadlines

To get your 30 hours childcare code, apply by:

- **31 August 2025** to use it from 1 September 2025.
- **31 December 2025** to use it from 1 January 2026.
- **31 March 2026** to use it from 1 April 2026.



See what support you could get

You can find out using the eligibility checker on our website. Simply scan the QR code or search 'Childcare Choices'.

Using your childcare hours

- If you meet the criteria, you can **start using your hours the term after your child reaches the right age**. Terms start on 1 January, 1 April, and 1 September.
- **Check or update your details every 3 months** to keep getting your childcare hours. Don't worry, you'll get a reminder when it's time.
- **You can use your hours alongside other schemes** like Tax-Free Childcare or Universal Credit Childcare. You can mix and match between nurseries, childminders and pre-schools.
- **You may be asked to pay for certain optional additional services on top of your entitlement hours**, although these must not be a condition of accessing your government-funded place. Speak to your provider for more information.
- **Different providers might have their own rules** for using childcare hours. Check that their hours work for you.

Use our **online eligibility tool** to check what options are available to you.





ST JAMES' SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY PATTERN 2025/2026

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



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 3rd 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.





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, Suleiman G, Sidra A & Maryam M	
RG	Muhammad Zayaan Alam Mustafa Hussain Shazaad	RW	Haider Raja Odai Al Momani
1M	Sebastian C & M. Talha Ilyas	1F	Shayzan K & Asiya R
2A	Ibrahim M & Adrian C	2K	Duha S & M. Haris A
3S	M. Hussain F & M. Aayan H	3L	Hamza A & Momima S
4R	Zoya B & Safia S	4A	M. Umar I & Maheen M
5B	Amelia A and M. Rayyan J	5M	M. Zayn H & M. Hadi A
6V	M. Siddiq M & Aaqib P	6H	Zidan S & Saifan R





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

Welcome back everyone! It has been lovely to see all of the children return to nursery and enjoy their first week back with their friends and teachers.

Action

Please check Famly app regularly for any updates.

Reception

It was so lovely to meet all our new Reception children this week. We have enjoyed getting to know you all and are really impressed by how well you have settled into school life. The children have already begun building some fantastic friendships and we are focussing on attention and listening skills.

Action

Friday is PE day, please come to school in your PE kit. Earrings need to be removed or covered otherwise your child will not be able to participate.

It is important that all your children's school items are labelled with their name, so they do not get lost. This includes coats, bottles, shoes, and clothing. Thank you for your help.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"Well back to school! The children have made an outstanding start to life in Year 1. It has been lovely to see their smiley faces and we have loved hearing about what they have done over the holidays. If you have any questions please feel free to ask a member of the Year 1 team and we will be happy to help."

Action

As the weather is unpredictable to ensure the children always bring a coat with them to school.

PE is on Monday & Thursday.

Year 2

Welcome back everyone! It has been a short week and the children have settled well into their new classes. This week for English, we read our new book, 'The Jolly Postman or other people's letters' and enjoyed playing pass the package.

Action

The weather is getting colder and wetter so please send your child to school with a coat.

PE will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure that children are wearing the appropriate PE kit and any jewellery is removed for these days.

Homework and reading books will be rolled out in the next couple of weeks.

If you have any questions we are here to help, please arrange a time to speak to the year 2 staff.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

It has been a busy start to the year and Miss Lavelle and Mrs Stott are very proud of how well the children have adjusted to their new classes and routines. We have focussed on improving the quality of our sentences, learnt how to chest-pass a netball, logged onto a laptop with an email address, found out the names of animals in French and sorted food types. We are all exhausted and ready for a rest this weekend!

Action

- Please ensure you remove all of your child's jewellery, including stud earrings, on PE days. These are Wednesday and alternate Mondays.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant first week back. In English we have been reading 'Captain Underpants' and in Maths we have started our topic of Place Value

Action

Please ensure children are wearing their PE kits on Thursdays and every other Monday.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

"Welcome back to Year 5! The children have settled in quickly and made a fantastic start to the term. We're looking forward to an exciting year of learning ahead."

Action

Please remember PE kits on Monday & Fridays.

Year 6

Welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic summer break. We are excited to begin this new academic year with your children in Year 6.

In English, we've kicked off the term with the powerful and mysterious novel *Skellig* by David Almond. The children have already been drawn into the story and are using it to develop their skills in inference, prediction, descriptive writing, and discussion.

In Maths, we will cover place value, the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), and problem-solving strategies. Times tables fluency remains a big focus!

Action

Please support your child in reading at least three times a week and ensuring their reading record is signed by an adult.

Homework is set on Fridays and due on Wednesdays.

Hope this works for you.





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



WELCOME

BACK TO
SCHOOL

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.

