

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
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Blackburn
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Date: 12th September 2025



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Another exciting week at school has drawn to a close.

Once again, I must start by talking about parking! Whilst we are really pleased that people are parking away from the school, we have had some complaints this week from local residents whose driveways are being routinely blocked.

Please avoid parking in front of people's driveways – the residents have been told by the council to contact the police if it keeps happening so just park a little farther away if necessary! Thank you!

I wanted to also remind everyone that we now offer after-school care until 5 pm. There is a small fee payable (to cover our costs of staffing), but we would love to see more children there. If you are interested, please contact our delightfully friendly office staff who will assist!

Is your child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2? Did you know that **every child in Reception and Key Stage 1** is entitled to a free hot dinner? If you currently send your child in with a packed lunch, please consider moving to a free school meal – it could potentially save each family over **£500 per child per year!**

It is that time of year where parents start to think about choosing a school for their nursery-aged children. We will be hosting two Open Days in the next couple of months so if you know of any families who you think would like to come and have a visit, please let us know and we will provide further information.

And finally, you may be aware that over the last couple of years, we have been focusing on Equity, Justice and Diversity. On Monday next week, Professor Dr Paul Miller will be visiting our school to look at the impact of the work we have been doing – this will involve speaking to some children, staff and having a walk-around. We are really looking forward to showing off just how diverse and inclusive a school St James' is!

Have a lovely weekend. It's beginning to feel very autumnal out there!

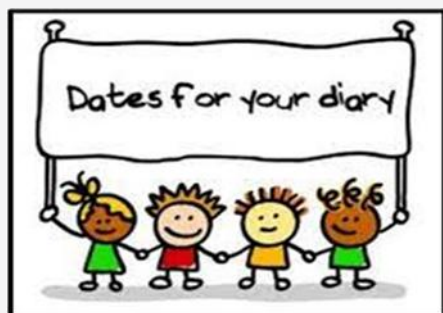
Yours sincerely,

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
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



Monday 15th September - Individual Pupil photos

Monday 6th October – Reception Open Day @ 2:15pm

Friday 24th October – School Closure at 3:05pm

Wednesday 26th November - Reception Open Day @ 9:00am





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.





Applying for a Primary school place

You must apply for a primary school place a year before your child can start school. The school starting age is 4.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-primary-school-place>

Your child will be 3 or have just turned 4 when you apply.

Applications open in September each year and close on 15 January 2026.

Applying for a Secondary school place

Applications usually open on 1 September 2025. You must apply for a secondary school place by 31 October 2025

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-secondary-school-place>

Your child is less likely to be offered a place at their chosen schools if you miss the deadline for applications.

Councils will send offers of school places for:

Primary schools on 16 April 2026

Secondary schools on 1 March 2026





PE DATES

These are dates your child will have PE this term. It is important your child wears the correct PE kit for their lesson. As your child will be doing DANCE this half term, they will need to wear suitable clothing, including pumps. Also, a polite reminder children should NOT wear earrings on their PE days.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Reception RW and RG		Friday 12th Sept	Friday 19th Sept	Friday 26th Sept	Friday 3rd Oct	Friday 10th Oct	Friday 17th Oct	Friday 24th Oct
Year 1 1M and 1F		Monday 8th Sep Thursday 11th Sept	Monday 15th Sept Thursday 18th Sept	Monday 22nd Sept Thursday 25th Sept	Monday 29th Sept Thursday 2nd Oct	Monday 6th Oct Thursday 9th Oct	Monday 13th Oct Thursday 16th oct	Monday 20th Oct Thursday 23rd oct
Year 2 2A and 2K		Tuesday 9th Sept Wednesday 10th Sept	Tuesday 16th Sept Wednesday 17th Sept	Tuesday 23rd Sept Wednesday 24th Sept	Tuesday 30th Sept Wednesday 1st Oct	Tuesday 7th Oct Wednesday 8th Oct	Tuesday 14th Oct Wednesday 15th Oct	Tuesday 21st Oct Wednesday 22nd Oct
Year 3 3L and 3S		Wednesday 10th Sept	Monday 15th Sept Wednesday 17th Sept	Wednesday 24th Sept	Monday 29th Sept Wednesday 1st Oct	Wednesday 8th Oct	Monday 13th Oct Wednesday 15th oct	Wednesday 22nd Oct
Year 4 4A and 4R		Thursday 11th Sept	Monday 15th Sept Thursday 18th Sept	Thursday 25th Sept	Monday 29th Sept Thursday 2nd Oct	Thursday 9th Oct	Monday 13th Oct Thursday 16th Oct	Thursday 23rd Oct
Year 5 5B and 5M		Monday 8th Sept Friday 12th Sept	Friday 19th Sept	Monday 22nd Sept Friday 26th Sept	Friday 3rd Oct	Monday 6th Oct Friday 10th Oct	Friday 17th Oct	Monday 20th Oct Friday 24th Oct
Year 6 6V and 6H		Monday 8th Sept Tuesday 9th Sept	Tuesday 16th Sept	Monday 22nd Sept Tuesday 23rd sept	Tuesday 30th Sept	Monday 6th oct Tuesday 7th Oct	Tuesday 14th oct	Monday 20th Oct Tuesday 21st Oct





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.





Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'
Delivered by ELCAS
tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT



Enter the word "ELCAS" as the first name and "drop in" as the second
name followed by your date of birth.

You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 1st October 25
Wednesday 8th October 25
Wednesday 15th October 25
Wednesday 22nd October 25

1pm – 3pm
3pm – 5pm
5pm – 7pm
1pm – 3pm



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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



attendance **MATTERS**



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

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	94.5%	
RW	100.0%	1
1F	92.4%	
1M	88.2%	
2A	90.5%	
2K	93.9%	
3L	99.1%	2
3S	98.3%	
4A	95.6%	
4R	93.5%	
5B	96.7%	
5M	95.6%	
6H	92.8%	
6V	90.7%	

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		Issa R, Sophia P, Mohammed Adam & Hassan S	
RG	Rayyan M. & Aisha B.	RW	Abeeha R & Haleemah M
1M	Hamza P & Safaa A	1F	Amina K & Mohammed Rayan M
2A	Ibrahim S & Aaisha P	2K	Zayn P & Muhammad P
3S	Sienna S & Amaya F	3L	Hassnain Ali & Amna Asmal
4R	Gamar.A & Muhammad-Rayhan.P	4A	Shehryaar S & Aisha C
5B	Haris A & Maariyah P	5M	Marius D & Zoya H
6V	Lubabah B & M.Eesa F.	6H	Moeez I & Hawa H





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have focussed on stories about bears this week. They have created bear pictures using, glue paper and pens to add details and sang songs about bears too. The children have continued learning about Autumn; singing autumn songs, listening to autumn sounds and exploring the changing weather outside.

Action

Please always send your child into nursery with a coat.

Reception

We have enjoyed getting to know the children this week. They all seem to have settled into school life really well. It has been a pleasure watching new friendships form and the children have had lots of fun in the outside areas including the discovery area this week.

Action

Please make sure your child is in appropriate clothing due to the weather changing, coats need to be sent in daily. If you have any spare wellies or wetsuits please also send these in so your child definitely has one for the discovery area, it can get wet and muddy!





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"This week we have been learning all about Fire Fighters. We have looked at what they do, what they wear and the equipment they use In Science, we have been exploring different types of materials. What materials can you find at home?"

Action

Please only bring in water in the children's water bottles and ensure all children have a coat with them every day. Spelling will start next week, the children will have a spelling test everything Friday. The score will be recorded in their homework books."

Year 2

This week we have started both of our PE units. The children really enjoyed exploring different yoga poses and learning how to dodge away from a defender. They have carried on learning about The Jolly Postman; and have all written a diary entry about his visit to the fairytale village.

Action

Please remember PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday, please remove any items of jewellery. On Monday school photos will be taken, so please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform. Home reading books will be rolled out next week.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

Year 3 have been busy reading our new class text 'Dear Greenpeace' as well as practising when to use an and an in English. In maths we have been working on number lines and in science we have been finding out about nutrition. We have looked at frescos in art and started to learn the recorder in music.

Action

Please support your child to complete their maths and spelling homework. Homework is due on a Friday. Please remove all jewellery for PE, including stud earrings. **YOU MUST** tape over your child's earrings if you cannot take them out. Thank you

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week this week. We have continued to read our fantasy novel 'Captain Underpants' and in Maths we have been focussing on partitioning numbers.

Action

Please ensure children are wearing PE kits on Monday 15th September (Every other Monday) as well as our weekly Thursday slot. Please ensure homework books are bought into school by Wednesday so they can be marked.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

"The children have had a wonderful time diving into the first chapter of Outlaws! They were full of excitement as they explored the story and shared their thoughts about the characters and adventures ahead. Alongside this, they've really enjoyed learning the rules of handball. It's been fantastic to see their enthusiasm as they practiced the game, working together and showing great teamwork.

Action

Please complete your homework on century tech by Friday 19th September. Please can 5B have learnt their lines for the Harvest Worship by Wednesday 17th September. Thank you

Year 6

The children have completed their first SATs mock test of the year and have shown fantastic effort throughout. We're incredibly proud of how hard they've worked. The results have provided us with valuable insight into their individual strengths and areas for improvement, allowing us to tailor our support moving forward.

Action

Please support your child by encouraging them to complete their homework by Wednesday at the latest each week. We also ask that children read at least three times a week and have their reading diary signed by an adult. Regular times tables practice is essential, as fluency and accuracy with multiplication facts greatly support many areas of maths.





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.

