

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
Earl Street
Blackburn
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office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk

Date: 19th September 2025



Doug Stitcher

Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable week in spite of the weather!

On Monday this week, we were delighted to welcome Professor Dr Paul Miller to St James'. Dr Miller is a renowned academic who came to visit us to conduct some research into the impact our work on Equity, Diversity and Justice (EDJ) has had on our school and within the community. During his visit, he spoke with children and staff to find out exactly what we do and how we do; but most importantly, what difference it has made.

He was absolutely blown-away with the welcome he received. From our youngest children to our most experienced staff, everyone spoke very proudly about how inclusive our school is and at the end of the day, Dr Miller told us that he could see EDJ is simply embedded at St James'.

I wanted to thank everyone involved. In a world fraught with division and hatred, I am very proud to be part of a school community built around love, courage and respect.

As a school, we began our EDJ journey 2 years ago when a few of the senior leadership team were invited to engage in

some training. We've come a long way since then. Last September, we launched our EDJ strategy with the staff (you may remember being invited to our special EDJ showcase where each class talked about the work they had been doing). And now as we enter our second full school year of our EDJ strategy, we will begin to look at other types of diversity. As a school, we celebrate our differences and we understand that different is what makes us all the same!

In the next few weeks, we will be holding our special Pebble Worship where our new children and staff will place a pebble into our pebble jar to represent their place in the St James' family.

So, thank you for your support and helping to make St James' the vibrant and diverse place to learn, discover and grow that it is.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

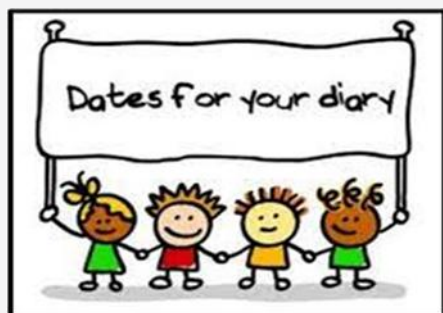
Mr. D Stitcher

Head Teacher



St James' C of E
Primary School

Headteacher: Mr D. Stitcher BA (HONS), PGCE (Dist), NPQH, NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BED (HONS), NPQH
Email: office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk



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

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

Monday 3rd November – School re-open

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





Harvest Appeal – Supporting Our Community Together

As we approach the season of Harvest, we take time to reflect on the importance of gratitude, generosity, and community. In school, the children will be exploring the meaning of Harvest through Worship and Religious Education lessons, learning about the values of thankfulness and helping others.

Each year, as part of our Harvest celebrations, we invite families to contribute to a collection for those less fortunate. It is a time to think of others in our community who may be facing challenging circumstances, and to offer support in a practical and meaningful way.

This year, we are kindly asking for donations of **tinned carrots**, which have been specifically requested by our local food bank due to high demand. Your contributions will make a real difference to individuals and families who rely on the food bank's support.



Please bring your donations to school by Monday 29th September.

Thank you, as always, for your continued generosity and support. Together, we can help make this Harvest a time of hope and care for everyone in our community.



Year 1

Fire Fire! The children have continued to learn all about Firefighters in English. They have learnt about what they do, what values they need and what equipment they use. They have started to write sentence based on what they have learnt.





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 3S WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	96.5%	
RW	98.9%	2
1F	94.2%	
1M	90.8%	
2A	92.9%	
2K	94.1%	
3L	97.8%	
3S	100.0%	1
4A	96.0%	
4R	95.0%	
5B	95.3%	
5M	96.7%	
6H	98.0%	
6V	96.0%	

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		Yusuf P, Maryam P, Ibrahim P & Aydaan A	
RG	Aaminah. G & Skylar-Mai. B	RW	Shabana A & Abdullah M
1M	Ibraheem A & Abdullah M	1F	Farhan I & Muhammed A P
2A	Maryam B & Firdaus H	2K	Juwarriya M & Ajwa F
3S	Aasiya C & Aysha K	3L	Anastasia Alexandru & Emaan Farooq
4R	Muhammed Eesa.P & Ayesha.G	4A	Issa P & Tayyab S
5B	Maryam S & M.Saad S	5M	Anayah G & Inaya
6V	M. Fahim K & Joudy Al M	6H	Robyn S & Faris H





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a fantastic week at nursery while focussing on the story 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We talked about small, medium and large items, worked on counting to 3 and retold the story together using new vocabulary.

Action

"Please continue checking Famlyapp for any updates. Please can all lending library books be returned on a Friday."

Reception

This week the children have been sharing who they are. We have talked about their families and the new friendships they have formed. The children have used a large mirror and have painted a self portrait, thinking about what makes them unique. If you are happy to share photos of family, homes and interests with the class please send these in, we would love to hear all about it. We have begun learning phonics and sound sheets will soon be sent home.

Action

Please make sure you label all your child's belongings so that it is easier to locate should your child lose it. Please also check jumpers and cardigans that come home and if it doesn't belong to your child please return it to school. Thank you.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

Fire Fire! The children have continued to learn all about Firefighters in English. They have learnt about what they do, what values they need and what equipment they use. They have started to write sentence based on what they have learnt.

Action

"All the children now have their homework books and planners. You will find their spellings in their homework books.

Year 2

In maths we have been learning to partition numbers up to 100 in tens and ones and also use flexible partitioning. In geography this term, we are able to identify the seven continents and the five oceans of the Earth. We can order these from largest to smallest and locate them on a map. For English this week we have been using words and actions to retell the story 'The Jolly Postman and other people's letters' as well creating ideas for a new character which we will write about next week.

Action

A reminder that PE is on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct PE kit and any jewellery has been removed. Homework books and reading books have been sent home with your child. Please listen to your child read at least 3 times a week. Homework should be completed each week and books handed in on Thursdays.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

In maths this week we have been flexibly partitioning numbers while in English we have been using powerful adjectives to describe whales, whilst also practising using capital letters for proper nouns. We begun our DT unit on healthy eating, played our first tune on the recorder and learnt about touch typing using a dance-mat-style game for our fingers. We have also complete our spelling unit about adding the prefixes dis- and in-.

Action

"Please support your child to complete their weekly maths homework and practise their fortnightly spelling words. Homework is due on a Friday, which is also spelling test day. Please check the PE dates in the newsletter and ensure your child comes to school wearing PE kit and NO EARRINGS. Thank you for your cooperation."

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week this week. In English we finished reading our fantasy story 'Captain Underpants' and started to come up with ideas to plan for an innovative fantasy story. In Maths we have been looking at ordering 4 digit numbers to 10,000 and working on number lines. We enjoyed testing different circuits in Science this week!

Action

Please ensure children are practising their times tables at home.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

This week, the children have been debating whether Robin Hood is a villain or a hero using evidence from a film. The children have also continued their understanding of place value and explored rounding, and ordering and comparing numbers up to 1 million.

Action

Homework now on Century Tech. All children should have logins written down and tested. (They have used it in class)

Year 6

"6V led an amazing worship, performing their lines and spreading the importance of peace in our daily lives and in the wider world. Mrs Valli is super proud of the way they led the service. In English Year 6 have been focusing on a setting description based on the book Skellig. We have been exploring how writers use powerful vocabulary, figurative language, and sensory detail to bring scenes to life for the reader. Year 6 are practicing how to "paint a picture with words" by including similes, metaphors, personification, and precise adjectives. We are also working on varying sentence structures to create atmosphere and mood. Please encourage your child to read descriptive passages in their books at home and discuss how the author builds an image of the setting. In Maths, we are building on our understanding of place value with numbers up to 10 million. Children are developing confidence in reading, writing, ordering, and comparing large numbers, as well as reasoning about the value of digits. We are also learning about negative numbers, recognising them in real-life contexts such as temperature and bank balances, and practising counting forwards and backwards through zero."

Action

"Look at thermometers, weather reports, or maps to discuss how negative numbers are used in everyday life. Support your child with their homework and listen to them read at least 3 x a week."





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.

