

St James' Weekly News

St James' C of E Primary School
Earl Street
Blackburn
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Date: 26th September 2025



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Well, what a change a week makes – from torrential rain last week to beautiful crisp sunny autumn mornings this week!

We are now half-way through the first half of the autumn term, and our thoughts turn to harvest.

Our kitchen are putting on a very special Harvest Celebration meal next Thursday (2nd October), so make sure you sign up for that (even if your child usually has a packed lunch).

We are also collecting donations for harvest – this year, we have been asked to provide tinned carrots! Given that everyone is buying tinned carrots, it might be an idea to vary the shops from where you purchase them so we don't inadvertently cause a tinned-carrot shortage in the north Blackburn area! Please ensure all donations are brought into school no later than Monday!

You will have now received the proof of your child's school photograph for the year, so please can you make sure that you place your order (should you wish to purchase it) no later than 6th October!

And finally, you may have noticed that it is a little more congested with parents and children outside the main entrance at the end of the day than it was last year.

This is because our Year 4 children are now being collected (instead of walking home alone) so we are seeing more parents, which is great, but also finding that it is making the pavement quite crowded.

Please make sure you leave room for people to pass without having to stand or walk in the road.

We are looking at creating an additional pick-up point to reduce the congestion shortly.

Have a lovely weekend.

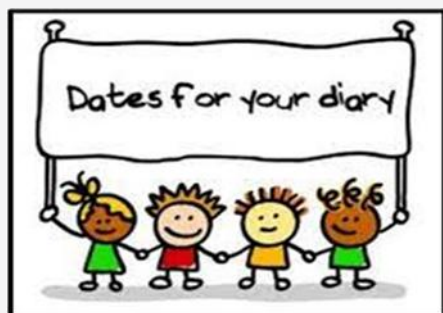
Yours sincerely,

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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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.



**THURSDAY 2ND
OCTOBER**

HARVEST CELEBRATION MEAL

**We're celebrating Harvest with
a special school meal that's too
tasty to miss!**

**Halal Chicken Burger & Chips
or
Halal Spaghetti Bolognese
or**

Baked Potato with Cheese & Beans (vegetarian)

**Free for Reception, Year 1 & 2 and Pupil Premium children or
£2.60 for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6.**

Book on the School Spider app now.

Everyone is welcome – even if they usually bring a packed lunch!



You should now have received your child's individual photograph proof.

Orders must be placed by 6th October 2025. Either online by visiting photos.jssp.co.uk or via phone on 01773717984 (office hours Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:30pm)





Ahead of the Autumn Term Final Headcount



Have you validated all your working family codes?

The code start date must be before 31st August 2025 to be eligible for the term

A child CANNOT take up a new place in a Grace period

If a child attended your provision last term and have entered their grace period - they will be funded for the Autumn Term and MUST reconfirm before 31st December to be eligible for Spring

If you would like any codes validating by the team - please send through the parental eligibility Validation form, these children will be added to your headcount for you

Free Early Years Education

HOW MANY FREE HOURS YOU CAN GET PER WEEK

	2 year olds	3-4 year olds
* Working families	30 hours	30 hours
*Families receiving additional Government support	15 hours	N/A
All families - Universal offer	N/A	15 hours

*eligibility criteria applies

some eligible families of 2 year olds will be eligible for 15 hours Government support AND 15 hours working families

www.blackburn.gov.uk/free-early-education



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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 5M WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	85.0%
RW	97.0%
1F	95.5%
1M	94.0%
2A	95.7%
2K	94.0%
3L	96.8%
3S	96.5%
4A	97.0%
4R	98.0%
5B	92.0%
5M	99.0%
6H	98.0%
6V	98.0%



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		Izyan H, Haider M, Aishah P and Sara A	
RG	Abdurrahman P. & Jannat M.	RW	Fatimah I & Halima L
1M	Aaima A & M.Azaan A	1F	Adam A & Ahmad P
2A	Saarah P & Khadijah I	2K	Zoya N & Yusha D
3S	Huda A & Muhammad Dawood A	3L	Hassan A & Hawwa A
4R	Fatima Zahra R & Harris A	4A	Sultan A & Anaya M
5B	Zara M & M.Ibraheem J	5M	Yusha S & Rehan Q
6V	Javeria Y & Hamza C	6H	Zainab H & Umar K





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

The children have had a fantastic week taking part in a mix of indoor and forest school learning. They have focused on the books 'The Big Hungry Bear' and 'Handa's Surprise'. The children talked about the different things we can taste, touch, smell, hear and see. They explored the outdoors using their senses while squelching in muddy puddles, finding conkers and pine cones and making music on the stage. Well done everyone!

Action

"Please can children only bring water in their bottles. Please can all lending library books we returned on a Friday. Thank you "

"

Reception

This week we have started Drawing Club and the children have really enjoyed this. In maths we have been working on sorting objects into groups, for example by colour, shape and size. We have been working on building friendships and showing our school value of respect throughout the week. Another great week in Reception the children are settling well into school life and having lots of fun.

Action

If your child is 5 this term and they wish to have milk there is a fee for the year unless your child is entitled to pupil premium. Please speak to the office. For children who are 4, please let us know if you do not wish for your child to have milk. Only water in bottles please, no juice. Please only wear trainers on Fridays for PE.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"In D.T, we have been learning about different types of houses. Please could you send in a picture of your house so we can identify the different types of houses. Please could you start bringing in small, plain card board box. Please don't go out and buy them. Amazon type boxes will do.



Action

Please ensure you sign your child's reading planner once you have read with them. The books are changed every 3 days or the children may have sheets. Try to read the books/sheets a couple of times before they are changed. Thank you

Year 2

What a lovely week we have had in Year 2! On Monday 2K went for a walk around our church gardens, where they learnt all about the different trees and plants we have growing there. They even got to take some conkers home. 2A will also get to go around the church gardens next week. The children have all worked hard this week to complete their own innovated story based on 'The Jolly Postman and Other People's Letters'. We can't wait to read the finished results.

Action

Homework and reading books are now all being sent out. Please ensure you read with your child at least 3 times a week. If there are any questions or queries with the this, please come and speak to your child's class teacher.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

This week we have all completed a Star Reading Test and we will be bringing new books home to read with our grown ups at least 3 times per week. In music we have learnt to play notes b, a and g on the recorder while in RE we have written songs about Harvest time. In maths we have been finding 1, 10 or 100 more and less than a given number, and also finding numbers on a number line. In English we enjoyed researching animal facts on the iPads so we could use them in letters we wrote as Green peace. We have practised passing, pivoting with, and shooting a netball and also learnt the names of five more animals in French.

Action

Please support your child to complete their maths homework and practise their spellings. Please read with your child and record this in their reading planners. Thank you

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week this week. In English we have been writing an innovated fantasy story following the structure of 'Captain Underpants' In Maths we have been rounding a 4 digit number to the nearest, 10, 100 and 1000. We have completed our Place Value topic and will be starting our new topic of Addition and Subtraction next week.

Action

Children have been given their new AR books. Please ensure children are reading their books at home and are ready for their weekly quiz. Please sign their diary 3x a week.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

Year 5 have been working incredibly hard this week! In Maths, we've been using a range of mental strategies to tackle tricky 4-digit addition, building both confidence and accuracy in our calculations. In English, we had great fun rewriting the exciting archery scene from *Outlaw* by Michael Morpurgo, showing off our creativity and descriptive skills. In PE, our focus has been on stamina and health, as we challenge ourselves to keep improving our fitness and resilience.

Action

Please complete your century tech homework, read and remember to have your planners signed. Thank you

Year 6

Well done to 6H for their fantastic Parent Worship this week! The children spoke clearly, performed confidently, and shared their learning beautifully. Thank you to all the families who came to support them! This week in Year 6, the children have continued to show great enthusiasm and focus in their learning. In Maths, we've been exploring factors, multiples, and prime numbers, using a range of strategies to identify patterns and solve problems. The children have enjoyed applying their knowledge to challenging tasks and developing their reasoning skills. In English, we've continued reading our class novel *Skellig*. The children have been using inference to delve deeper into the characters' thoughts, feelings, and motives. It's been fantastic to hear such thoughtful discussions and see the children backing up their ideas with evidence from the text. We've also begun planning our very own flashback stories, focusing on using structure and language to create atmosphere and emotion. The children have come up with some wonderfully imaginative ideas, and we're excited to see these stories come to life in the coming week.

Action

"Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time each day. Even a few minutes late can mean missing out on important parts of their learning and daily routines. Homework is set on Century each week and should be completed by Wednesday morning. Thank you for supporting your child in staying on top of their tasks. We've also noticed that some children would benefit from extra times tables practice. Regular short bursts of practice at home can make a big difference, so please take time to test your child when you can. Thank you for your continued support!"





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.

