

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: 3rd October 2025



Doug Stitcher
Mr D Stitcher, Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You will have no doubt heard a lot in the news recently about the importance of attendance at school and the link between being in school and achieving more in later life.

Recently, we have seen an increase in requests for leave or, even worse, parents taking children out of school without even notifying us.

I want to be clear about the rules on this. I **cannot** authorise holidays to everyone who wants to take one. Regardless of my views on flight prices etc, my responsibility is to ensure your children do as well as they can whilst in our care.

Our policy has always been very clear and very consistent. We do not authorise leave during the school term – except in absolutely exceptional circumstances.

This means that the majority of parents taking their children out of school without authorisation from us **will** be fined. And the fines are **per parent per child!** So they can really add up.

We don't want to be issuing fines to anyone – everyone has got enough going

on as it is to be worrying about paying fines to the Local Authority. But the easiest way to avoid this is to just to take your child abroad or on holiday during the 13 weeks of school holidays every year. You won't get fined, but more importantly, your child will be more settled at school, develop stronger friendships and achieve more than if they are constantly having to readjust.

So, as we head towards winter and the colder months, please plan your holidays for our holiday dates, keep your child in school and avoid paying fines to the LA!

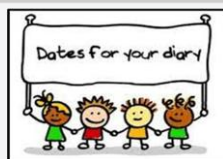
I look forward to seeing a dramatic decrease in children going on extended leave over this academic year!

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D Stitcher
Head Teacher





Monday 6th October

**Reception Open Day
@2:15pm**

Tuesday 21st & Thursday 23rd October

Parents Evening

Thursday 16th October

**6V Parents Evening
2pm - 4:30pm**

Friday 17th October

**6V Parents Evening
9am - 11:30am**

Friday 24th October

School Closure at 3:05pm

Monday 3rd November

School re-open

Wednesday 26th November

Reception Open Day @ 9:00am

Wednesday 3rd December

Christmas Lunch

Monday 8th December

**Reception & Year 1 Carol Concert
@ 2:15pm in KS2 Hall**

Tuesday 9th December

**Year 3, 4 & 5 Christmas Carol
Concert @ 2:15pm in KS2 Hall**

Wednesday 10th December

**Y2 Nativity @ 2:15pm
in KS2 Hall**

Thursday 11th December

Y6 Pantomime in KS2 Hall @ 2:15pm

Friday 12th December

**EYC Christmas Carol Concert @ 11:00am
EYC Christmas Carol Concert @ 2:30pm**





St James' C of E
Forest Pre-School
& Nursery



St James' Blackburn
CE Primary School



Reception 2026 Open Day

Monday 6th October at 2:15pm
or 26th November at 9:00am

Come and meet our friendly staff and pupils and take a
tour of our school

St James' C of E Primary School, Blackburn



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



Tuesday 21st October and Thursday 23rd October 2025

Appointment slots for the Autumn term parent meetings have been released on the School Spider App. Please remember to book in your parents evening appointments.

6V Parents Evening

Thursday 16th October @ 2pm - 4:30pm

Friday 17th October Evening @ 9am - 11:30am

Parents will be met by Mrs Vali at the Main Office.





MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



We would love to celebrate the many talents our students have here at school! If your child plays a musical instrument at home, we would be delighted to hear from you. We would love to give them the opportunity to share their skills with their teacher and peers, and to celebrate their achievement together.





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



**St James' C of E
Primary School**

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



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 RVV 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



**St James' C of E
Primary School**

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



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 2A WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FROM LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

RG	91.7%
RW	94.1%
1F	95.5%
1M	87.5%
2A	99.5% 
2K	94.9%
3L	95.9%
3S	98.3%
4A	99.3%
4R	95.6%
5B	94.1%
5M	97.0%
6H	97.8%
6V	98.9%

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 H, Muhammad Rehan M, Lucie-Marie G & Hakeem M	
RG	Muhammad Bilal A. & Ali. P	RW	Ayaan M & Khadija K
1M	Yahya V & Ayman P	1F	Khadijah C & Fatimah G
2A	Abeer S & Muhammad-Hassan S	2K	M Ayaan M & Amara A
3S	Hajrah A & Muhammad Sarim A	3L	Kulsum L & Fatima Y
4R	Anaya.P & Mohammed Issa.H	4A	M Umar I & Maryam I
5B	Abdullah V & Whole Class	5M	Aaisha U & Huda P
6V	Asfa S & Waris K	6H	Obaid H & Fatima P





Year Group Updates

Forest Pre-School & Nursery

We've had a very busy week! We really enjoyed playing out in the rain! Conker hunts, making soup, painting and our favourite activity...jumping in muddy puddles! It was wonderful to see the children taking turns to jump in the muddy puddle. To keep dry the children worked as a team to build a shelter, they rolled tyres together, put on the pegs and fetched crates to sit on. The children have also enjoyed reading in their new cosy reading area with their magical lamp. What a lovely week we have had!

Action

Please can all lunch/snacks sent into nursery follow our school policy; only water in school and no sugary snacks. Thank you.

Reception

This week in maths the children have been learning about big and small, short and tall, weight and capacity. In drawing club the children have enjoyed drawing about Goldilocks and the three bears and learning some new vocabulary. In the discovery area we compared the sizes of worms, made 'food' and we spotted lots of children being supportive friends. Well done!

Action

Please send a water bottle in daily with your child. Lending library books will be changed when reading records have been signed and sounds we have learnt throughout the week will now be sent home. Please practise these sounds and complete the letter formation sheets. Thank you for the food bank donations.





Year Group Updates

Year 1

"This week, we took a stroll through the deep dark wood and learnt to retell the story of the Gurrffalo. We have used actions to retell parts of the story. Read and act out the story at home or use the link below to listen to the story. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhhUE1qe3GA>"

Action

You may have seen Marshall Monkey (1M) or Forshaw Fox (1F) coming home with your child. The children will have a week to spend time with the class mascot. Please take photos or draw pictures of what they do with the other the week. Have fun! This can be done in their purple books!

Year 2

This week 2A visited the church garden to learn about the range of trees we have, (horse chestnut, beech, lime and more) and how we can identify them by observing the shapes of the leaves. We even got to plant strawberries! On Thursday, we had our Harvest church service, where all the children sang beautifully and some presented prayers. In DT, children have had fun creating their own fairy tale finger puppets.

Action

2A will be presenting their parent worship on Thursday 9th October at 8:55. We hope to see you then. As the weather is getting colder and wetter, please ensure that your child brings a coat to school. Please continue to read with your child at least three times a week. Also, a great big thank you for all the food donations for the food bank.





Year Group Updates

Year 3

This week we have been counting on in 50s, planning and writing a fantasy story, practising the 3 and 4 times tables, learning to join to ascending letters, singing harvest songs, comparing the features of Blackburn with Preston, creating fact files about how harvest is celebrated in other countries, testing our internet safety knowledge and improving our core strength through a health related fitness unit of PE.

Action

Please continue to support your child to do their weekly maths homework (due on Fridays) and fortnightly spelling practise. Record reading 3 times per week in reading planners. These will usually be checked on Wednesdays. Thank you.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant week. In English we have started looking at a new text, 'The trapper.' In Maths we have started doing addition with exchange. In Science we have been designing a switch which we will be making next week!

Action

Please ensure children are reading at home atleast three times a week.





Year Group Updates

Year 5

The children this week have been exploring non-fiction texts linking to natural disasters. We plan to write our own in the coming weeks. We have also been studying addition and subtraction and will soon be looking at multiplication.

Action

We have been given the opportunity to take part in an exciting science experiment. Next week, we will let you know how it will work.

Year 6

"This week in Year 6, we have been learning all about prime numbers and long multiplication. We discovered that prime numbers are special because they only have two factors, 1 and themselves, with 2 being the only even prime number! In English, the children have been developing their writing skills in English by completing a character description based on Skellig. Some pupils chose to describe Michael, focusing on his curiosity, sensitivity, and determination as he tries to understand the strange creature he finds in the garage. Others wrote about Mina, capturing her free-spirited nature, love of birds, and unique way of seeing the world."

Action

"A quick reminder: please make sure your child completes their homework and bring it in on time.

Have a lovely weekend."





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.

