



St James' CE Primary

NEWSLETTER



Friday 17th July 2026

End of Year Message from our Headteacher...

As I sit and reflect on another school year coming to an end, I can honestly say that this has been one of the most exciting, fulfilling and successful years in the history of St James'. It has been a year of growth, achievement and opportunity, where our children have not only flourished academically but have been given an incredible range of experiences beyond the curriculum that have inspired, challenged and enriched them in so many ways.

At St James', we firmly believe that education is about so much more than lessons in the classroom. It is about developing confident, compassionate young people who are ready to embrace the opportunities the world has to offer, and this year we have worked harder than ever to make that vision a reality.

We are immensely proud to have achieved the prestigious Green Flag Award, recognising our commitment to caring for God's world and our shared responsibility for protecting the environment. Our sporting achievements have also been exceptional – our trophy cabinet is fit to burst. Children have represented St James with pride, determination and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the year, culminating in the fantastic achievement of receiving the Schools Games Gold Award. Every sporting success reflects not only talent but resilience, teamwork and perseverance.

Music and the performing arts have continued to thrive. Our choir has delighted audiences with beautiful performances, while the eagerly anticipated return of J-Factor reminded us just how much confidence, creativity and talent our children possess. Our Nativity performances once again filled our school with joy and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas, while our class assemblies have given every child the opportunity to celebrate their learning and share their achievements with those who matter most.

This year, we have continued to nurture a love of reading through inspiring author visits that sparked imaginations and encouraged children to see themselves as readers and writers.

Theatre visits have brought learning to life and given our pupils memorable cultural experiences that will stay with them for years to come.

One of the highlights of the year has undoubtedly been our enrichment afternoons. These have opened doors to new interests, developed valuable life skills and encouraged children to discover talents they may never have realised they had. Watching the excitement on their faces as they explored new experiences has been a reminder that some of the most powerful learning happens beyond the classroom walls.



We have also continued to celebrate the very best of our children through our sanction-free rewards, recognising positive behaviour, kindness, resilience and excellent attitudes to learning. We are incredibly proud of the culture we continue to build together - one where children strive to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do.

One of our greatest successes this year has been the significant improvement in attendance. This has truly been a whole-school achievement. Staff have worked tirelessly to promote the importance of every school day, and our families have responded with tremendous support and commitment. Together, we have created a culture where attendance is everyone's responsibility because we all understand that every day in school matters.

I am especially proud that St James is now recognised as a school that others can look to learn from our good practice in improving attendance. This is an incredible achievement and one that belongs to every parent, carer, member of staff and child. Thank you for believing in the importance of being here every day and for working alongside us to give every child the very best chance to succeed.

Our school simply would not be the special place it is without the unwavering support of our families. Thank you to everyone who has attended our new Stay and Learn sessions, joined us for class assemblies, celebrated performances, supported school events and given their time so generously throughout the year. Seeing parents and carers learning alongside their children has been one of the greatest joys of this year and has strengthened the partnership between home and school even further.

A heartfelt thank you must also go to our wonderful PTFA. Their energy, commitment and generosity have provided so many memorable experiences for our children. Every event they organise brings our community together and reminds us that St James' is much more than a school - it is a family.

This year, we have also been delighted to welcome student teachers into our school. It has been a privilege to support the next generation of teachers, and they have brought fresh ideas, enthusiasm and passion into our classrooms while learning from our dedicated staff.

Most importantly, I want to thank our incredible children. You are, without question, the reason St James is such a remarkable place. Thank you for your hard work, your determination, your resilience and your kindness. Thank you for the smiles that greet us every morning, for the curiosity you bring to every lesson and for the compassion you show to one another. You continually demonstrate what it means to live out our school values, showing love, respect, forgiveness, courage and service in all that you do.

You are true disciples of Jesus, living your faith through your actions each and every day. Whether you are helping a friend, welcoming someone new, trying your very best or showing perseverance when learning feels difficult, you remind us what really matters. Watching each of you grow in confidence, character and faith this year has been one of the greatest privileges of my role.



Finally, I want to thank every single member of staff at St James'.

I genuinely believe I have the privilege of leading one of the most dedicated, caring and hardworking teams of professionals you could ever hope to meet. They give so much of themselves every single day, often going far beyond what anyone ever sees. Their commitment to our children is extraordinary.

From the moment children arrive through our school gates each morning until they leave at the end of the day, our staff work tirelessly to ensure every child feels safe, secure, valued, loved and ready to learn. They create classrooms where children are encouraged to dream, challenged to achieve and supported to flourish. Their dedication, compassion and belief in every child are what make St James' such a very special place.

As Headteacher, I could not be prouder of this exceptional team.

As another school year comes to an end, I would like to thank each and every one of you - our children, families, governors, staff and wider community - for your continued support.

Thank you for the trust you place in me as your Headteacher. It is both a privilege and an honour to lead this wonderful school, and I am grateful every day to be part of such a caring, ambitious and faith-filled community.

The summer holidays now lie ahead - a precious opportunity to slow down, spend quality time together, laugh, explore, make memories and simply enjoy being a family. I hope the weeks ahead bring you rest, happiness and moments that your children will remember for years to come.

As we look forward with hope and excitement to another school year, I leave you with these words from St Paul's letter to the Corinthians:

"Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:14

These words beautifully capture everything that makes St James' so special. When love is at the heart of all we do, children flourish, communities grow stronger and extraordinary things become possible.

Thank you once again for another unforgettable year. Have a safe, peaceful and joyful summer, and I look forward to welcoming you all back in September as we begin another exciting chapter together.

May God bless you all and keep you safe.

With warmest wishes,

Miss Tindall

Headteacher

class Page weekly updates



Our new website is live! A reminder to check your child's Class Page on the school website each week. Teachers upload a summary of what the children have been learning, along with photos. It's a great way to keep connected with what's happening in the classroom – we hope you enjoy having a peek at the wonderful learning taking place!

Click on the links below:



Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6

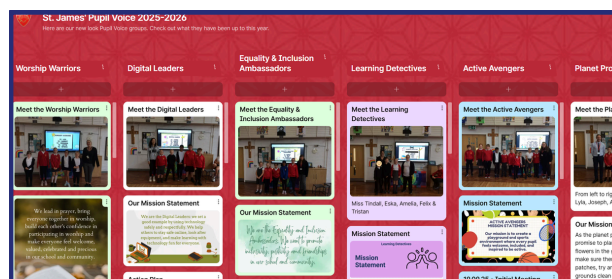
St James' Journalists

Not read the latest newsletter from our St James' Journalists? Click on the picture below...



Pupil Voice

Click on the link below to see what our pupil voice groups have been up to...



Coming up...

ADULTS ONLY **Tickets: £5**
CRAZY BINGO NIGHT pay on the door
 includes: 5 games of bingo

AUGUST 14th, 2026 • 7 PM

Raising funds for The Cancer Bank
 Join our Bingo Night and have an incredible evening filled with laughter and prizes. Through the decades (70's, 80's, 90's) fancy dress is encouraged!! The excitement is guaranteed!

HOSTED BY THE DYNAMIC DUO!
 Dano and Carl Briggs

Sponsored by
 Pulford Farm Dairies

Mill Hill Club, Moorgate Street, Blackburn, BB2 4EZ

THE CANCER BANK

FREE BOOKING NEEDED

MEGA MONDAYS
FREE FAMILY FUN

20th July, 3.15PM-4.30PM
SCHOOL'S OUT PARTY
 Bouncy Castle, Hot Dogs, Ice Cream, Lots of Fun!

MEGA MONDAYS
 Big activities, miracle stories, games, hot meal, multi-sensory zone for families to enjoy together.
 10am - 2pm

27th July
 3rd August
 10th August
 17th August
 24th August

St James Church, Stopes Brow, Lower Darwen, BB3 0QP
 stjameschurch.lowerdarwen@gmail.com | 01254 427020

FREE BOOKING NEEDED

HOLIDAYS ARE DIFFERENT AT ST JAMES THIS YEAR

MEGA MONDAYS
FREE FAMILY FUN

10am Arrive & toast
 10.15am Big activity 1
 11.15am Family Challenge
 11.30am It's a miracle
 11.50am Cafe & activities
 1pm Big activity 2

MEGA MONDAYS
 Big activities, miracle stories, games, hot meal, multi-sensory zone for families to enjoy together.
 10am - 2pm

27th July
 3rd August
 10th August
 17th August
 24th August

St James Church, Stopes Brow, Lower Darwen, BB3 0QP
 stjameschurch.lowerdarwen@gmail.com | 01254 427020

Dates for your Diary

September

Tuesday 1st

First day back after summer holidays



Stars of the Week

Stars of the Week

Friday 3rd July 2026

Sponsored by:
STERLING P.V.C.U.
 WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES

YR - Noela B, Y1 - Lola D, Y2 - Alanna T,
 Y3 - Harriet G, Y4 - Ishika S, Y5 - Alaya B
 and Y6 - Daniel A

Stars of the Week

Friday 10th July 2026

Sponsored by:
STERLING P.V.C.U.
 WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES

YR - Ollie S, Y1 - Gabriel N, Y2 - Onix T,
 Y3 - Charlotte-Rose H, Y4 - Eryk B,
 Y5 - Emilia D and Y6 - Mila C



For any safeguarding, mental health, wellbeing and family support, please contact Mrs Jacques:

Email:

lesley.jacques@stjld.blackburn.sch.uk

Tel: (01254) 315005 or 07957653869

Useful Links



Family Hub
 Online



Blackburn Diocese Centenary Prayer



Heavenly Father,

In our Centenary year

we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.

Send the Holy Spirit to give us confidence in our witness,
generosity in our service, and love for our neighbours,
that your Church may be renewed and many come home to you,
through your Son our saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

