

# ST JAMES' Newsletter

St James' Blackburn  
C of E Primary School  
Earl Street, Blackburn  
BB1 8EG

01254 698335

Date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024



*Doug Stitches*

Mr D Stitches, Headteacher

## Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you all had a lovely half-term break. This is another fairly short half-term, with only six weeks (and we've just finished the first of those!).

This week, the children had a visit from Team GB Paralympian, Stuart Robinson who came for a visit on Tuesday and inspired everyone in the school!

We'd also like to give you advance warning of the annual World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March! Whilst we will be celebrating with costumes (details to follow), we are fully aware of the pressures on all families at the moment, so we will be encouraging you to be creative rather than going out and

spending money on expensive costumes... I've got an idea for my costume that won't cost a penny, but it does rely on my creative skills being up to scratch!

We also sold over £700 worth of books in our book fair so thank you to everyone who came along. The more money we raise, the more books Scholastic will donate to school, so we are really pleased with the turn-out!

Hopefully, the weather will improve as we head into spring!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Stitches



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

**Headteacher:** Mr D Stitches BA (Hons), PGCE (Dist.), NPQH  
**Deputy Headteacher:** Ms V. Moore BEd (Hons), NPQH  
**Email:** [office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto:office@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk)

**“Children who attend 100% are 5 times more likely to work at, or above, the expected standard”.**

## **ATTENDANCE/ PUNCTUALITY**

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time for registration.

The school gates are open from 8.30am till 8.40am. All children should be in class by 8.40am.

Arriving to school on time is important for your child so they don't miss important introductions to the lesson. Please make sure every effort is made to ensure that your child/ren arrive on time.

Any absences from school must be reported on the school spider app or the school answerphone each day of your child's absence .

## **EXTENDED LEAVE**

Please refer to our Discretionary Leave Policy (available on the website) for further information and clarity around taking your child out of school during term time. Please be aware that parents who take their child/ren away in school time may be issued with a penalty notice, or may be removed from the school roll. All planned and unplanned leave must be discussed in advance, with Mrs Rehman.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Routine health appointments are better made out of school hours or during holidays. We are aware that this is not always possible, and request for appointments to be made at time where there is minimal disruption to your child's learning. The school office should be notified as soon as possible of appointments, and shown appointment letters, cards or text messages.





## SPRING TERM DATES:

7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

17<sup>th</sup> March -St Patrick's Day

21<sup>st</sup> March – World Poetry Day



Contact the school office  
**immediately** to inform us of **any**  
changes to your **contact details** or  
**childs medical details**



Moved address?  
New email address?  
Have a new mobile phone?



# AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

All After School Clubs are back  
on from next week.



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## Online Safety – Poster Winners

Well done to the winning Online Safety Posters. These posters will be displayed in school.

During Online Safety Day, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, the children had the opportunity to discuss what online safety means and how they could change it for the better.

If you have any questions about online safety, please speak to your class teacher.

See below some useful websites for guidance surrounding online safety:

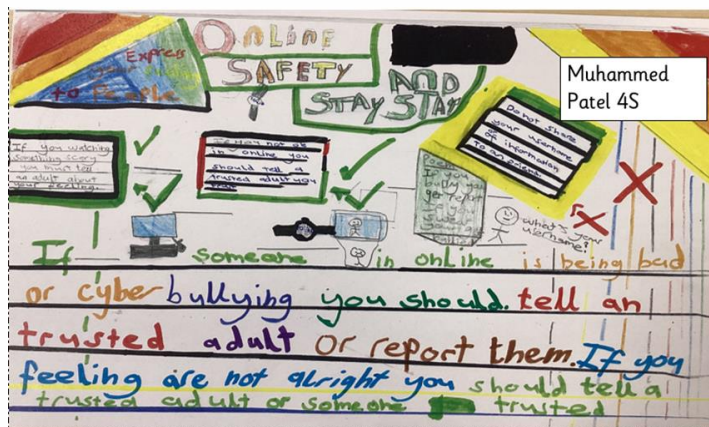
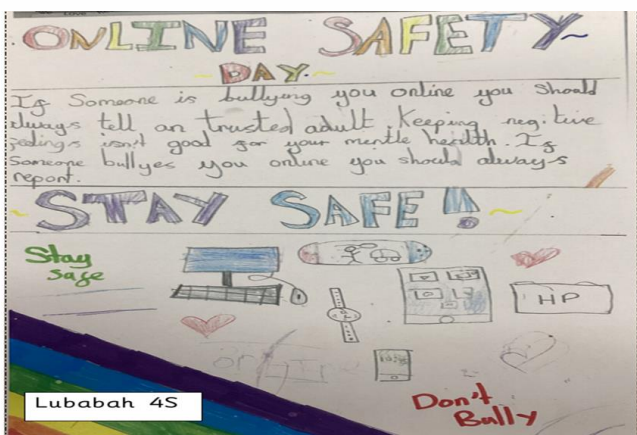
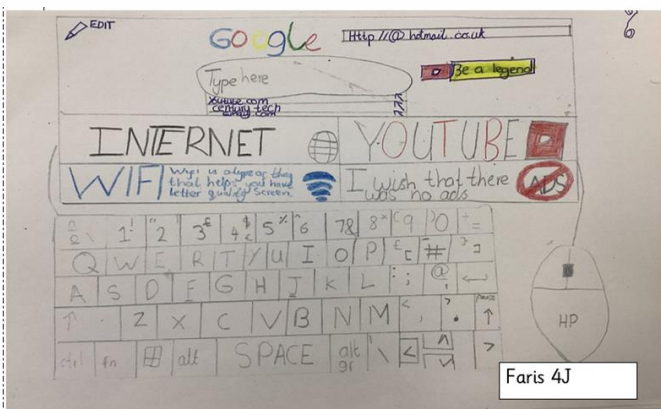
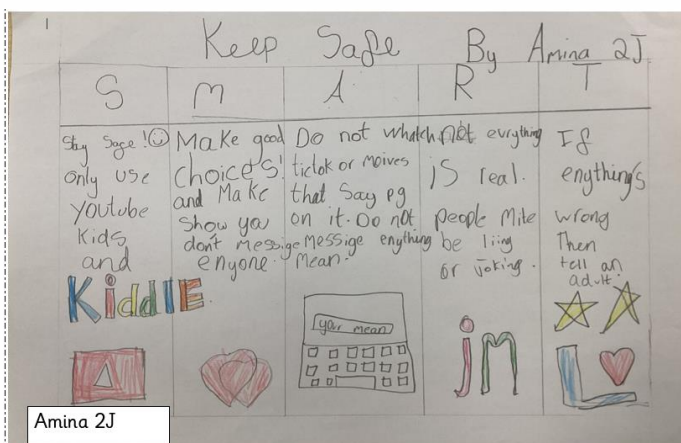
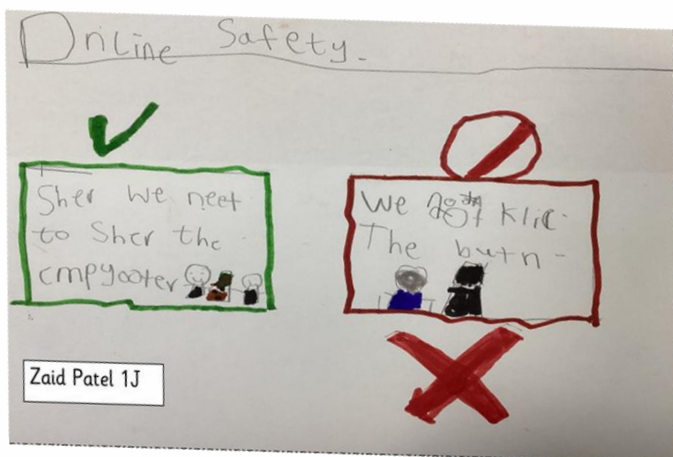
Useful websites

- [https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk/buildyourlegend/](https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/buildyourlegend/)
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/>
- <https://www.childnet.com/>



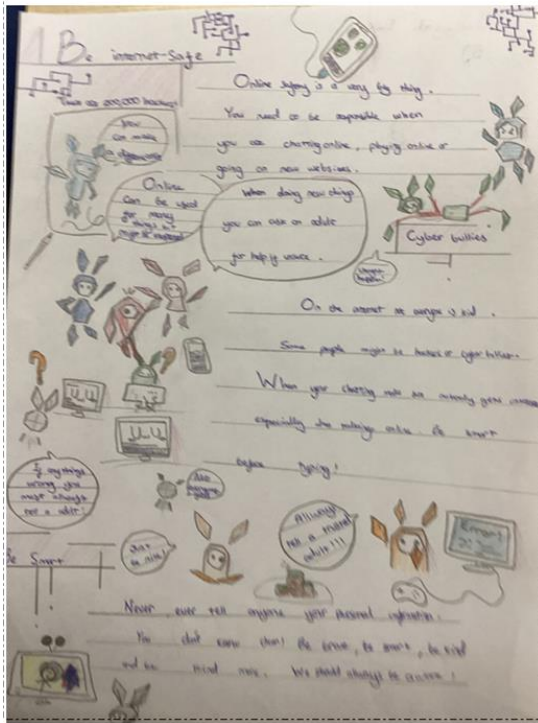
# Online Safety

## Poster Winners





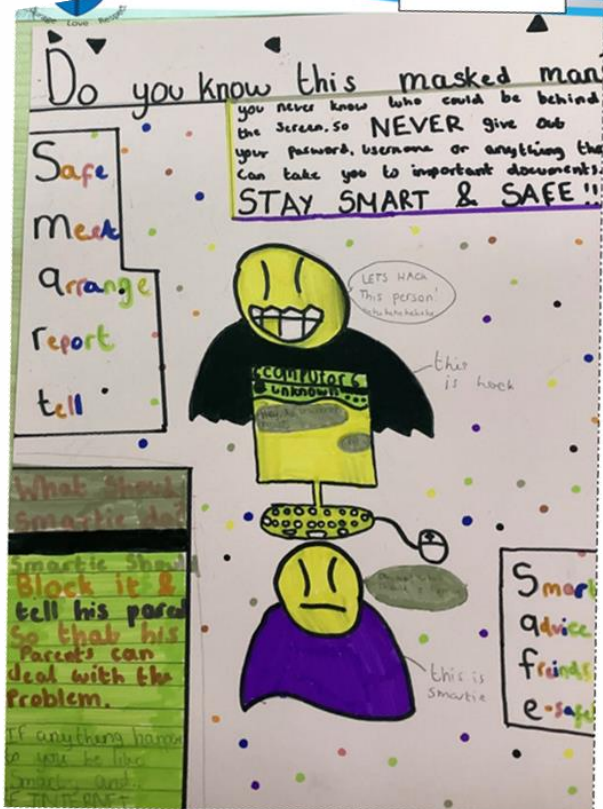
Safiyyah 5J



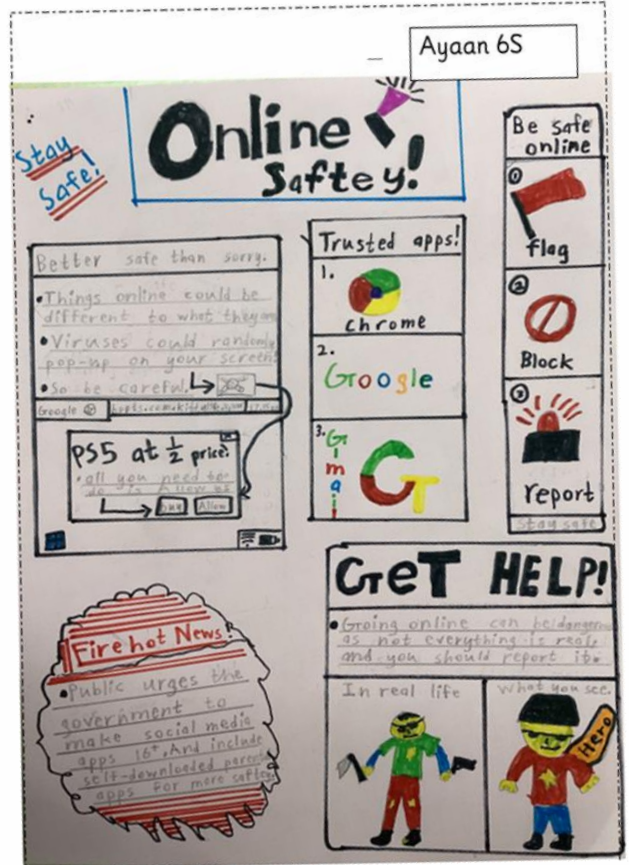
# Online Safety

## Poster Winners

Humaira 6J



Ayaan 6S



## NEW DESIGN of 'LOCAL OFFER' goes live on 1st February 2024

The Local Offer is an online resource that details information about the support, services and guidance available in Blackburn with Darwen for children and young people from birth to 25 years who have SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) and their families.

Home page: <https://www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk/kb5/blackburn/directory/home.page>

The directory has information about education, employment, health and care services, leisure and support groups all in one place.

It has links to information inside and outside of Blackburn with Darwen. For example this could be information on a neighbouring local college and national societies that you may wish to use. This is known as the 'Local Offer'

The NEW design has been co-produced with local children, young people, parent / carers, Parents in Partnership (PIP) Parent/ Carer Forum and 'Friends of the Local Offer Group'.

There is also a new children and young people's zone 'SEND STATION' a dedicated area designed by children and young people for children and young people which will continue to grow and be developed with them, for them. SEND station for YP: <https://www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk/kb5/blackburn/directory/sendstation.page>



# attendance ~~MATTERS~~



CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS 2S WHO ARE THE ATTENDANCE WINNERS FOR LAST WEEK!

WHO WILL BE THE WINNERS NEXT WEEK?

|               |    |       |   |
|---------------|----|-------|---|
| 95% and above | RS | 92.3% |   |
|               | RJ | 89.0% |   |
|               | 1S | 93.8% |   |
|               | 1J | 92.0% |   |
| 90% - 94.9%   | 2S | 98.7% | 1 |
|               | 2J | 93.7% |   |
|               | 3S | 94.0% |   |
|               | 3J | 93.9% |   |
|               | 4S | 93.7% |   |
|               | 4J | 89.3% |   |
| Below 90%     | 5S | 91.5% |   |
|               | 5J | 94.1% |   |
|               | 6S | 94.8% | 2 |
|               | 6J | 92.0% |   |

If your child is absent due to illness, the office must be informed before 08:35 on that day.



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# WHOLE SCHOOL *updates*



## *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 |                       | Ahmed C & Aaima A & Zohan A & Muhammed Azaan |                            |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| RS                   | Ajwa F & Juwairiyah P | RJ   | Adrian C & Zoya Q          |
| 1S                   | Hamza F & Kulsum L    | 1J   | Hajrah A & Aasiya C        |
| 2S                   | Fatimah R & Aamina M  | 2J   | Ayesha P & Mohammed Eisa A |
| 3S                   | Asra F & Saba I       | 3J   | Rehan RA & Ulfah R         |
| 4S                   | Karim A & Aaqib P     | 4J   | Fatimah R & Norhan A       |
| 5S                   | Muhammad P & Aamina H | 5J   | Sana J & Iman M.           |
| 6S                   | Adam N & Faizan M     | 6J   | Daniyal J & Zahrah K       |



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# YEAR GROUP *updates*

## Forest Pre-School & Nursery

This week we have been reading and acting out the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children have been using this book to develop their character expression. The children have loved stamping their feet pretending to be the giant "Fe-Fi-Fo-Fum".

## Action

- Please ask your child what Jack stole from the Giants castle. Can they remember the three different things?

## Reception

The children have started our new Spring topic this week, learning all about the different animals which will be born during the month of Spring. We have found a caterpillar in the discovery area and the children are excited to care for it! In maths we are focusing on one less and our teen number recognition. We have been doing so well with our sentence writing, all about spring animals and frogs.

## Action

- "Please send wellies into school if you can. Children should be wearing black school shoes daily, except Friday for PE. "



# YEAR GROUP *updates*



## Year 1

"Be active! Stay Strong! Welcome back to school! We hope you have had lovely break! This we have had an Olympic Rugby player come into school and talk to the children about the importance of exercise and staying healthy. Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me... Can you guess the story we have been reading this week? Ask your child to discuss their favourite part of the story. We have started to look for signs of Spring and explored the different parts of a plant. What plants can they find around your house? Take some pictures and bring them in."

## Action

- "Please continue to practice their spelling and sign their reading planner once they have read their book. 1S have been given their lines to practice for their Parent Worship, please take some time to rehearse with them. Encourage them to expression!"

## Year 2

We've had a wonderful first week back in Year 2! The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading our new fictional text, 'Traction Man' and have shown resilience at solving multiplication and division word problems. We have also enjoyed observing the changes taking place with our bean plants and can't wait to see our cress seeds germinate.

## Action

- Please remember to wear the correct footwear for P.E. and continue listening to your child read at least 3 x a week.





# YEAR GROUP *updates*



## Year 3

What an exciting start to the half term we have had! The children worked really hard to complete their sponsored activities with Stuart Robinson on Tuesday and we are really proud of them all. We are enjoying reading *Cliffhanger* by Jacqueline Wilson in English, and have started to work on fractions in maths. In science we began our unit on forces and magnets, and the children are looking forward to creating their final pieces of work in art (Lowry style) and DT (using pneumatics).

## Action

- Please read at home with your child. It will help them if you can also ask them questions about their book to see what they have understood. Please send your child in PE kit with trainers on Wednesdays and alternate Mondays. If you have sponsor money, please send it into school in an envelope asap. Thank you.

## Year 4

Year 4 have had a brilliant first week back. In Maths we have started to look at fractions and in English we are looking at 'The Dancing Bear.' We completed a toothpaste experiment in science which the children really enjoyed.

## Action

- Please make sure reading diaries are being signed and children are reading regularly.



# YEAR GROUP *updates*



## Year 5

"In English, Year 5 are now reading a fictitious book 'Beowulf' and is about a brave warrior who goes on a terrifying quest to destroy Grendel, the foul fiend, a hideous sea-hag and a monstrous fire-dragon. They will then start to write a diary entry accounting from a warriors point of view, based on the events from the book. In Maths, Year 5 have established a further understanding of fractions and how to multiply a fraction from an amount. This learning is built upon in the next steps of their learning, when they multiply non-unit fractions and mixed numbers."

## Action

"Please continue reading with your child and ask relevant questions to help them improve their vocabulary and their comprehension skills. Also, please could you support your child to complete their assignments on Century Tech."

## Year 6

Year 6 have been working amazingly hard this week. We have started looking at a new book called Tom's Midnight Garden in English and we are still working on Fractions, decimals and percentages in Maths.

## Action

- Please can you keep encouraging your child to complete all their homework in books and online. Thank you!



# 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



## After School Clubs

- **Monday**  
Y4 Multiplication Club  
Year 6 SATs Booster Club
- **Tuesday**  
- Year 1/2 STEM Multi-skills club  
- Year 1 Phonics club  
- Year 5/6 Girls' Football Club
- **Thursday**  
KS2 tag Rugby  
KS1 Well Being Club

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.

