



## *Message from the Headteacher*

**Dear Families,**

**As we approach the end of this term and the Christmas holiday, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful achievements and events we have enjoyed as a school community over the past month.**

**It has been a truly special time with our pupils displaying their talents and enthusiasm in the Christmas Carol Service and Nativities. The performances were "outstanding", and it was heart-warming to see so many children participating with such JOY and Christmas spirit.**

**A huge thank you to our staff for their hard work in organising the event, and to all the parents and carers who supported their children's preparations. A massive thank you to the members of St James' Church, especially Janet Hartley for supporting our children with their many rehearsals and to Lisa Fenton our Diocesan adviser for a fun filled worship with the children making human friendship chains. She has even bigger plans for us next year!**

**In addition to our festive activities, this term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities. I am proud of the progress our pupils have made, whether it's in the classroom, or in the wider school community. The kindness shown by our children continue to impress and inspire.**

**I would like to extend my thanks to all our dedicated staff who work tirelessly to support every child, ensuring that they are challenged, encouraged, and cared for in equal measure. Your commitment to our pupils is invaluable. Whilst we are sad that Mrs Whiteside is retiring from her post as Teaching Assistant, one that she has held for 19 years, we are very grateful for her service and dedication to our school.**

**Mrs Hargreaves, our Assistant Headteacher, and Mrs Gregory, our Deputy Headteacher, have been studying for the last year and have both gained their NPQSL qualification. Their dedication and commitment to the teaching profession is wonderful and their leadership work at St James' is a huge strength to our school. They champion the staff and children to be the best that they can be. I am proud to work with them on our Vision for St James'.**

**As we take a well-deserved break over the holidays, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the festive season bring you peace, joy, and quality time spent with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year for another exciting term ahead!**

*Mrs Dugdale*

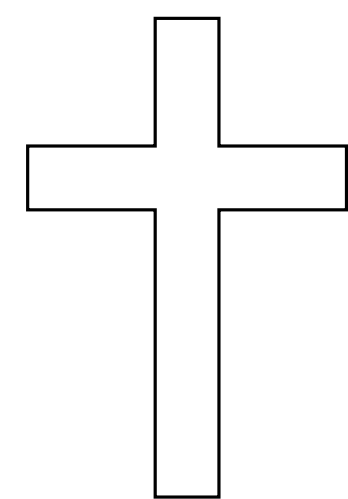


## Worship

This year in collective worship, we are learning all about God's Big Story. Each week we are going to be introduced to a theme and a guest storyteller from Blackburn Diocese of Education.

Next month we will be learning all about:

- **Flight to Egypt**
- **A Heart Poured Out**
- **God Sends Fire**
- **The Marvellous Picnic**



## Class Worship

**We have scheduled our class worships for the upcoming school year, which will be held at St James' Church, Briercliffe. Families are welcome to join the congregation. Please see below for the date/time of your child's class.**

**Rowan Class - Tuesday 28th January @ 2.30pm**

**Hazel Class - Tuesday 11th February @ 2.30pm**

**Willow Class - Tuesday 11th March @ 2.30pm**

**Beech Class - Tuesday 1st April @ 2.30pm**

**Elm Class - Tuesday 20th May @ 2.30pm**

**Ash Class - Tuesday 1st July @ 2.30pm**





## Sporting Events

**We have been blown away by the amazing effort, commitment and joy that all the children who have represented St James' have shown over the past few weeks.**

**Children have been involved in so many different sporting activities. We continue to be proud of our football teams who play week in and week out and never stop working and supporting each other. The Year 6 girls had their first few matches and did brilliantly (we won 8 - 0 in one of our games and are now through to the Quarter Finals which will be played after February half term).**

**We also took part in the Santa Dash around Queen's Park which was quite chilly but the Christmas jumpers definitely kept the children warm!**

**There will be more sporting events next half term - as we start athletics and dance.**





## EYFS Nativity Worship

**Well done to our EYFS children for an amazing performance of Whoops-A-Daisy Angel. We are so proud of your confidence, your hard work and patience. You made everyone smile with your singing and story telling. Well done!**





## Year 1/2 Nativity Worship

**We are delighted with how well our production of Mary's Knitting went. We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents for your support and help with costumes. A big thank you to all the staff for your hard work and making it a production to remember, and most importantly our amazing children. Your acting, singing and dancing was out of this world. You should be very proud of yourselves.**





## Special Visitor

**On the last week of term we had a very special visitor in school! Every class got to meet Father Christmas and Mrs Clause, and they also received a gift. Later that day, the children enjoyed a Christmas lunch together, as well as a disco!**



## Carol Singing

**On Monday 16th December, the School Choir went up to Oaklands Nursing Home to sing for the residents. The children had a lovely time, and the residents enjoyed the performance.**





## *KS2 Carol Service*

**On the last week of term we held two fantastic Carol Services at St James' Church. Well done to all of the children and staff involved in creating such a magical experience for us all. The acting, reading and singing were truly amazing and reflected the hard work that goes on in our school. A HUGE 'Thank you' is extended to St James' Lanehead Church parishioners for accommodating us, not only for the actual services but for the rehearsals that were held. I am sure everybody who attended will agree that, yet again, our wonderful children have made us proud.**



## *PE and Forest School Timetable*

### **PE Timetable**

**Ash Class - Thursday**

**Elm Class - Wednesday & Friday**

**Beech Class - Tuesday**

**Willow Class - Tuesday**

**Hazel Class - Tuesday & Thursday**

**Rowan Class - Friday**

**Sycamore Class - Thursday & Friday**

**Hawthorn Class - Monday & Wednesday**

**Oak Class - Monday & Wednesday**

### **Forest School Timetable**

**Beech - Monday**

**Rowan - Tuesday**

**Willow - Wednesday**





## KS2 glow Dodgeball

**KS2 had a brilliant morning playing Glow Dodgeball. Thank you BSSP (Burnley School Sports Partnership) for coming in and leading the session. The children loved playing, and particularly enjoyed the music!**



## School Lottery

The School Lottery is a brilliant resource for parents to sign up to that provides funds for the PTFA, and you can also win prizes weekly!

Please sign up to the lottery and help our school.

<http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/>







## Circus Skills Workshop

Elm, Beech and Willow Classes took part in a Circus Skills Workshop this term. The children had great fun learning how to juggle with scarves and beanbags, spin plates, roll the flower sticks, dance the diablo and balance peacock feathers on various body parts. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and feel ready to join the circus!





## Upcoming Events

*Monday 6th January*

School re-opens to pupils



*Thursday 16th January*

Oak Class Trip - Knowsley Safari Park



*Friday 24th January*

Beech Class Family Friday - 2.30pm

*Tuesday 28th January*

Rowan Class Worship at St James Church - 2.30pm

*Friday 7th February*

Sycamore Class Family Friday - 2.30pm



*Tuesday 11th February*

Hazel Class Worship at St James Church - 2.30pm

*Friday 14th February*

School closes for Half Term at 3.30pm



## *Term Dates 2024/2025*

**Please see below our Term Dates for the 2024/2025  
Academic Year.**



### School Term & Holiday Patterns 2024-25

#### Autumn Term 2024

INSET (Closed to pupils)	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024
Re-open to pupils	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
Mid Term Closure	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October (inclusive)
INSET (Closed to pupils)	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Re-open to Pupils	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Closure after school	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm
INSET (Closed to pupils)	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

#### Spring Term 2025

Re-open to pupils	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Mid Term Closure	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025 (inclusive)
Closure after school	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 1.30pm

#### Summer Term 2025

INSET (Closed to pupils)	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025
Re-open to pupils	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025
May Day Closure	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Mid Term Closure	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 (inclusive)
INSET (Closed to pupils)	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
Re-open to pupils	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
Closure after school	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July at 1.30pm



## *Term Dates 2025/2026*

**Please see below our Term Dates for the 2025/2026  
Academic Year.**



### School Term & Holiday Patterns 2025-26

#### Autumn Term 2025

Re-open to pupils	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025
Mid Term Closure	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025 (inclusive)
Re-open to Pupils	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Closure after school	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 1.30pm

#### Spring Term 2026

Re-open to pupils	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 (inclusive)
Re-open to Pupils	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026
Closure after school	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at 1.30pm

#### Summer Term 2026

Re-open to pupils	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
May Day Closure	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Mid Term Closure	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 (inclusive)
Re-open to pupils	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Closure after school	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July at 1.30pm