



School Prayer This Week

Dear God, thank you for the talents you have given us. Give us the strength to work with perseverance, knowing that our efforts are valued. Help us to always choose to do what is right. Amen.



Important Updates

- There is a lot of donated uniform in the school entrance which is free for anyone to take. Also, we have a large pile of lost property. Please come and look if your child has lost anything.
- **School Swimming** starts **Mon 1ST June 2026** for Years **1, 2, 6**. Please don't forget to send them in their PE kits on swimming days. Also swimming costume/shorts, large towel and non-slip shoes e.g., crocs or sliders
- **School Uniform** – Please can all children wear their full uniform and make sure they are wearing school shoes **NOT** trainers unless it is PE. Ties, Book Bags & PE tops can be bought from the school office; Ties are £4.00 KS1 & £5.00 KS2; Book bags are £3.50; PE tops are £10.00 each (limited sizes available) t-shirts and long-sleeved quarter zips can also be purchased via our online supplier [here](#)
- Reminder school trip payments are due and can be paid for via the school gateway appt, in the payments section.

PTA

Positive comment from our parent governor: "As a parent, I truly believe being part of the PTA is a wonderful way to support our children and school community. By working together with teachers and other parents, we can help make a real difference through fundraising, organising events, and creating extra opportunities for all the children. It's also a great opportunity to meet teachers, build relationships, and get to know the school better while feeling more connected to your child's learning environment. Every idea, bit of support, and helping hand matters, and we would love more parents to get involved and be part of the positive changes we can make together. If you are interested in joining the PTA, please inform the office"

School Attendance and Punctuality

Reception	95.0%	Year 1	96.0%	Year 2	95.0%
Year 3	96.3%	Year 4	95.4%	Year 5	99.2%
	Year 6	97.4%	Overall total	96.3%	

This week's winners – Attendance – Year 5, Punctuality – Year 1

This half term winners – Attendance - Year 6, Punctuality - Reception

Diary

Fri 22 nd May	School Closes half term
Mon 1 st June	School reopens
Mon 1 st June	Reception Smithills
Mon 1 st June	School Swimming
Tues 2 nd June	YR 3 & YR 4 Cuerden Valley Park
Fri 12 th June	Non uniform day for all – Bring in some Chocolate – NO NUTS!
Tues 9 th June	Rock Kidz Day
Friday 26 th June	YR 6 To London
Tues 7 th July	KS2 To Bowley

PALS PowerUp

PowerUp after school activity club has been running for five weeks. Children have really enjoyed the activities. Please see attached poster for more information.

EYFS New Parents Meeting

We are having a EYFS parents evening for the new starters on Wednesday 10th June 2026, starting at 5:30pm. An email has been sent out to all new parents.

EID Adha Mubarak

Hope all our families who are celebrating EID al-Adha have an amazing time with family and friends and for completing your pilgrimage.

Accelerated Reader Programme

Well done to our Accelerated Readers Champions this half term. Amazing Reading!

As part of our Accelerated Reader Programme, we are introducing new certificates and badges.

1 million Words – Book, certificate and badge.



800,000+ Words – **Diamond** Badge + certificate



600,000+ Words – **Ruby** Badge + certificate



400,000+ Words – **Emerald** Badge + certificate.



200,000+ Words – **Sapphire** Badge + Certificate.

100,000+ Words - **Yellow** Badge + Certificate.

These will be given to children as they reach their next milestone.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Worth Applying Even If You Are Not Sure

Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility is changing from **September 2026**

Many families are entitled to Free School Meals and don't realise it?

Applying is quick, confidential, and could save your family money while supporting your child and our school.

Why should I apply?

- Your child gets a free, healthy school meal every day
- You could save money on food costs
- The school may receive extra funding to support children's learning
- Applying will not affect your other benefits
- Your application is private

How To Apply - It Takes Just A few Minutes

- Go to our council website and search "Free School Meals" or scan the QR Code
- Complete the online form (you'll need your National Insurance number)
- Wait for confirmation – the school will be informed automatically

Scan me



Trust

Respect

Ambition

Collaboration

Kindness



Our Children's
Services are...





We accept childcare
vouchers and Tax Free
Childcare!

PALS Active Club is Opening at ST MARY & ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

Times:

3:25pm - 4:00pm

3:25pm - 4:25pm

3:25pm - 5:00pm

INCLUDES SNACK



Prices:

3:25pm - 4:00pm £4.00

3:25pm - 4:25pm £6.00

3:25pm - 5:00pm £7.00

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: FUN MULTI-SPORTS ACTIVITIES, LEGO WORKSHOPS, CRAZY STEM ACTIVITIES, ERUPTING VOLCANOES, ARTS AND CRAFTS, BAKING, PLUS MUCH MORE!

COMPETITION worth £100!

Register your child's details below and we will pick one lucky winner to receive £100 worth of PALS vouchers.

How to book;

Click or scan here

Click or visit;

<https://pals.ipalbookings.com>



Need help with your booking or have a question? Please contact us;



support@playandlearnscheme.com



07930 924993



**Please drive carefully
and be extra mindful of
all our children and
families that are
crossing the road**

Please also be considerate of
our neighbours when parking
your car to drop off or collect
your child from school



EVERY DAY COUNTS

School and Future **success**
starts with good **attendance**.



DAILY LATENESS EQUATES
TO...

**5 MINUTES
LATE
=
3 DAYS
LOST**

**10
MINUTES
LATE
=
6 DAYS
LOST**

**15
MINUTES
LATE
=
9 DAYS
LOST**

100%
Perfect

**Our target for all
students**

97%
Impressive

6 DAYS ABSENCE
36 hours of learning lost

95%
Concerning

10 DAYS ABSENCE
60 hours of learning lost

90%
Seriously
worrying

19 DAYS ABSENCE
114 hours of learning lost

Your education is important – DON'T MISS OUT!

A friendly group for SEND families!

BwD SEND family support

Kids can be themselves, make friends and have fun!

For parents a chance to relax, have a brew and meet like-minded SEND families – who just get it!



Special SEND events throughout the year!



Easter Hunts



Halloween
Disco



Meet Santa



Princesses &
Superheroes



Please take a look at our Facebook page and group
"BwD SEND family support" for more information!



Sparkle & Play the SEND Princess Way

Come and meet a real life Princess in a SEND friendly environment!

Where there will also be sensory craft stations ,
paint your own under the ocean sea shell,
decorate your own cupcakes and even an
under the sea style photo backdrop to
capture all those magical memories.



**SENSORY
CRAFT STATIONS**



**DECORATE YOUR
OWN CUPCAKES**



**UNDER THE SEA
PHOTO BACKDROP**



**At the Ivy Street
Community Centre**



**4th July
2-4pm**



**£10
per child**

This is a booking event only – to book please either
message the BwD SEND family support Facebook page 
or email us on bwdsenfamily@yahoo.com 

THE DAD CHAT CAFÉ



POWERED BY
**HOME
START**
Blackburn and
Darwen

Coffee, Conversation, and Community

Join us for a Dads Drop-In Coffee Morning!

A relaxed space for dads to sip coffee, share stories about kids, babies, and life, and connect with others in a safe, supportive environment.

 **When:** Last Friday of the month
at 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

 **Where:** Caffee Impresso
58-62 King William St, BB1 7DP

Come for the coffee, stay for the connection!

No RSVP needed – just drop in

 **Sam Barrett, 07968 071119**

Hosted by Dad Matters powered by Home Start

Our services

Advice and guidance

autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance

Autism Services Directory

A searchable directory of national and local services, support groups and resources. autism.org.uk/autism-services-directory

Online Community

Autistic adults and families can connect, share experiences and find support. autism.org.uk/community

Branches

Our volunteer-led branches across the UK offer support, information and social activities for autistic children, adults and their families. autism.org.uk/branches

Parent to Parent

Emotional support from trained volunteers who have lived experience of supporting an autistic child. autism.org.uk/parent-to-parent

Get support

Find trusted information, practical tools and support: autism.org.uk

Training: autism.org.uk/training

Newsletters: autism.org.uk/what-we-do/newsletter-form



The National Autistic Society is a charity registered in England and Wales (269425) and in Scotland (SC039427) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (No.1205296), registered office Weston House, 42 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3NH.



Autism support

Autism information and services
for autistic people and families



Advice and guidance

What is autism?

Autism influences how people experience and interact with the world. It is a lifelong neurodivergence and disability. Autistic people are different from each other. But, for a diagnosis, they must share differences from non-autistic people in how they think, feel and communicate.

Being autistic means you may feel things and react to them differently to non-autistic people. You may find socialising confusing or tiring, and you may become overwhelmed in loud or busy places. You may have intense interests, prefer order and routine, and use repeated movements or actions to calm yourself or express joy. You might mask your discomfort to fit in, which can lead to mental illness.

How many autistic people are there?

More than one in 100 people are autistic. In the UK, this means at least 700,000 autistic adults and children. This includes some people without a formal diagnosis, as many face barriers to assessment, particularly people from marginalised groups.



The greatest discomfort for autistic people can be the social one. For me, I was confused by the way people behaved.



Chris Packham CBE,
National Autistic Society Ambassador

The spectrum

Autism is understood as a spectrum, but it's not a straight line from 'less' to 'more' autistic. Each autistic person has a unique combination of characteristics, strengths and challenges. A person's characteristics can vary over time, in different situations, or if they are masking. It's important not to make assumptions about an individual's abilities or support needs.

Autism is not a learning disability or a mental health condition. But around a third of autistic people also have a learning disability, and autistic people are more likely to experience mental health problems.



To find out more visit:
autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance

Understanding autism and diagnosis

Understanding autism

Our understanding of autism continues to develop. Most autistic people see being autistic as central to who they are. They may need support, but often the challenges they face come from barriers in society, not from being autistic.

Medical texts often describe autism differently to how autistic people describe it, and sometimes use language that many autistic people and others find inaccurate and offensive. Everyone's brain is different. So a neurodiversity approach views autism as a natural variation in people.

Core characteristics needed for diagnosis

To receive an autism diagnosis, a specialist team must agree that a person shows lifelong differences compared to non-autistic people in:

Communication

Autistic people may use and understand words, tone of voice and body language differently. Some use little or no speech and may communicate through writing, sign language, gesture, sounds, or Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

Behaviours and interests

Autistic people may have focused and dedicated interests, repeated movements and behaviour (known as stimming) and a preference for order, predictability or routine.

Sensory processing

Autistic people can be much more or less sensitive to sound, light, touch, taste or smell, and to body movements and internal sensations. Their experience and reactions may be different to other people's, and this can vary depending on the environment and situation.

Before diagnosis

We provide clear, practical information and resources, including:

- Signs that a child or adult may be autistic
- Deciding whether to seek an autism assessment
- How to request an autism assessment
- How to bring up that you think someone may be autistic.



To find out more visit:
autism.org.uk/diagnosis-advice

Let's Play!

@ Shadsworth Hub

Rothesay Road, Blackburn BB1 2ES

FREE

Fridays
9.30-10.30am

Join us with your babies and toddlers (0-5 years)

Starting Friday 15th May 2026

socialise!



have a brew!

play!

chat!

