



St Aidan's

Church of England Primary Academy



'I came that they may have life and live it to the full' John 10.10

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Harrison

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Hargreaves

Newsletter 1

Friday 4th September 2026

Autumn Term 1

Message from Mrs Harrison

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and managed to enjoy a well-deserved break. It has been a joy to open our doors again this week, and I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new Reception class and the youngest members of our school, who have joined us and settled in beautifully. We are also absolutely delighted to see new faces and welcome new families across most of our classes this week into our school family.

This Autumn term promises to be a busy one, so please do keep a close eye on upcoming diary dates. To start the year off together, we are holding a special back-to-school worship this Sunday at Church at 11am, and I very much hope to see lots of our children and families attend.

We also have our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings taking place next week, so please keep an eye open for further details on those. As always, my door is open, and our staff are out on the yard every day, so please just ask if you are unsure about anything at all regarding the year ahead.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Harrison



Allergies

Following the introduction of the new 'Benedict's Law' for schools, we are strengthening our allergy safety measures to protect children who are at risk of severe allergic reactions.

We kindly ask that you remain highly allergy aware and strictly avoid sending any nuts, peanut butter, or nut-based products in your child's lunchboxes or for breaktime snacks. Your vigilance and cooperation are absolutely vital in helping us keep everyone safe at school. Our updated policy can be found on our school website.

Thank you.

Phone free school.

In line with updated Department for Education guidance and section 36 of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, we are reinforcing our phone-free school policy to ensure a safe, focused learning environment for all pupils. While mobile phones and smart devices remain prohibited for pupils during the school day—including breaktimes, lunchtimes, and trips—we recognise that some Key Stage 2 children bring a device for safety when travelling to and from school



independently. Any child bringing a phone must have an authorised permission form on file. Phones must be switched off prior to entering school grounds and will be collected by staff every morning to be kept in a secure, locked location until home time. Please note that if a pupil breaches this policy, the device will be confiscated and stored in the school office safe, where it must be collected in person by a parent or carer at the

end of the day. Please see our updated policy on the school website.

After school enrichment clubs.

Following your helpful feedback last year, we are delighted to be revamping our after-school provision so we can offer a wider variety of clubs to even more of our children. To make registration as fair and simple as possible, you will now be able to sign up via a quick Google Form. To help us sustainably run these wonderful extra-curricular opportunities, all clubs will now be charged at a nominal £1 per week to cover staffing costs and will run for 6 weeks each half term. Please note that this must be paid in advance to secure your child's



place and is non-refundable. Keep your eyes peeled—our exciting clubs menu for the year will be coming your way very soon!

School Admissions

School admissions for both primary and secondary places are now open for the upcoming academic year. Please note that the application deadline for secondary school places is **Saturday, October 31, 2026**, while the deadline for primary school applications is **Friday, January 15, 2027**. Please refer to the posters around the school for further details, and do not hesitate to contact the school office if you require any assistance or support with your application.



**SECONDARY
SCHOOL
ADMISSION
2027**

APPLICATIONS OPEN !

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**
HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE
www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions

- Email: Admissions@blackburn.gov.uk
- Call: 01254 666605 (Option 1)

APPLY NOW!



Deadline for submitting an on time application is 31 October 2026

The poster features the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council logo at the top right. It includes two circular images: one showing two female students in school uniforms and another showing three male students in school uniforms. The background is a mix of light blue and green with a pattern of small dots.



www.blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions

**PRIMARY
SCHOOL
ADMISSION
2027**

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN !

APPLY TODAY



FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Email: Admissions@blackburn.gov.uk
- Call: 01254 666605 (Option 1)

The poster features the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council logo at the top right. It includes three small images: a boy in a school uniform, a group of children in school uniforms, and a child painting. The background is a mix of yellow and green with a pattern of small dots.

Secondary School Open Events

School Admissions 2027/28

Please contact the individual schools direct for further information:

School	When	Contact Details
BLACKBURN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 17th September 2026 4:00pm - 7:15pm	Haslingden Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 505700 Website: www.bchs.co.uk
DARWEN ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY	Wednesday 30th September 2026 5:00pm - 8pm	Sudell Road, Darwen Tel: (01254) 819500 Website: www.daca.uk.com
DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 24th September 2026 5:00pm - 8:00pm	Blackburn Road, Darwen Tel: (01254) 223000 Website: www.darwenvale.com
OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL, VOLUNTARY ACADEMY	Wednesday 16th September 2026 4:00pm - 6:30pm	North Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 588388 Website: www.olsj.blackburn.sch.uk
PLECKGATE HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 10th September 2026 5:00pm - 8:00pm Saturday 19th September 2026 9:00am - 12:00noon	Pleckgate Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 249134 Website: www.pleckgatewebsite.co.uk
QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL	Whole School Open Morning Saturday 3rd October 2026 9:00am - 12:00pm	West Park Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 686300 Website: www.qegsblackburn.com
ST BEDES RC HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 1st October 2026 3:45pm - 7:00pm	Green Lane, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 202519 Website: www.stbedesblackburn.com
ST WILFRIDS CE ACADEMY	Wednesday 23rd September 2026 4:00pm	Duckworth Street, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 604000 Website: www.saintwilfrids.co.uk
TAUHEEDUL ISLAM BOYS HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 24th September 2026 3:30pm - 7:30pm	Sumner Street, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 918670 Website: www.tibhs.com
TAUHEEDUL ISLAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL	Thursday 1st October 2026 4:30pm – 7:00pm	Preston New Road, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 54021 Website: www.tighs.com
WITTON PARK ACADEMY	Wednesday 30th September 2026 3:00pm - 7:00pm	Buncer Lane, Blackburn Tel: (01254) 264551 Website: www.wittonpark.org.uk
DARWEN ALDRIDGE ENTERPRISE STUDIO SCHOOL	Thursday 24 th September 2026 6:00pm - 8:00pm Bookings can be made via the school website: www.daestudio.biz	19 Police Street, Darwen Tel: (01254) 819567 Website: www.daestudio.biz

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 6th September - Back to school worship at Church (11am)

Tuesday 8th September Meet the teacher meetings (Year 1 & 2)

Thursday 10th September Meet the teacher meetings (Year 3, 4, 5 & 6) Year 4 at 3:15pm

Thursday 10th September Head boy and Head Girl elections & Digital leader Elections - 2/class Year 1 to Year 6.

Monday 14th September Clubs start this week

Tuesday 6th October Pumpkin light service at church

Friday 9th October Mental Health Awareness Day - Hello Yellow

Monday 12th October Clubs end this week



Join Blackburn Children's University!

Children in **Years 1–6** can now sign up for **Blackburn Children's University** — a fun way to earn awards for learning beyond the school day! From school clubs to swimming, football, martial arts, museums and libraries — every hour counts toward exciting certificates and even a **cap-and-gown graduation** in July.



Passports are FREE (normally £5) — sign up by **Friday 2nd October** using:



<https://tinyurl.com/CUPassport26SA>. Remember if you have already signed your child up previously you do not need to do this again!

For questions, contact **Sara Burton**, CU Manager



s.burton@wensleyfold.blackburn.sch.uk |



07805929965

Meet the Teacher

We would like to invite parents and carers to our upcoming 'Meet the Teacher' sessions at St Aidan's. On Tuesday, 8th September 2026, sessions for Year 1 and Year 2 will run from 2:45pm to 3:15pm. On Thursday, 10th September 2026, sessions for Years 3, 5, and 6 will take place from 2:45pm to 3:15pm, while the Year 4 session will begin at 3:15pm. As an extra bonus, all parents who attend will be entered into a special prize draw. We look forward to seeing you there!



MEET THE TEACHER!

	TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2026 Year 1 & Year 2 2:45PM – 3:15PM	
	THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026 Year 3, 5 & 6 2:45PM – 3:15PM	 Year 4 3:15PM

 All parents that attend will be entered into a **PRIZE DRAW!** 

We look forward to seeing you! 

School Attendance

Please familiarise yourselves with our school attendance procedures.

At St Aidan's school attendance is very important to us, we expect every child to be an ATTENDANCE HERO;

H - Here

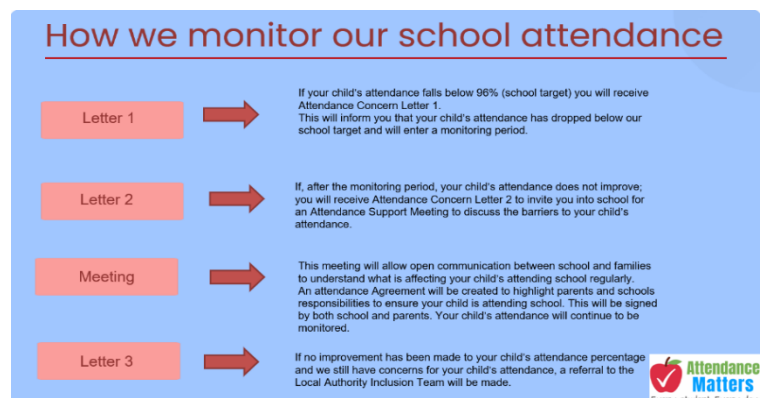
E - Everyday

R - Ready

O - On time

We celebrate our amazing school attendance weekly where there are awards to win.

Please support us with our school attendance by ensuring your child attends daily and on time





SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Every Minute Counts: Guide for Parents & Carers



The School Day

08:40 Gates Open

08:50 School Starts Gates Closed. Late Mark (L) via Office.

Late Policy

If your child arrives to school past 09:30 am they will receive an Unauthorised Absence mark (U Code) which affects their school attendance percentage

Late arrival affects your child's learning and disrupts the class start.

Reporting Absence

Child unwell? Contact us daily **before 8:30am**.

01254 53148
Call School Office

Safeguarding Policy: If we don't hear from you, we must contact you. No contact may result in a home visit.

Attendance Targets

School Target	96%+
Persistent Absence	< 90%
Severe Absence	< 50%

Appointments

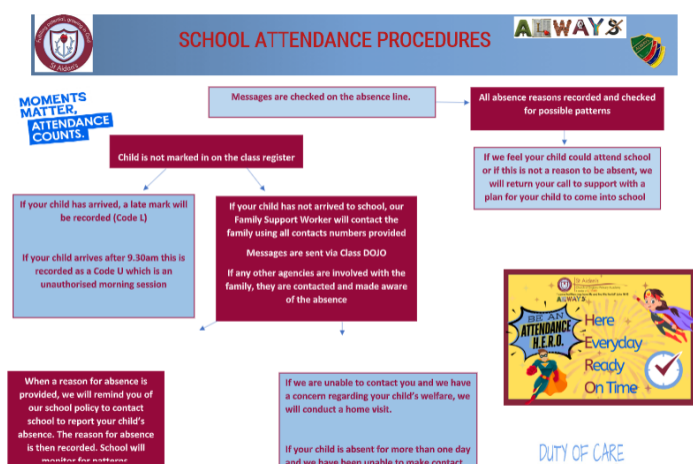
Appointments

Please book all appointments outside school hours. If unavoidable, please provide **evidence** (e.g., card/letter) is required to authorise absence.

Support

Need Help?

Worried about getting your child to school? Speak to our **Family Support Worker, Nadia**.



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICE

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

11AM - 12NOON

FOLLOWED BY CAKE
AND DRINKS



ST AIDAN'S CHURCH
MILL HILL.



WHAT WE DO
#BECOACHED
#ONAJOURNEY

0800 368 8045 | INFO@LITTLELIONS.CO.UK
WWW.LITTLELIONS.CO.UK

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME U4s - U6s SATURDAY(S) ACCINGTON BWD CHORLEY	3v3s LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE U5s - U7s MONDAY(S) BWD	DEV SQU
LIONS BIRTHDAY PARTY	HOLIDAY CLUBS BURNLEY CHORLEY OSWALDTWISTLE	

mind Lancashire

When someone important dies, everyone grieves differently.

Support through bereavement for parents and carers.
Across Blackburn with Darwen

You might become angry or anxious.

You might become quiet.

You might feel nothing at first.

You might find it difficult to talk about how you feel.



Join Hazel
Lancashire Mind

Free sessions for parents & carers

Little Harwood Family Hub
Every Tuesday 10:30-11:30am
Starting Tuesday 8th September
thewaveproject@lancashiremind.org.uk



Scan QR
for updates
via our
Facebook



Running until
Sept 30th



READ to the BEAT
Your paragraph test
Summer Reading Challenge 2026
Readbooks in Harry's Workshop 2026. Read to the Beat - The Reading Bee 2026

 **Have you claimed your certificate and prizes yet?**

 **Are you a SUPER reader who has earned their Special Achievement certificate?**



Visit your local Library for more details.

 **BwD Libraries**

FREE SCHOOL MEALS
Healthy food. Brighter futures.

If you receive certain benefits, your child could get **free school meals**.

It's quick and easy to apply and could also unlock extra support for your child and their school.



Good for children. Good for families. Good for schools.

 HEALTHY MEALS to fuel learning	 BETTER FOCUS in the classroom	 MORE SUPPORT for your child	 EXTRA FUNDING for your school
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Trust Respect Ambition Collaboration Kindness

 **BLACKBURN DARWEN**

 **Ofsted**
Good Provider

Our Children's Services are...

Proud to be Good

Norfolk Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn, BB2 4EW

Tel: 01254 53148 Email: staoffice@cidari.co.uk

