



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 2

Friday 18th September 2026



A greener smile: introducing our new beechwood toothbrushes

You may have noticed something a little different about the toothbrushes being provided through the **AP Smilestars Supervised Toothbrushing Programme** this year.

We've gone from plastic to beechwood! 🌳

Across Blackburn with Darwen, children taking part in the programme have started receiving our new **beechwood toothbrushes**.

Why have we made the change?

Looking after children's teeth is at the heart of everything we do, but we also want to think about the environmental impact of the products we use.

Traditional plastic toothbrushes are made using materials derived from fossil fuels and can remain in the environment for hundreds of years. Over time, plastic waste can break down into smaller pieces, including microplastics, contributing to wider plastic pollution.

Research looking at the environmental impact of different types of toothbrush has also highlighted the importance of considering the whole life cycle of the products we use – from the materials and manufacturing process through to transport and disposal.



So, why beechwood?

We have chosen **beechwood toothbrushes made using sustainably grown FSC Certified UK timber**, helping us reduce the distance that the brushes need to travel before reaching the children taking part in the programme.

The aim is simple: **to reduce unnecessary plastic while continuing to provide children with an effective toothbrush as part of their daily supervised toothbrushing routine.**

And the difference can really add up.



768kg less plastic

Over the next four years, we estimate that our move from plastic to beechwood toothbrushes will prevent **more than 768kg of plastic** from entering landfill.

That is roughly the weight of a **small car!**

It is a relatively small change to an everyday item, but across thousands of children and thousands of toothbrushes, those small changes can make a significant difference.

We're really proud that the AP Smilestars programme is not only helping children develop healthy brushing habits, but is also looking at how we can make the programme **more environmentally sustainable.**

Healthy teeth. Healthy habits. A healthier planet. 🌍🪥

100% Attendance Day

Be an attendance HERO! We are excited to announce that Thursday, 1st October will be a special '100% Attendance Day' where we will be celebrating every single child in school! To mark the occasion, we are holding a non-uniform day—children are welcome to come dressed as their favourite hero or simply in their own clothes. We are currently busy planning lots of other fantastic treats and activities throughout the day to make it extra special for everyone. Please save the date, and keep an eye out for more information to follow soon!





St Aidan's Primary School



BREAKFAST CLUB

FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

St Aidan's Primary School is proud to be part of the DFE's Free 'Best Start' Breakfast Club programme



**A FREE nutritious breakfast
for every child, every morning**

*Helping every child start the day
ready to learn!*



7.45am

**BREAKFAST CLUB
OPENS**

If you require wrap around care
before our free breakfast club opens
at 8:10am, simply arrive at 7:45am.



DAILY CHARGE

£1.00



8.10am

**UNTIL THE START
OF THE SCHOOL DAY**



**FREE
BREAKFAST CLUB**



Children from Reception
to Year 6 can access
Free Breakfast Club



To access Free Breakfast
Club please arrive from 8:10am.



NO BOOKING REQUIRED



GOOD FOOD, GREAT START, READY TO LEARN



Christmas Pantomime 2026 - Aladdin

We are excited for our upcoming trip to see the *Aladdin* Pantomime at the Blackburn Empire Theatre on **Monday 7th December 2026**.

- **Cost:** £7.00 per pupil
- **Payment Method:** SchoolMoney app
- **Payment Options:** Pay in full or spread the cost into weekly/monthly instalments
- **Deadline:** Friday 27th November 2026

A huge thank you to those who have already paid. Please ensure your balance is settled by **Friday 27th November**. To secure our group booking, we need all balances paid by this date. If too many payments are outstanding, we may unfortunately have to cancel the trip—something we really want to avoid!

Thank you for your support in making this festive tradition happen for the children!



Celebration Assembly



Every Thursday we will be having a celebration assembly. Your child's teacher will invite you to join us if your child is receiving an award



Secondary School Open Events

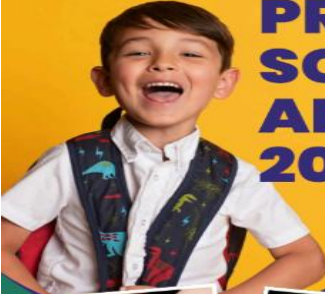
School Admissions 2027/28

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	Sudeill 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.olsi.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 24th 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

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)

Deadline for submitting an on time application is 15 January 2027

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

Dates for your



Thursday 1st October	100% Attendance Day
Tuesday 6th October	Pumpkin light service at Church
Friday 9th October	Mental Health Awareness day
Tuesday 20th October & Wednesday 21st October	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 22nd October	Close for half term

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

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

How we monitor our school attendance

Letter 1

If your child's attendance falls below 96% (school target) you will receive Attendance Concern Letter 1. This will inform you that your child's attendance has dropped below our school target and will enter a monitoring period.

Letter 2

If, after the monitoring period, your child's attendance does not improve, you will receive Attendance Concern Letter 2 to invite you into school for an Attendance Support Meeting to discuss the barriers to your child's attendance.

Meeting

This meeting will allow open communication between school and families to understand what is affecting your child's attending school regularly. An attendance Agreement will be created to highlight parents and schools responsibilities to ensure your child is attending school. This will be signed by both school and parents. Your child's attendance will continue to be monitored.

Letter 3

If no improvement has been made to your child's attendance percentage and we still have concerns for your child's attendance, a referral to the Local Authority Inclusion Team will be made.





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

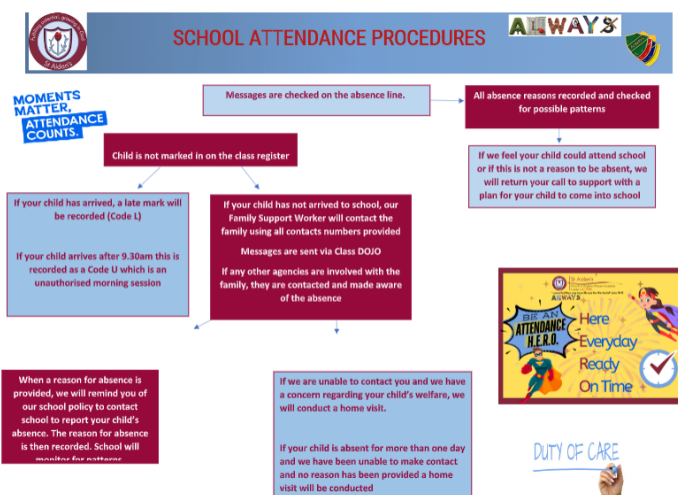
School Target	96%+
Persistent Absence	< 90%
Severe Absence	< 50%

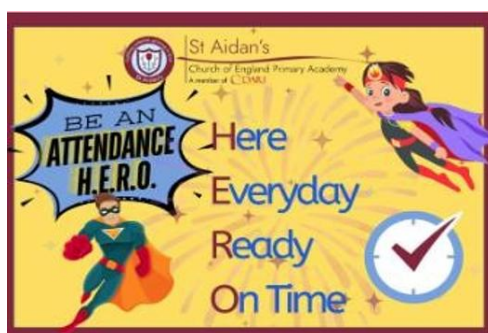
Appointments

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**





Overall School Attendance Target is 96% Actual Whole School Attendance is 94.5%

Well done to Year 1 who had the best attendance in the school this week!

Enjoy your extra playtime!

Weekly attendance

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
98.15%	100%	99.17%	96.88%	94.64%	99.42%	96%

House Statistics

ALWAYS following the school rights this week.



HODDER	CALDER	BLAKEWATER	RIBBLE
100%	100%	100%	100%

Congratulations

Well done to the following children for being chosen to receive an award:



CLASS	STARS OF THE WEEK (17.09.26)	VALUES IN PRACTICE AWARDS WINNERS - V.I.P'S (17.09.26)
Y1 (Miss Kay)	Usman	Maja
Y2 (Mrs Hargreaves & Miss Aspin)	Odea	Lexi
Y3 (Mr Eccles)	Ella	Emilia
Y4 (Miss Bateson)	Theo	Arya
Y5 (Mrs Moss)	Leo	Connie
Y6 (Miss Cornall)	Skyla	Hammad

**Running until
Sept 30th**

READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading Challenge 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

Norfolk Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn, BB2 4EW

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

