



# St Aidan's

Church of England Primary Academy  
A member of **CDARI**

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



**Friday 13th December 2024**

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Harrison

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Hargreaves

Dear parents and carers,

As we enter the third week of Advent on Sunday, the candle of Joy is lit, reminding us of the nearness of Christ's arrival. We will share this joy with our children next week through our Christmas craft afternoon, parties and carols at the Church next Friday 20th December.

Mrs Harrison

## **School Closing Time for Christmas**

School closes for the Christmas break on **Friday 20th December at 1.15pm.**

We will return for Spring Term on **Monday 6th January at 8.40am,**

**Breakfast Club will start at 7:45am.**



## **Outward Bound Residential Trip**

**TWO** places have become available on the Outward Bound residential trip in April 2025. The cost of the trip is £190 with a deposit of £40.00 needed to secure the place. The balance will then need to be paid by the end of January.

If your child is interested, this will be on a first come first served basis and you will need to contact the school office to book the place.





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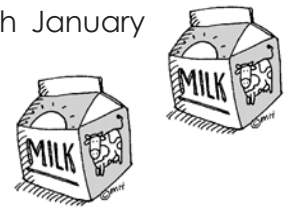


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## School Milk

If you have ordered milk for your child for the Spring term and your child is NOT entitled to free school meals which entitles them to free milk, please can we remind you that the payment of £4.00 must be paid via Teachers2Parents before Monday 6th January 2025.



## Y6 Visit from Boohoo

A big shout out to Miss Cornall and Mrs Rey. Such positive feedback from Sophie at Boohoo following her visit to year 6 on Thursday morning.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of heading to St. Aiden's Primary School in Blackburn to deliver our 'All About Boohoo' Careers Workshop. This one hour sessions is all about inspiring the next generation.... YOUR future workforce to understand all the job opportunities available to them.

At the start of the session, I had a room of footballers, doctors, nurses and a baker. By the end of the session, I had engineers, designers and HR managers among a whole host of others. Helping these students to know their key strength which in turn will allow them to use transferable skills in a number of different job roles is key to being a great employee of the future.

Whether you are a striker on a football team, or an engineer in our **Boohoo Group PLC** warehouse, we need to be a good communicator, team player, hard worker and be accountable for your decisions. 🌟



## Talk and Tales

Talk and Tales has now finished for this term. We will invite parents/carers back into years 1 and 2 in January.



## Snowball Disco

The disco's were a great success as always. Everyone had so much fun! We raised £123.45 for school funds, thank you to you all.





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## Dates for the Diary

### Wednesday 18th December

Christmas Crafts 1.30pm-2.50pm

### Thursday 19th December

Christmas parties

### Friday 20th December

Christmas Carols in Church  
Selection Box Raffle

**School Closes 1.15pm**

### Monday 6th January

School reopens

## Admission to Reception Class 2025

The online admission form for admission to Reception Class in September 2025 is accessible using the following link:

<https://blackburn.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Parents/appsummary.aspx>

If you have a child due to start primary school next September (born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021), please ensure you complete the online admission form. The closing dates is:-

**Primary School – 15th January 2025**

It is extremely important that the deadline is met as it can affect your chance of being offered your first choice school.

## Christmas Parties

The children will be having their Christmas parties on Thursday 19th December and this will be a non-uniform day for our pupils. Please ensure sensible footwear is worn, suitable for indoors and outdoors. Cardigans/jumpers will be needed throughout the day.



Norfolk Street, Mill Hill, Blackburn BB2 4EW  
Tel: 01254 53148

[www.staidansblackburn.co.uk](http://www.staidansblackburn.co.uk)



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## Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all who donated to Save the Children for Christmas Jumper day. We had a wonderful time yesterday wearing our Christmas jumpers and eating the fantastic Christmas lunch made by our super kitchen staff. The total raised for Save the Children was £79.75.



## Infant Nativity

What a wonderful nativity performance from all of our fantastic infants on Wednesday. Two performances in one day! Thank you to all parents/carers who came to watch. We raised £91.00 from the raffle which will go to our school funds.

## Selection Box Raffle

We are having a selection box raffle on Friday 20th December. We are raising money for school funds. The raffle tickets are on sale for **20p per ticket or £1.00 a strip**.



## Christmas Craft Afternoon

Parents/carers are invited to take part in our Christmas Craft afternoon on Wednesday 18th December at 1.30pm-2.50pm. This is a great opportunity to work alongside your child or within a small group and take part in our Christmas craft activities.



There will be tea/coffee/biscuits available in the hall until school finishes. Children will not be released early to go home.

Due to health and safety reasons, we cannot accommodate siblings and we can only offer each child **one** parent/carer place. The cost of this is just £1.00 and is payable at the office as you arrive and sign in.



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## Head lice

These cause much frustration amongst parents. Every school in the country has to constantly contend with this menace. **To try and control the spread of head lice our policy is to contact parents of children who are seen to have head lice so that they can be collected, treated and returned to school. In most cases a child can return to school the same day.**

**Please remember, if head lice are found then it is important to check every family member in the household and to check again a week later.**

Please note that **we will authorise a maximum of half a day's absence for head lice to be treated.** Thank you for your support in this.

## FOUR STEPS TO LICE-FREE LIFE:



### 1: INSPECT

If you suspect head lice, check



### 2: TREAT

Use lice treatment product as directed.



### 3: REMOVE

lice/nits by combing the hair with the comb provided.



### 4: CLEAN

home and personal items.

**Please can we ask that children with long hair try and keep it tied up tight, either in a ponytail or plait to try and prevent Head lice.**

## SEND Newsletter

Please click on the link below to view the BwD SEND festive newsletter for parents/carers of children with SEND in Blackburn with Darwen:



BwD-SEND-Newsletter-to-parents-December-2024.pdf



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### Top Tips for Healthy Holiday Smiles

The festive season is full of treats, but we want to make sure those sweet smiles stay shining bright all through the holidays! Here's how you can keep your child's teeth healthy and strong.



#### 1. No More Than 3 Sugar Hits a Day!

Limit sugary treats like sweets, chocolates and biscuits to mealtimes- breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Remember, every time your child eats sugary foods, it's like a little sugar rush for those teeth!

#### 2. Snack Smarter – Go for Healthy Alternatives!

Keep those teeth strong with healthy snacks like carrots, apples, and cheese!  
Keep sugar at bay and enjoy the season's fresh fruits and veggies.



#### 3. Brush Twice a Day – Morning & Night!

Brush your teeth twice a day - before bed and one other time. Brush for two minutes with fluoride toothpaste.

#### 4. Spit, Don't Rinse!

After brushing, make sure your child spits out the toothpaste but doesn't rinse their mouth.

This allows the fluoride to keep working on those teeth!



#### Bonus Tips for Holiday Fun & Healthy Smiles!



**Drink Water:** Keep hydrated with water (especially after sugary treats) to help wash away any leftover sugar.

**Set a Timer for Brushing:** Use a fun festive song or timer to make brushing last for 2 minutes.

### Enjoy the Holidays, and Keep Smiling!

A little extra care during the holidays means big smiles for years to come. Remember, good habits start early, so let's make those teeth sparkle brighter than the festive lights!



For more information about how to keep your child's teeth healthy this Christmas click [here](#) or scan the QR code.





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## **HAF Winter 2024**

The Holidays Activities and Food (HAF) programme is a scheme funded by the Government and delivered by local councils, providing healthy food and fun activities to children and young people, with free places available for those on free school meals.

Sessions will include a variety of fun activities, including sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills like meeting new friends, alongside a nutritious meal each day.

For information on how you and your family can get involved this winter, or to book your place please visit <https://www.getstuckin.org.uk/> or call the booking team on 07879 774978 (Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm)

There is a code required when making your booking. This code has been sent out separately to the families eligible for the free activities/meal.

**GETstuckIN Winter**

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**FREE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS & VULNERABLE FAMILIES INCLUDING SEND**



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## Attendance Matters

Attendance is **NOT** optional

There is an expectation that children are in school **EVERY** day



Overall School Attendance Target is **96%**

Actual Whole School Attendance this week is **88%**



Well done to **Year 3** who had the best attendance in school last week!

Enjoy your extra playtime!



### Weekly Attendance

| REC    | Y1     | Y2     | Y3     | Y4     | Y5     | Y6     |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 97.89% | 94.55% | 97.12% | 98.06% | 96.55% | 95.98% | 95.99% |

### Weekly Lates

| REC | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 4   | 2  | 4  | 4  | 6  | 3  | 10 |





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## LET'S GET TALKING

### TAKEHOME 16th - 22nd December



### In the news this week

It is thought the number of cards sent this festive period will be lower than in previous years, as stamp prices have increased. The price of a first-class stamp rose by 30p in October, to £1.65. This rise (the fifth increase in less than three years) has also led to fears that the money reaching charities through card sales will be lower this year.

#### Things to talk about at home ...

- > Share your experience of giving and receiving cards and ask someone at home about theirs.
- > Fewer cards are being sent each year; talk about why you think this is the case.
- > What other ways can you think of to show loved ones that you care and are thinking of them?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)



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### House Statistics

ALWAYS following the school rights this week



| HODDER | CALDER | BLAKEWATER | RIBBLE |
|--------|--------|------------|--------|
| 100%   | 100%   | 96%        | 98%    |



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## **Congratulations**

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



|  | <b>Stars of the week</b> | <b>Value's in Practice award winners (V.I.Ps)</b> |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Reception</b><br><b>(Miss Keegan)</b> | The whole class          | Carson  |
| <b>Year 1</b><br><b>(Miss Rigby)</b>     | The whole class          | Lola  |
| <b>Year 2</b><br><b>(Miss Brindle)</b>   | The whole class          | JJ  |
| <b>Year 3</b><br><b>(Miss Kay)</b>       | Huzaifa & Diana          | Oliver  |
| <b>Year 4</b><br><b>(Mr Eccles)</b>      | Mason & Eamrey           | Achillea  |
| <b>Year 5</b><br><b>(Mrs Moss)</b>       | Lacey & Sophie           | Alfie   |
| <b>Year 6</b><br><b>(Miss Cornall)</b>   | Rafal & Covenant         | Leah  |

Kind Regards,

*K. Harrison*

Mrs. K Harrison

Headteacher