St. Stephen's Tockholes CE Primary School

Newsletter—February 2026

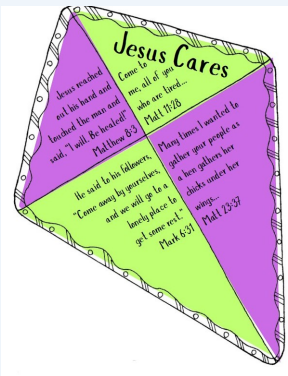
Welcome to the start of Lent! At school, we're marking this season in a way that feels positive, age-friendly, and full of opportunities for our children to shine. Lent isn't just about giving something up—it's about growing in kindness, taking care of each other, and noticing the little things that make our days brighter.

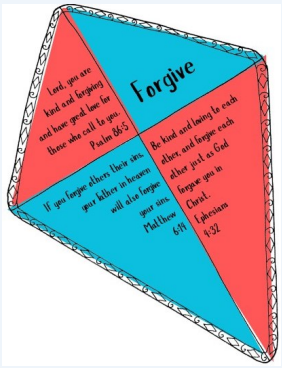
Over the next few weeks, we will continue to use resources from Blackburn Diocese to explore simple, meaningful ways to show kindness to those around us. From helping a friend, to using encouraging words, to doing small good deeds that make a big difference, we'll be encouraging children to think about how they can make our school community an even happier place.

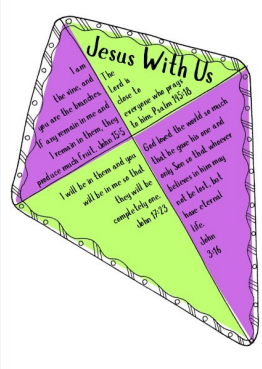
As we approach Easter, we'll be thinking with the children about the life of Jesus—His love for others, the joy He brought through kindness and compassion, the suffering He experienced, and the good news He asked His followers to share.

God loved the world so much that he gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.

John 3:16





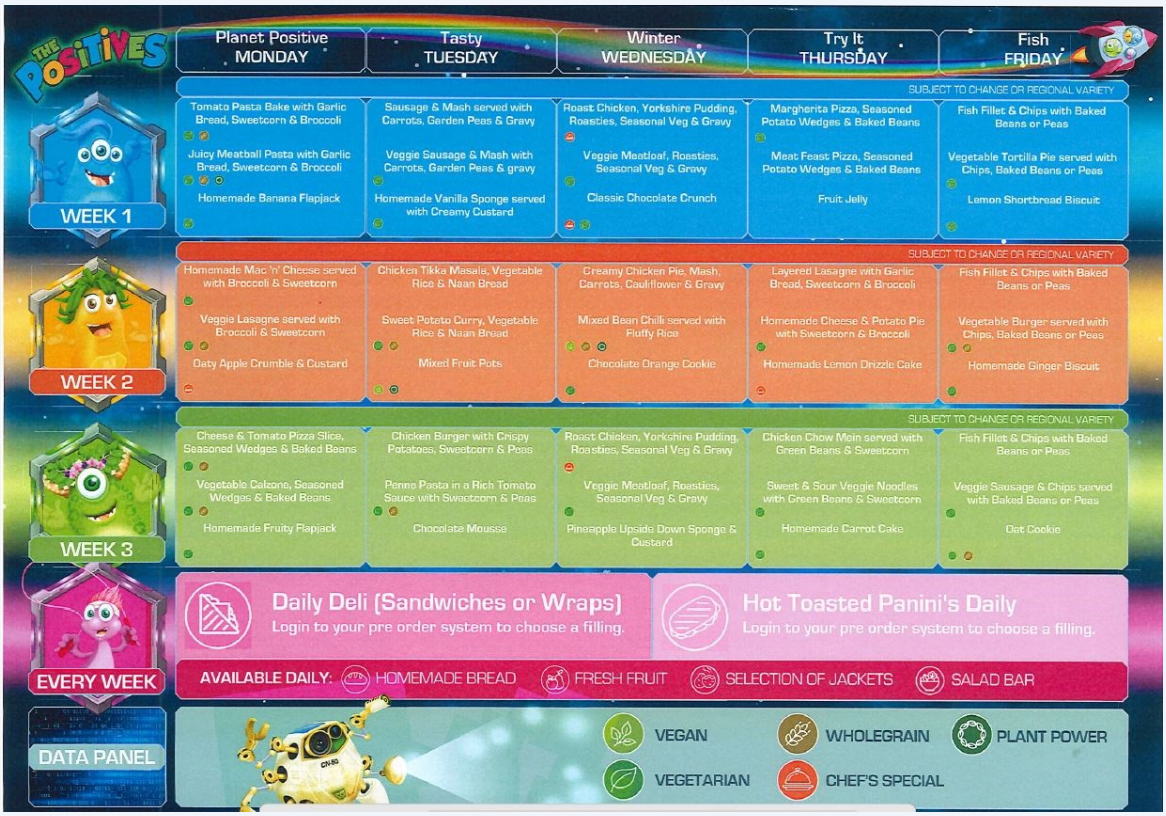


Miss Ross and all the staff at Tockholes

Upcoming changes to School Meals and Infants Milk

School Meals

Over the next few weeks information will be coming out regarding changes to our school meals provider. We are moving away from Dolce and moving to Midshire Signature Services. There will be some slight changes to the ordering process and once this information has been received Mrs Riding will share the details with you all. Below is a sample menu, which does look really good so we hope that the children will enjoy.



School Milk

Details about the upcoming changes were sent out to families before half term. Information for registering your child for school milk has been sent home with the children this week. Should you wish for your child to have milk then please complete the registration process ASAP. You will need to register no later than 6th April to ensure that your child receives milk when we return to school in April. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Riding.

Vegetable Planting

Our Eco-Council are pleased with how last months seedlings have come along. We have also now planted our chive and strawberry seeds. We also have a range of potatoes 'chitting' on the windowsill ready to be planted. Our parsnips have finally been harvested and we were amazed how many were produced. Unfortunately Miss Ross didn't read the instructions on how best to store them and washed them. By the time we came to cook them they had turned quite rubbery. We know next time—leave them in their dirt until ready to use!

Smarties Challenge

Thank you for your support with the 'Smarties' challenge. We raised £98 to add to the school fund to buy resources or 'special events' in school.

School Council

Our first 'Break the Rules' day was a resounding success. Thanks for supporting this event, it raised £106. We're looking forward to more ideas from the School Council to help raise funds.

School Uniform

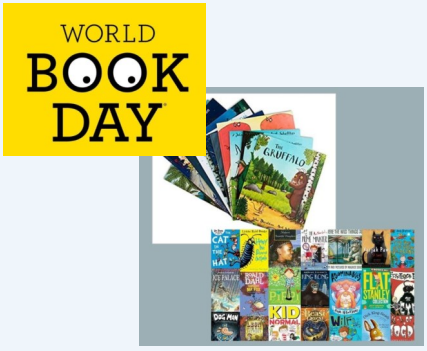
A few of the children are still attempting to 'Break the Rules' though! Please can we remind you that the children should be wearing grey/black /white socks or grey/white tights and that footwear for both school and PE should be black only shoes or trainers. (All black leather trainers ONLY are permitted as part of the uniform– these must not have additional colours in them). Children should also have removed nail varnish after the half term holidays and returned to plain gold or silver stud earrings.

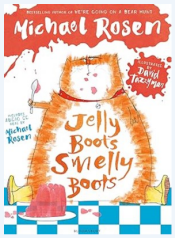
Drinks (WATER) Bottles

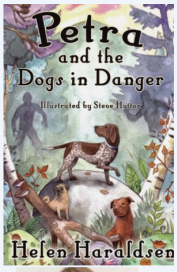
All children should bring a drinks bottle to school each day which should only be filled with water—NO Juice! We are unable to provide cups for the children but if they bring a bottle filled with water this then stays in the classroom with them and is accessible when needed. Please ensure your child's bottle has their name on it and is clearly identifiable to them as we do have several identical looking bottles in school. Children are able to fill up bottles from our water dispenser at set times during the day if needed.

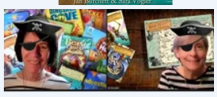
World Book Day

World Book Day will take place on the 4th March (a day early at Tockholes due to PE on Thursday 5th March). We are inviting children to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book or film. Costumes can be as simple or as creative as you like—there is absolutely no expectation to buy anything new. We encourage families to use items they already have at home, borrow from friends, or put together homemade outfits to help keep costs to a minimum.
To help with this we've attached a list of ideas to help including characters that wear their own clothes, pyjamas or certain colours.
We have a variety of author events happening, starting this Friday.
KS2—a webinar with author Iqbal Hussain.
LKS2—a webinar with author Helen Haraldsden
KS2—a Michael Rosen webinar
KS1—a webinar with Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler.
We look forward to celebrating a love of stories together!









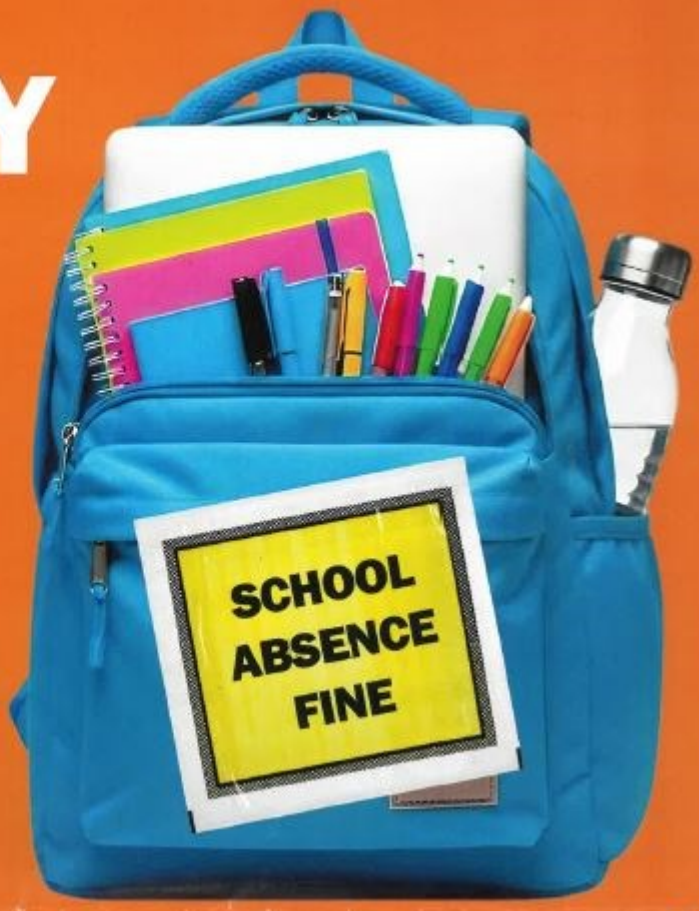
Easter Service

We hope that you will all be able to join us for our Easter Service at 2:00pm on Friday 27th March at St. Stephen's Church. Following the service school will break up for the Easter holidays. School will re-open on Tuesday 14th April.

After School Clubs

Just a reminder that there will be no after school clubs during the last week of term, W/C 23rd March. Children will need to be collected at the normal time of 3:15pm.

PENALTY NOTICE FINES



If your child misses school without authorisation you may be issued a fine

FIRST OFFENCE

If a parent receives a penalty notice for a child, they will need to pay **£160 (within 28 days)**. However, the fee is reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days of the notice.

SECOND OFFENCE

If a parent receives a second penalty notice for the same child within three years, it will cost a flat fee of **£160 if paid within 28 days**. There's no option to pay a lower amount.

THIRD/ FURTHER OFFENCES

A parent cannot get a third penalty notice for the same child within three years of the first one. If the parent reaches the limit again within those three years, other actions will be taken instead, like **legal steps or other attendance interventions**.

For further information please visit our website by scanning the QR code or email **education.welfare@blackburn.gov.uk**

Scan me

BLACKBURN with DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Diary dates—Spring term 2026

Wednesday 4th March—World Book Day

Tuesday 17th March—Parents Evening

Thursday 19th March —KS1 Everybody Dance Royal Ballet and Opera Event

Friday 27th March—2:00pm Easter service in Church—all welcome

Term Dates

Friday 27th March 2026 School closes for Easter

Tuesday 14th April 2026 School re-opens for start of Summer term

Monday 4th May 2026 Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd May 2026 School closes for half-term

Tuesday 2nd June 2026 School re-opens

Friday 17th July 2026 School closes for Summer holiday