



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
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27th June 2025

Newsletter

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.
1 Corinthians 9:24

Dear Parents and Carers

When people ask me if we are slowing down ready for the summer break, I smile. I always equate it to the traveller at the end of Gladiators, where there is still one almighty push left. In the last 3 and a bit weeks of our academic year there is lots going on - school visits, performances, sporting competitions, special worship and a whole lot more.

I was privileged to present to the BCP education conference this week, all about belonging at St. James'. Our wonderful Brooke read a poem written by Mrs Dodd, entitled 'Let the little children come' (it's on our social media pages in case you want to hear it?). We are proud of our culture of belonging and the family of St. James' really is much more than a word.

Worship

Last week I led worship about Eric Liddell, a remarkable human being, made famous from the film Chariots of Fire. Famously serving God by not running in the 100 metres on a Sunday, but instead running in the 400 metres. His life was one full of service, eventually dying in China where he turned down fortune and fame to serve God as a missionary. He famously gave his life in a prisoner of war camp, for another person. We were also joined by ex-pupil Andy Mitchell, who starred in Gladiators earlier this year, and shared pictures of a much younger Andrew at St. James' sports day.

This week, Malawi led our worship beautifully about their hope for the world and comparing our school today with how children were treated in Victorian times.



Summer Fayre

Our summer fayre is just around the corner on Saturday 5th July, 11am – 2pm. This is always a wonderful community celebration with food, drink, stalls, prizes and hopefully some sunshine. There is a flyer attached to this newsletter and we will give more information nearer to the date about donations. I know the PSA are always looking for volunteers, so if you can spare a few minutes to help out, we would welcome you gladly. We really need helpers and if you can spare some time, it would be greatly appreciated.



New Classes for 2025/26

This morning your child found out who their teacher will be for the next academic year and where their classroom will be. For some, it will mean a new door to enter school from and be dismissed at the end of the day from. If your child has any anxieties and we have not done so already, we can produce a booklet to help them with this transition.



Shorts and Trouser Plea!

If you have any spare good condition boys' shorts or trousers, please pop them into the office for us to use as spares! Thank you.

Reminders:



Relish

All parents must pre-order by midnight the day before - you can now pre-order for the whole of the summer term. All payments must be made through Arbor meal payments as usual



Attendance and Fines

Did you know that being registered late, also equates to absence? School starts at 8:30am, when learning begins in the classroom. The gates close at 8.40am. We also finish the school day at 3pm for Reception, Years, 1, 2, 3 and 4, and 3:10pm for years 5 and 6.

As a school, we are under increasing pressure to improve our attendance at St. James'. This year's attendance is 95% and Persistent Absentees at 12.9%. Whilst these are better figures than national average, we have a duty to improve children's attendance. The school is held to account by the local authority and directed to issue letters and fines. Whilst I will always prioritise positive relationships with families, sometimes we have little or no option than to issue a fine based on term time absences, such as holidays and lateness.



School Uniform

Thank you to those children who are always dressed so smartly in St. James' colours. We continue to look our smartest and we are taking pride in our appearance and our belonging to St. James'. Please try to ensure your child is dressed appropriately, following our uniform policy. Our uniform details are all on the website and children should be wearing their summer uniform now. Thank you for your support.



PE Days

All children must wear their school PE kit all day on their PE day. Your child's PE days will be:

Mondays - Harbour

Tuesdays - Early Years

Wednesdays - Year 1 and Year 4

Thursdays - Year 2 and Year 5

Fridays - Year 3 and Year 6



Key Dates

The calendar section on the website should give you major events throughout the academic year, but I will give concise reminders below:

Tuesday 1st July - Year 6 Leavers' Day - Christchurch Priory

Thursday 3rd July - Amazon Class Worship - 9am

Thursday 3rd July - EYFS Educational Visit to Longdown Dairy Farm

Friday 4th July - Year 3 Lulworth Cove Trip

Friday 4th July - National Dodgeball Finals - Stoke-on-Trent

Saturday 5th July - St. James' Summer Fayre - 11am - 2pm

***Tuesday 8th July** - St. James' Music Evening - 6pm - 7:30pm

Tuesday 8th July - Whole School Photograph - playground (**school uniform - no PE kit on this day please**)

Thursday 10th July - DCAT Enriched - Hurstpierpoint College

Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th July - Year 6 Production - Fairway to Chasos - tickets now available

Monday 21st July - Year 6 Academy Awards Evening

Tuesday 22nd July - Break up for Summer Holidays at 1:15pm

*amended date

Please check our website for your child's learning and important information on the year group pages. Also, the calendar section will give you important dates in advance. You can also see pictures and news on our social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram), follow us to find out more about the amazing things happening at St. James'.

As always, thank you all for your continued support.

Alastair Brown
Headteacher

Learning as a family in Jesus, through Love, Hope and Forgiveness. Matthew 19:26 "with God all things are possible."

'The school's values are firmly rooted in the Christian ethos of the school. Pupils know why learning through 'love, hope and forgiveness' matters. They make clear links with these values and the school rules to 'be ready, be respectful and be safe'. Leaders have high expectations for behaviour, and pupils live up to them. In lessons, pupils listen carefully and are keen to learn. As a result, they achieve well.' **Ofsted report, January 2023.**

'Every pupil and adult flourishes within the family at St. James'. SIAMS report June 2022.

ST. JAMES' SUMMER FAYRE

GAMES

FACE PAINTING

RAFFLE

BBQ

ARTS & CRAFTS

CHOCOLATE
TOMBOLA

ICE CREAM

STALLS

CAKES

BOUNCY CASTLE

BAR &
SOFT DRINKS

SATURDAY 5TH JULY
11AM - 2PM

£2
CHILDREN

£1
ADULTS



USE QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS
KIDS PRICE INCLUDES ARTS, CRAFTS & GAMES



ST. JAMES' C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY AND CHURCH SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 5th July 2025 11am - 2pm

Dear Parents/Carers

For those of you who have not attended our Summer Fayre before, this is a lovely joint community event where we can gather together to have fun, create memories, support local trades people and to raise money for the church and the school.

Although we have a few weeks to go, we have a lot of preparation to do beforehand to make this event fun and successful for everyone.

We need help manning stalls on the day - please let us know if you can spare some time to help so that everyone can also enjoy the fayre with their families. Team work is the way things happen!

We are asking for donations please if you can. The four dates leading up to the fayre are listed below. Please leave donations under the tree at the 8:30am drop off of specified dates.

Categories are:

Friday 13th June - Raffle and Tombola Gifts (new Homeware Gifts, Make-up, Toiletry items)

Thursday 19th June - Chocolate

Friday 27th June - Bottles (Lemonade, Coke, Pimms, Prosecco, Wine and Beer/Lager for the bar)

Friday 4th July - Toys, Games and Books (good second hand and new)

Morning of the Fayre - Plea for bakers to bring cakes for sale

If you miss a week, please bring previous week's donations on any other date.

If you have time on one of these mornings, please stay around to help put the donations into storage.

And don't forget to tell all your friends and neighbours about the fayre. See you there!

The PSA



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

Term Dates 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM

Inset Day	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Inset Day	Thursday 4 th September
Inset Day	Friday 5 th September
First Day	Monday 8 th September
Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
Last Day	Friday 19 th December (finish at 1.20pm)

SPRING TERM

Inset Day	Monday 5 th January 2026
First Day	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February
Last Day	Friday 27 th March (finish at 1.20pm)

SUMMER TERM

First Day	Monday 13 th April 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – 29 th May
Inset Day	Monday 1 st June 2026
Last Day	Wednesday 22 nd July (finish at 1.20pm)



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Term Dates 2026-2027

AUTUMN TERM

Inset Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Inset Day	Wednesday 2 nd September
First Day	Thursday 3 rd September
Half Term	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October
Last Day	Friday 18 th December (finish at 1.20pm)

SPRING TERM

Inset Day	Monday 4 th January 2027
First Day	Tuesday 5 th January
Half Term	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February
Last Day	Wednesday 24 th March (finish at 1.20pm)
Inset Day	Thursday 25 th March

SUMMER TERM

First Day	Monday 12 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 rd May
Half Term	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June
Inset Day	Monday 7 th June
Last Day	Wednesday 21 st July (finish at 1.20pm)