



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6DW
01202 426696
Email office@stjames.academy
26th September 2025

Newsletter

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10 v 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Autumn is here and the weather is definitely turning colder. Please make sure your child has a coat with their name clearly marked inside. For PE days, your child may want to wear their PE kit under a tracksuit. Please refer to the uniform section of our website for correct kit. Thank you.

Worship

I led worship about Difference this week, using Floella Benjamin's book 'Welcome to England' as a stimulus. I fondly remember her on television when I was growing up, and obviously never knew she was part of the Windrush generation, that helped this country from the end of the 2nd World War, until 1971. It is a fascinating story and one that reminds us to never judge a book by its cover when we treat others with respect.

Class worships are now on the public calendar, so that you can all have plenty of notice. It has been lovely to see a few of our parents at our whole school worship's on Mondays, you are more than welcome, just let the office know before hand, so that we have enough chairs.

Relish

On Thursday 2nd October it's Census Day. **All children can receive a free lunch!** So no need to bring a packed lunch. The number of pupils who receive a school meal on Census Day effects our school funding. Don't forget to pre-order by midnight the day before.



Harvest Festival on Thursday 2nd October

We are not dressing up this year for Harvest festival, but we are still going into church to celebrate. We have 2 services and parents and family are warmly invited. The Early Years and Key stage 1 Harvest festival starts at 9am, and the Key stage 2 service starts at 11am.

Safe Parking

We have had several complaints from neighbours about some of our community parking irresponsibly around our site. We repeatedly ask you to park responsibly and safely so that children are safe. It would be a real shame if we had to get the council traffic patrol back again to issue on the spot fines. Please can we all make an effort to be kind. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Parenting Course Starting Soon

Mrs Sparrow will be running a six week course here at St. James' starting on Thursday 9th October.

Details on a following leaflet, and sent on a separate email.

Reminders:



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 96.8% and Persistent Absentees at 11.5%. 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. Thank you for your support.



PE Days 2025/26

This year, your child's PE days will be:

Mondays - Harbour

Tuesdays - Year 5

Wednesdays - Year 3 and Year 4

Thursdays - Year 1 and Year 2

Fridays - Early Years 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:

Thursday 2nd October - Harvest Festival. 9am EYFS + KS1. 11am KS2. Parents warmly invited in church

Monday 13th October - Children's Individual Photographs - school uniform, **no PE kits please**

Thursday 16th October - Year 2 and 4 Survival Day!

Friday 24th October - Break up for Half Term (normal pick up time)

Monday 3rd November - Children return for the final half of Autumn Term

Wednesday 5th November - Year 4 Swimming Lessons begin

Saturday 8th November - School Open Morning 10am -12pm

Tuesday 18th November - School Nurse Drop-in Session - from 8:45am in church annexe (book with office)



Monday 24th November - Open Afternoon and Book Look - 3:20pm - 4:20pm
Tuesday 25th November - Bournemouth Schools Christmas Carol Concert - Pavilion
Wednesday 26th November - **Online** Parents' Evening - 4pm - 7pm
Thursday 27th November - **Online** Parents' Evening - 3.30pm - 6pm
Monday 8th December - Early Years Nativity - 2pm and 5pm performances in the hall
Tuesday 9th December - Year 1 Nativity - 2pm and 5pm performances in the hall
Wednesday 10th December - Year 2 Nativity - 2pm and 5pm performances in the hall
Monday 15th December - Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance - 1:40pm and 5pm in the hall
Tuesday 16th December - Year 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight - 6pm in church
Friday 19th December - Break up at 1:20pm for Christmas Holidays
Thursday 11th June 2026 - School's 170th Birthday
Friday 19th June 2026 - Sports Day at King's Park Stadium

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.**



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)



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

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)

Join us for The

GREAT BIG RELISH

PARTY

Let's celebrate together!

On Thursday 2nd October all children will receive a free lunch, no need to bring a packed lunch.

By taking a free meal, you will help the school to additional funding which is greatly needed.

Please view the menu via the Relish Parent Portal

Relish



Time Out For Parents The Primary Years

Sessions for anyone parenting children aged 5 - 11

Thursdays, 7.00 - 9.00pm
9th Oct -19th Nov (not in half-term)
St. James' CE Primary Academy, BH7 6DW
Course Cost: £10 (includes handbook)
Contact: Nikki Sparrow
nsparrow@stjames.academy
School Office: 01202 426696



Time Out For Parents The Primary Years

Positive Parenting Time Out for Parents courses from Care for the Family provide common sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship.

If you have children aged 5 – 11, then *Time Out for Parents – The Primary Years* is for you. Over six sessions, you'll increase your skills and confidence as a parent and discover practical tools to make your relationship with your child even better.

The sessions

- Session 1 What being a parent's really like
- Session 2 Children's needs
- Session 3 Feelings and listening
- Session 4 Boundaries and parenting styles
- Session 5 Keeping children safe
- Session 6 Building strong families



Care for the Family Garth House, Leon Avenue, Cardiff CF15 7RG
Tel: (029) 2081 0800, www.careforthefamily.org.uk

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SPARKLING SUPERHEROES LIGHT PARTY

CRAFTS GAMES DRINKS & SNACKS DANCING

**ST JAMES CHURCH
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER
AFTER SCHOOL - 3PM-5PM**

FREE EVENT - PLEASE BRING A GROWNUP!