



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
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BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6DW
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Email office@stjames.academy
12th September 2025

Newsletter

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10 v 13-16

Dear Parents and Carers

It is so lovely to be back. The school is meant to have children in it. I pondered this whilst attending school over the summer holidays to prepare for the upcoming academic year. It becomes a vibrant, happy place, filled with laughter and learning. The children have started the year beautifully, displaying wonderful learning behaviours following our Ready, Respectful and Safe behaviour code.

Worship

We started back this week with a reminder how special and unique we all are. I read '[You are special](#)' by [Max Lucado](#), where Punchinello learns the importance of trusting his maker, Eli. It is a reminder that we can check in with God at any time.

Reverend Rachel led our worship in church on Thursday morning. It is such a lovely thing to be part of St. James' church, as one big family.

If any parent wants to come and join our Monday worship at 9am in the hall, you are more than welcome. Just let the office know so that we can sign you in and out of school. We will put chairs out just in case. It would be lovely to see some of you there, and you can see and hear what the children do.

Parent Information Meetings

On Monday, 15th September at 3:20pm, we are having our annual parent information/meet the teacher meetings. We are just having one this year, so I apologise in advance to those of you with siblings.

As always, all of our presentations will be available on the Year group page of the school website.

Please note these are for parents of Years 1,2,3,5 and 6 only. Year 4 are trialling a parent information video for you, which will be available online. Year 4 parents are welcome to come in and see the classrooms and the Year 4 Teachers, but there will be no in person presentation.

Safe Parking

Please, please park responsibly. We have had a number of concerns from parents and photographic evidence of parents parking irresponsibly, putting our children's safety in danger. If there isn't a space near school, please park further down King's Park Drive and walk the extra distance. I know life has time pressures, but our children's safety is paramount. Thank you for your understanding and support in this.



Photography Competition

Thank you for all the wonderful entries we have had so far for our photographic competition, 'God's Wonderful World.' We have had some fantastic entries but if you have a photograph that you would like to enter, please send it to the office by the end of Thursday 18th September ready to be judged and for the calendar pictures to be selected.



Coats

Please ensure your child brings a **named** waterproof coat to school each day as we do go outside still in all weathers!



Relish

All parents must pre-order by midnight the day before. All payments must be made through Arbor meal payments as usual. You are able to view the new menu and order meals for the Autumn term.

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 95.2% and Persistent Absentees at 9.4%. 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. Reception children to start in winter 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

Free School Meals (FSM)

If you think your child is eligible for free school meals please contact the school for a form to complete. By completing the form we are able to check your eligibility with the local council, therefore if you are unsure please use this service to check.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190.00)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400.00 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- Younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- In full-time education

If you do not qualify for most benefits (also known as having 'no recourse to public funds'), your child may still be eligible for free school meals.

Infant Free School Meals in England

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in a [government-funded school](#) and in:

- Reception class
- Year 1
- Year 2

Tell your local authority if you also get any of the qualifying benefits. Your child's school can get extra funding if you do.

Source: www.gov.uk



Key Dates

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

- Monday 15th September** - Parent Information Evenings Years 1,2,3,5,6 - 3:20pm in classrooms
- Thursday 18th September** - Year 5 Greek Day
- Monday 22nd September** - Early Years New Parent's Coffee Morning Drop-in - 8:30am in church
- 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)

Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

Last year, in the month leading up to harvest we provided over 500 parcels, feeding over 800 local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Scan the QR code to donate to our Harvest crowdfunder.

Shopping list

Tinned fish

Sweetcom/carrots

Tinned meat

Biscuits

Savoury snacks e.g. crisps

UHT Milk

Peanut Butter

Pudding pots/Angel Delight

Tea

Chocolate

Bournemouth Foodbank
bournemouth.foodbank.org.uk

118 Haviland Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6HW

admin@bournemouth.foodbank.org.uk ☎ 01202 394505

Registered Charity Number 1143446





BCP Libraries Schools' Newsletter

September 2025



THE
READING
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

Thank you for all your support promoting this year's **Summer Reading Challenge**.

Over **4000** children across BCP have got involved this summer!

We're closing the challenge on **September 20th** so there is still **PLENTY** of time for children who have started the challenge to read their final books and collect their **medals and certificates**.



Please help us to encourage them to do this!

We've attached some resources to support this.



A slide for your 'welcome back' assembly



An electronic flyer for parents / carers



A poster to display in school

Has your school won the Heather Young trophy?

We'll let you know at the end of September, but if you'd like to know how your school is doing, please email us and we'll send you your stats!



Let's see how many children we can encourage to read their **6 books** and complete the challenge.

libraryliteracyofficers@bcpcouncil.gov.uk



If your child started the **Summer Reading Challenge** but hasn't collected their medal and certificate yet, there's still time!

Head to any BCP library by **September 20th**.
Let's see how many children can complete their challenge.

THE
READING
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

Story Garden



Story Garden illustrations by Dapo Adeola, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2025

Story Garden

Did you take part in the **Summer Reading Challenge?**

George did!

There's still time to complete it.
Visit any library before
September 20th to get your medal
and certificate.



THE
READING
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

CREATIVE ENSEMBLE

SoundStorm's Creative Ensemble is back!



When? Sessions will take place on Saturdays: 11th October, 8th November, 10th January, 14th February, 14th March and 9th May from 10:30am-3pm (for members and non-members) and on Saturday 13th June (rehearsal from 10:30am-3pm and concert to take place in late afternoon, exact time tbc - for members only).

What is it? An ensemble led by musicians from Bath Philharmonia Creative Learning Team and the SoundStorm team. Open to all musicians on any instrument, including voice. All standards are welcome, from beginner to expert.

Where? Magna Academy, Ashdown Close, Poole, Dorset, BH17 8RE

Who can participate? Young people aged 10-17. You don't need to be able to read music; everything will be learnt by ear.

How much? £70 (up until end of June 2026). £15.00 for one-off session. Membership places are limited so please apply asap.

For more info on the Creative Ensemble and to sign up, please visit:
Creative Ensemble - SoundStorm Music Education Agency



SOUNDSTORM
MUSIC EDUCATION AGENCY

Supported using public funding by
Department for Education
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND





Sunday 21st September
3.30pm – 5pm

Join us at St. Saviours Church,
(32 Colemore Road, BH7 6RZ)

for plenty of fun as we return
from our Summer break!

Crafts
Bouncy Castle
Games
Cafe
Story and songs!

Free Fun for all ages!
(Donations welcome!)
See you there!



www.stsaviours.net