



St. James' Church of England Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
BOURNEMOUTH
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Email office@stjames.academy

Friday 24th October 2025

NEWSLETTER

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Dear Parents and Carers

That's it...term 1 done. The children have taken to the next academic year in their stride and have already achieved wonderful things in their work and their extra-curricular activities. The first term is all about our expectations for the year ahead and setting our goals. We look forward to seeing them play out in the coming 9 months.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break, whatever you are doing and we look forward to term 2 and the magical run up to Christmas.

Worship

Our worship this week has been all about faith when we are tested. I posed the question, 'what are you most scared of?' to the children and adults this week. It is easy to be scared of something we either don't know about, or something that has given us a scare in the past. Jesus will always be there for us, if we put our faith in him.

I told the children the incredible story of Charles Blondin, the tightrope walker from the 19th century who famously crossed the Niagara Falls on a tightrope several times, even blindfolded. After taking a wheelbarrow across and back, he asked for a volunteer to sit in the wheelbarrow...nobody accepted the offer, despite witnessing his prowess time after time. Ultimately they didn't have faith that he would keep them safe. When Peter lost faith in Jesus, Jesus questioned why? He had proved time and time again that he could be trusted. He still does.

We also talked about what we would need to build a house, and our Site Manager, Mr Lillis joined us for worship yesterday. Jesus told a story of the wise man that built his house on the rock, with strong foundations, and we must put our trust in Him.

Open Morning

On Saturday 8th November we have our school open morning. I will be presenting in the hall at 10am and 11am, and we have taster food from Relish. The whole school will be open and many of our staff will be on hand to answer questions for our prospective parents. We also have children and ex pupils who will be sharing their experiences as a pupil at St. James'. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining the St. James' family, we would be grateful if you could share the attached flyer. Thank you.

Christmas Performances and Nativities

Yes – we have already started thinking about it! This year, we will be doing our performances inside:

Early Years will have their Nativity on Monday 8th December, with a performance at 2pm and 5pm in the school hall.

Year 1 and 2 will be doing a joint performance in the school hall, with 2 performances at 2pm and 5pm on Tuesday 9th December.

Year 3 and 4 will be doing a joint performance in the school hall, with 2 performances at 2pm and 5pm on Monday 15th December.

Year 5 and 6 will be doing a joint performance in the church, with the traditional carols by candlelight in the church at 6pm. We are aware of the popularity of this event, and the restricted view that some of you experience in the church. We are working on a way to maximise viewing capacity to ensure everyone can enjoy this beautiful experience.

500 Words Is Back!

The UK's biggest story-writing competition for children aged 5 to 11 opens for entries until Friday, 7 November at 9pm. Children are encouraged to write a story that is 500 words... or less!

Children of all abilities can enter; spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked. It's all about the creativity. It's as simple as that!

Reading Ambassadors

We are pleased to introduce our Reading Ambassadors – our first event will be a book swap next term.



Parent Governor

If you are interested in being a Parent Governor for our school, please email the office by Wednesday 5th November 2025. We would be happy to provide more information about the role.

Neurodevelopmental Supporters Forum – 18th November 6:15pm – 7:30pm

This forum is being run by the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) and is focused on gathering parent/carer views on neurodevelopmental support. They are particularly keen to hear thoughts on how they can best shape the role of **new Learning Disability/Neurodevelopmental Practitioners** to meet the needs of families.

The session will provide an opportunity for parents and carers to share their experiences, ideas, and priorities, helping them to develop a service that is responsive and inclusive. **Please see poster** with all the details emailed with this newsletter.

BCP Notice of Road Closures

Essential resurfacing and maintenance works are set to take place on key sections of the A35 Christchurch Bypass and surrounding roads from 6pm on 27th October for three weeks. Please see link.

<https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/news-hub/news-articles/areas-of-christchurch-to-undergo-essential-resurfacing-and-maintenance-works>

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 was 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.

Relish

All parents must pre-order by midnight the day before. All payments must be made through Arbor meal payments as usual.

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 winter uniform by half term. 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:

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 - Victoria Class Swimming Lessons begin

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

Tuesday 11th November – Year 6 leading Remembrance Worship 9am in the hall

Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th November – EYFS Phonics Workshop for Parents

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

Thursday 20th November - Malawi Class Worship - 9am in the hall

Friday 21st November - PSA discos in the hall

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

Friday 5th December - PSA Quiz Night - 7pm - 10pm in the hall

Monday 8th December - Early Years Nativity - 2pm and 5pm performances in the hall

Tuesday 9th December - Year 1 and 2 Nativity - 2pm and 5pm performances in the hall

Wednesday 10th December - Year 2 Nativity - 2pm and 5pm performances in the hall

Friday 12th December - PSA Winter Wonderland – 3:20pm - 5:30pm in school

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

Saturday 27th June - St. James' Summer Fayre

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



St. James' C of E
Primary Academy

Open Morning



SATURDAY
8TH NOVEMBER



OPEN HOURS
10 AM - 12 PM

Presentations at 10 am and 11 am
with a opportunity to explore the
school and speak to staff.

Individual school tours are available
on request - call 01202 426696.



***"Every pupil and adult flourishes
within the family at St. James"***

- SIAMS report

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ACADEMY TRUST



WWW.STJAMESCEBOURNEMOUTH.COM

Come and see what the family of St. James' can offer your child



**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)

Friday 31st October at 5.15pm - 7.30pm

The Light Party 2025



**A positive alternative to Halloween for children up to age 11
and their families**

St. Saviour's Church, 32 Colmore Road, BH7 6RZ - www.stsaviours.net

Friday 31st October at 5.15pm - 7.30pm

Cost:
£3 per person
£10 a family ticket
(up to four people)
then £1 per extra
person

**Everything
included
in the price!!**

The Light Party 2025

**Advance
tickets available
via our website
or scan the
QR code!**



**Space-themed fancy dress competition (no witches, etc. please!)
Fun and Games - Fabulous Crafts - Bouncy Castle - Sausage Sizzle
Cafe with cakes - Neon Puppet Show, on a space adventure!**

www.stsaviours.net - 01202 430078 - office@st.saviours.net