



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

Friday 7th November 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 15:13

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to term 2. This is the one that goes really fast! We have parent consultations, Christmas performances, quiz nights, mufti days, winter wonderlands, school tours, discos and I haven't even included all the fantastic learning and visits and visitors that accompany your children's learning. Please take a moment to read the newsletter and note the key dates - we'll do our best to keep you up to speed with all the excitement!

Worship

Mrs Dodd and I led worship about light this week. With the clocks going back, the evenings becoming darker and colder, it is easy to forget the sun and the warmth it brings us. Jesus is our guiding light, our warning light, our celebration light, our comforting light – the light of our world.

Next week year 6 lead our remembrance worship on **Tuesday 11th at 9am** in the hall, parents are warmly invited.

I will be leading worship on Monday, and as always, parents, friends and family are welcome to come to the hall and see what worship is all about and discover why it's the heartbeat of St. James' life.

On **Thursday 20th November**, Malawi class are leading our worship, again parents are welcome to come.

Open Morning

Tomorrow, **Saturday 8th November**, we have our school open morning. I will be presenting in the hall at 10am and again at 11am, and we'll have taster food provided by 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. The performances are:

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

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

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

Year 5 and 6 joint carols by candlelight in the church at **6pm** on **Tuesday 16th December**. 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.

Online Parents Evening

On **Wednesday 26th November** or **Thursday 27th November**, you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher on a virtual appointment online. You will receive an email via Parents Booking with instructions about how to book your 9 minute slot. Unfortunately, these do cut off after 9 minutes, so please don't think the teacher has deliberately ended the call. You can also book an appointment with Mrs Price, our Inclusion Leader, should you have any SEND questions about your child.

You will have an opportunity to come into your child's classroom on **Monday 24th November** after school, to look at books.

Relish

On **Tuesday 11th November**, Relish will be taking part in Remembrance Day with a specially themed menu. Please note that food choices on this day will differ from the usual options.

We kindly ask all parents to log in, check, and re-order their child's meal for this day, as any previous pre-orders will be reset and unavailable. This will help our catering team prepare accurate meal numbers and ensure no child misses out.

Christmas Discos

The PSA will be holding discos in the school hall on **Friday 21st November**. Details have been sent on a separate email regarding signing up.

Quiz Night!

The PSA quiz night is on **Friday 5th December**. This is the 3rd running of the much loved quiz night. Who will get the trophy this time? Teams of up to 6 people, food and drink, laughter and activities.

Email felicity.brantingham@gmail.com to book your table. Unfortunately we do have a limit of 20 teams – so sign up fast – if only to beat the teacher team!

Mufti Days

We have a **Christmas Jumper Day** on **Friday 5th December** – this is for donations for the Winter Wonderland. Please bring in chocolate for the tombola – alternatively a cash donation is appreciated.

We also have a **Nativity dress up day** on **Wednesday 10th December** – your child can dress up as any character from the nativity story – a shepherd, an angel, an innkeeper, a sheep – you choose! We will be joining a national nativity assembly where schools from around the world will be dressed in Nativity outfits too!

Area SEND Inspection for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Area Partnership

We wanted to make you aware that we have received formal notification from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) regarding the inspection of our SEND services across the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Area Partnership.

The inspection began on Monday 3 November 2025 and will run for three weeks. Inspectors have begun reviewing documented plans and child-level data and will be on site from Monday 17th November to Thursday 20 November.

As part of the inspection process, inspectors are seeking feedback from children and young people with SEND, their families and practitioners. We are asking for your support in **cascading the survey (link below)** to ensure a wide and representative response:

<https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10364968>

Please note: The survey will close at **9am on Tuesday 11th November 2025**.

Reminders:

Attendance and Fines

Please remember that school starts at 8:30am and the gates close at 8.40am. Any children who arrive after this will be classified as an authorised absence. We also finish the school day at 3pm for Reception, Years, 1, 2, 3 and 4, and 3:10pm for years 5 and 6.

At the moment our attendance is 97.1% - let's see if we can get even nearer to 100%.

School Uniform

Thank you to those children who are always dressed so smartly. All children should be wearing their winter uniform.

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:

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

Friday 14th November – Charity Cake Sale – after school

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 – Christmas Jumper Day – chocolate donations for the Winter Wonderland

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 – Whole school nativity dress up day

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

Monday 15th December - Year 3 and 4 Christmas Performance - 2pm 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

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' 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

DCAT
DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER
ACADEMY TRUST



WWW.STJAMESCEBOURNEMOUTH.COM

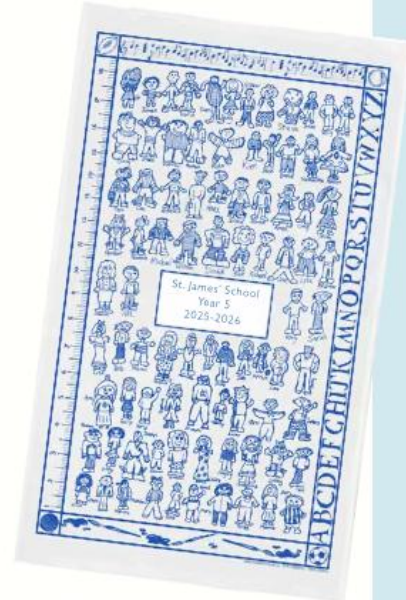
Come and see what the family of St. James' can offer your child

St. James' Tea Towels

One design per year group

The **PERFECT** Christmas present for grandmas, friends, relatives, the postman...

All profits going towards updating the school playground



Only **£6** each

Available to order on Arbor

Until 12th November





QUIZ
NIGHT

FRI 5TH DEC
7PM - 10PM -
SCHOOL HALL

£5pp max team of 6
lots of cheese & crackers included

Cheap bar, prizes to be won, win the trophy
back from last years winners!
Email felicity.brantingham@gmail.com to book
a table! 07770 592213



CHRISTMAS DISCO

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

RECEPTION: 1.30 - 2.15PM

YEARS 1 & 2: 2.15 - 3.00PM

YEARS 3 & 4: 3.10 - 4.00PM

YEARS 5 & 6: 4.15 - 5.15PM

ST. JAMES'
SCHOOL HALL

KS1 £1 PER CHILD
KS2 £3.50 PER CHILD



**St James Church
Pokesdown**

Autumn Fayre

**Saturday 15th November
10am-1pm**

**Bournemouth Carnival Band
(aka Spiderman Band)**

Kids Game Zone

Grand Raffle

Chocolate Tombola

Gift Tombola

Gifts, Jewellery, Books, Puzzles

**Café (Homemade cakes and much
much more)**

FREE ENTRY



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)