



St. James' Church of England Academy
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Friday 21st November 2025

NEWSLETTER

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" Romans 15 v 13

Dear Parents and Carers

Next week, school will be open after school on **Monday** for you to come in and look at your child's work. There will also be an opportunity to sample our **Relish** food in the hall, and our PSA will be holding a **second hand fancy dress/costume sale** at the front of the hall by the stage.

We hope you have signed up for our **online parent consultations**, which will take place on **Wednesday and Thursday next week**.

As the weather continues to get colder, please ensure your child brings an appropriate coat to school for those chilly playtimes!

Worship

Malawi class led our worship about 'difference' this week. It was beautifully done, and the children taught us all why being different is so important.

Our worship themes are carefully planned, and our weekly worship underpins the school values that guide all of our learning and behaviour. If you would like to know the upcoming themes, please feel free to ask. As always, you are warmly invited to join us every Monday at 9am in the hall for our whole school collective worship to start the week together.

Christmas Performances and Nativities

This year, we will be doing our performances inside and due to capacity, we may have to restrict numbers to 2 family members for our later performances:

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.

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!

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

On **Monday 8th December** the PSA are holding a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop. This will be held in the school hall from 7pm – 9pm at a cost of £25 per person, including wreath accessories and a drink. Spaces are limited to 25, so contact Lisa or Laura (details on poster at the end of this newsletter).

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!

PSA Winter Wonderland

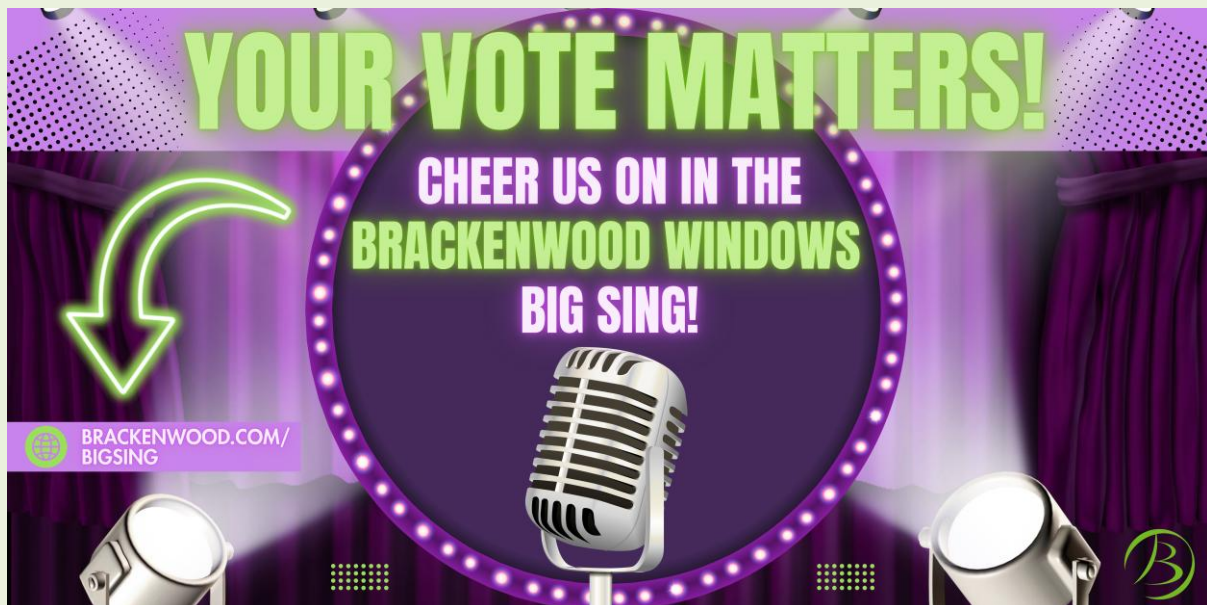
The PSA Winter Wonderland is being held after school on **Friday 12th December** after school from 3:15pm – 5:30pm. Please see poster for details on how to book your entry tickets or use the following link.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/98303?>

Glee Need Your Vote!

Our fantastic Glee club have entered The Brackenwood Big Sing Christmas competition and we need your votes! From Monday 24th November, the public vote will be open for two weeks so please watch our song, tell your friends and family to do the same and help us to have a chance of winning!

Click on the link to <https://brackenwood.com/> from Monday and find our video on The Big Sing to vote.



Safeguarding

Please remind children about how to keep themselves safe when out and about. Hampshire have some resources supporting their 'Clever never goes' campaign which are useful for parents in talking to children about how manage meeting strangers and keeping yourself safe.

<https://clevernevergoes.org/parents-2/>

Photography Winners' Calendar

Next week, we will be presenting a prize to our 'God's wonderful world' photography competition winners! We had some amazing entries and we are very excited to have been able to produce a limited number of St. James' 2026 calendars containing just some of our winners and entries which will be available to order at £8 each.

Thank you very much to our expert photography judges – Gabe (our official photographer), Mr Dodd and Mrs Talbot, and a huge well done to everyone who entered. Here are just a few of our entries.



Parenting Workshop

We are delighted that as part of our support from the Mental Health Services Team, we are being offered a special Parenting Workshop on understanding your child's behaviour. Please do let us know if you would like to come via Arbor (trips) so we can confirm numbers.

Headlice

Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice and treat promptly if needed to help prevent them spreading.

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 95.6% - 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:

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
Thursday 27th November – Year 6 World War 2 day (not Tuesday 25th November)
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
Thursday 11th December – Ducklings Christmas Craft Morning with parents – 9:30am – 10:30am
Thursday 11th December – Tadpoles Christmas Craft Afternoon with parents – 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Friday 12th December - PSA Winter Wonderland – 3:15pm - 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.**

A vertical poster for a quiz night. At the top, there are two cartoon faces in profile, one on the left and one on the right, both with orange skin and black outlines. A string of white lights hangs across the top between the faces. The background is dark blue. The text 'QUIZ NIGHT' is written in large, glowing yellow-outlined letters. Below this, the date and time are listed in white text, separated by horizontal lines. At the bottom, there are two more horizontal lines, followed by more white text.

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



PSA CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Monday 8th December
7pm - 9pm
St James School Hall

Contact Lisa or Laura on
07921 086346 / 07731 596346
to secure your spot!

£25pp including wreath
accessories &
drink

**25 SPACES
AVAILABLE**



Friday 12th December
3.15pm - 5.30pm

ST. JAMES' ACADEMY
Christmas Fayre
Everyone Welcome



Raffle, Chocolate Tombola, Secondhand Toy and Book Stalls,
Seller Stalls, Glitter Tattoos, Arts & Crafts and fun Games!

Hot Dogs, Cakes, Bar, Soft Drinks



£2.50pp
Under 2's Free

Please use QR code to book
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FPKX>

Entry fee includes games and arts & crafts



St. James' C of E Primary Academy
Pokesdown Hill,
Christchurch Road,
Bournemouth
BH7 6DW

SANTA'S GROTTTO - TICKETS AVAILABLE SEPARATELY



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools



Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S BEHAVIOUR

School: St James' Primary
Date: Tuesday 16th December
Time: 1.45pm-2.45pm

Are you struggling to understand why your child behaves the way they do? All children misbehave but when it impacts family life it can feel isolating. This workshop will introduce the principles of our Supporting Parenting group.

The session aims to:

- help you understand why your child may misbehave
- show the importance of connection
- let you know how to sign up to the group

**No need to book! We just ask
you inform the school so we
have an idea of numbers**



SCAN
ME



FREE
RESOURCES



@DORSETMHST



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)