



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

Friday 5th December 2025

NEWSLETTER

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6

Dear Parents and Carers

We have 2 weeks left until we break up for our Christmas holidays, and as usual there is a lot going on. Please read the newsletter and any communications that come from school about Christmas performances, our Winter Wonderland and other fun things.

School is a magical place to be during the lead up to Christmas, and we have a Christmas post box by the children's entrance (under the stairs), if anyone wants to give cards to their friends.

Worship

We have had the first of our advent worship's this week. I led worship about difference on Tuesday with the help of Edgar the dragon, who showed that being different isn't always easy, but when somebody looks out for you and loves you, it can make our lives better. Jesus actively sought the people who were different, to remind them that they were children of God too.

Au Revoir Mr Battams

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Mr Battams at the end of 2025. Luke started with us almost 3 years ago, and has established himself as a passionate member of our PE team. He has decided to travel the world while he is still in the prime of his life, so unfortunately will not be at St. James' at the start of the New Year. We wish him all the best and you never know...we may see him again at St. James' in the future. Thank you Mr Battams for all you have done for the children of St. James'.

Christmas Performances and Nativities

You should have received notification to sign up for tickets for our Christmas performances this year. We are sorry that we have to restrict numbers, but due to fire regulations and capacity of our school hall, we are limited to 150 in the audience.

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.

Relish - Christmas Lunch Change of Date

The Relish team will be serving a special **Christmas Day Lunch** on **Wednesday 17th December**, instead of Thursday 18th December. **If you previously pre-ordered for these days, please review and re-select your choices again.**

After School Clubs

Clubs have now finished for this term. Details of Spring Term clubs will be shared soon.

School Photographic Calendars

We are delighted that our School Photographic Calendars are now on sale on Arbor in our **school shop!** At £8 and containing lots of our amazing competition photographs taken by some of our children, it would make the perfect Christmas present!

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 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?>

We have some wonderful raffle prizes,



so don't forget to buy some tickets!

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 on Tuesday 16th December at 1:45pm here at St. James'. Please do let us know if you would like to come via Arbor (trips) so we can confirm numbers.

Flu Campaign

The NHS has informed us of the following clinics offering flu vaccinations for children who have not yet received theirs:

- Dorchester Cricket Club 05/01/2026 14:30pm – 17:00pm
- Kings Park Hospital 05/01/2026 15:00pm – 17:00pm
- Canford Heath Clinic 06/01/2026 15:00pm – 17:00pm
- Sherborne Scout Hut 08/01/2026 14:30pm – 17:00pm

To book an appointment, please contact the team on **01425 891162** or email dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net.

The flu vaccine is the best defence against flu, helping protect children, families, staff, and the wider community from preventable illness.

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 95.8% - 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 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

Monday 5th January - Staff Inset Day

Tuesday 6th January - Children return to school

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.**



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools

NHS
Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT/CARER WEBINAR


HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH FEARS AND WORRIES

Is your child experience worries or fears? Are they finding it difficult to get into school, or try new things. The MHST might be able to help. This webinar is suitable for parent/carers of children up to 12.

In this 1 hour pre-recorded session will:

- explore what anxiety is
- how you can best support your young person
- practical tips you can try at home

 Tuesday 9th Dec

 12.00 - 12.45

 Online event



 For more information and to sign up: <https://bit.ly/3WTIrEU>



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**



**St James Church
Pokesdown**

stjamespokesdown.org.uk

Sunday 21st December
Carols by Candlelight at 6pm

Monday 22nd December
Fun Carols at 5pm

Tuesday 23rd December
Blue Christmas at 3pm

Christmas Eve
Crib Service at 5pm

Christmas Day
Eucharist at 10am

Sunday 4th January
Christingle Service at 10am

Family Nativity Service



10-11am

Sunday 7th December

Everyone is welcome!



St James Church
Pokesdown Hill
BH7 6DW

www.stjamespokesdown.co.uk



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)