



St. James' Church of England Academy
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Friday 19th December 2025

NEWSLETTER

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9 v 6.*

Dear Parents and Carers

2025 has been a year full of achievement and enjoyment at St. James' with the children at the very heart of all the good things. I have said it before and I will say it again... I love my job - there is no better place to be than a Primary School at Christmas time. You will have seen this by the quality Christmas performances, which the children and adults worked incredibly hard on - I am sure you enjoyed every moment as much as we did.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you in 2026, after the staff have had a well-earned rest.

May I personally wish you all, our St. James' family, a truly blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Worship

Our first worship of the New Year is being led by Bishop Rhiannon, who will be celebrating Epiphany with us on 6th January. Parents are warmly invited, and I am looking forward to showing her around school afterwards and introducing her to our greatest asset - our children.

New PE Team

Next year, we welcome Mrs Morris and Mr Bartram to our PE team, who will work with all of our children on their PE days. We are sure their background in dance and football will be a good starting point for passion and enjoyment of curriculum and non-curricula PE.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Please refer to the letter and timetable included within this newsletter for details of our Extra-Curricular Clubs running next term.

School Photographic Calendars

We still have some School Photographic Calendars 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 gift!

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 5th January - Staff INSET Day

Tuesday 6th January - Children return to school

Tuesday 20th January - Young Voices - O2

Thursday 5th February - Galilee Class Worship

Thursday 12th February - Ducklings and Tadpoles Class Worship

Friday 13th February - Break up for half term @ 3pm

Monday 23rd February - Return to school for term 4

Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th March - Year 4 Hooke Court Residential

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Thursday 5th March - Bengal Class Worship

Thursday 12th March - Stour Class Worship

Thursday 26th March - Mediterranean Class Worship

Friday 27th March - Break up for Easter holidays @ 1:20pm

Monday 13th April - Return for the summer term

Monday 4th May - Bank holiday

Monday 11th May - KS2 SATS week

Thursday 21st May - Victoria Class Worship

Friday 22nd May - Break up for half term @ 3pm

Monday 1st June - Staff INSET day

Tuesday 2nd June - Children return for term 6

Sunday 7th - Wednesday 10th June - Year 6 PGL Residential

Thursday 11th June 2026 - School's 170th Birthday

Thursday 18th June - Amazon and Nile Class Worship

Friday 19th June 2026 - Sports Day at King's Park Stadium

Thursday 25th June - Bourne Class Worship

Saturday 27th June - St. James' Summer Fayre

Wednesday 22nd July - Break up for summer holidays @ 1:20pm

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.

From all of the team at St. James', we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.



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.**

Dear Parents/Carers

Spring Term Extra-curricular Clubs, running for 9 weeks
– w/c 12th January 2026 – w/c 16th March 2026.

We are pleased to offer a range of extra-curricular activities this term, as shown on the attached timetable. Details of external clubs are also included; please note that sign-up for these must be done directly with the club.

Sign-up Information

- Clubs will be available to book from **Monday 5th January 2026 at 9:00am** via Arbor (clubs section)
- Please sign up for a maximum of **two after-school clubs per child** to ensure fair access for all. If more than two clubs are booked, we reserve the right to remove additional bookings
- The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 7th January 2026 at noon**. Clubs are allocated on a **first-come, first-served basis**, and sign-up will close once spaces are filled

Important Notes

- For paid clubs, please make payment via Arbor at the time of booking to secure the place
- Paid clubs have allocated spaces for FSM children; if eligible, please select the FSM option when booking
- Team clubs are by invitation only

Collection and Attendance

Children must be collected promptly at 4:15pm from their club. If alternative arrangements are in place, please inform the school office in advance.

If your child is unable to attend a session, please notify the office as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

St. James' Admin Team



ST. JAMES' CE PRIMARY ACADEMY - EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS SPRING TERM 2026



School Clubs running for 9 weeks from w/c 12 January - w/c 16th March 2026 - sign up via Arbor

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Breakfast 7-9am -				Breakfast Drawing and Colouring Club Miss Daw/Miss Wingate Reception Classroom This club is for early years, years 1, 2 and 3 only, maximum of 15 children	Breakfast Karate*** Danny (external club) Hall Details sent on separate email This club is for years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 running from the 9th January - 27th March
Lunchtime		Team Cross Country Club (12:00pm - 12:40pm) Mr Slattery/Mr Parsons/ Miss Perry Meet Pacific This club is for invited children only	Boys' Wellbeing Club (12:00pm - 12:20pm) Mr Slattery/Mr Dodd Meet in Pacific Open to all year 5 and 6 boys - no sign up required		
	Bible Club (12:00pm - 12:20pm) Mrs Fakorode Biscay Classroom This club is for years 4, 5 and 6, maximum of 15 children	Girls' Wellbeing Club (12:00pm - 12:20pm) Mrs Clark/Miss Finnigan Meet in Atlantic Open to all year 5 and 6 girls - no sign up required			
After School Clubs 3:15pm - 4:15pm	Team Netball Mrs Stopler (Meet in hall) Playground This club is for invited children only	Team Football Mrs Pina/Mr Bartram/ Mrs Morris (Meet in hall) King's Park This club is for invited children only	Team Athletics Mrs Stopler/ Mrs Janaskova (Meet in hall) Playground This club is for invited children only	Glee Club Mrs Dodd/Mrs Uzzell Hall This club is for years 4, 5 and 6 only, maximum 50 children. Original Glee members plus new comers welcome!	
	Gymnastics*** Leanne (external club) Hall This club is for years 1, 2 and 3 only, maximum 16 children	Football Club*** Aspire (external club) (Meet in hall) Playground This club is for years 1 and 2 only, maximum of 30 children	Frogs Drama*** Rebecca Nightingale (Meet in hall) Reception Classroom Details sent on separate email This club is for years 1 and 2	Football Club*** Aspire (external club) (Meet in hall) Playground This club is for years 3 and 4 only, maximum 30 children	Tennis*** Mrs Heasman (external club) Hall Details sent on separate email This club is for years 1, 2, 3 and 4
	Story Club Mrs Hubbard (Meet in hall) Library This club is for early years, years 1 and 2 only, maximum of 20 children	Dance Club Miss Lunn Hall This club is for years 3, 4, 5 & 6 maximum of 25 children	Benchball Mrs Finnigan Hall This club is for years 3, 4, 5 & 6 maximum of 30 children	Art Club Mrs Allery Bengal This club is for years 3 and 4 only, maximum 15 children	
		Frogs Drama*** Rebecca Nightingale (Meet in hall) Reception Classrooms Details sent on separate email This club is for early years		Lego Club Mrs Hopkins/Mrs Webb (Meet in hall) Reception Classrooms This club is for early years, years 1 and 2 only, maximum of 25 children	
		Eco Club Mrs Stoodley/ Mr Dodd Stour Classroom This club is for all years, maximum of 25 children			*** Paid For Clubs on Arbor *** Sign up directly with Club Organiser
		Mindful Colouring Mrs Finnigan Meet in Hall This club is for years 2, 3, 4 only, maximum of 20 children			



St James Church
Pokesdown
stjamespokesdown.co.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

How to size a child's bike

It can be difficult to work out what size bike is the right size for your young person. While a lot of bikes are advertised as suitable for children of certain ages, this isn't always the best way to determine what what size a child needs. A badly fitting bike can lead to a bad cycling experience, it can be uncomfortable and even dangerous to ride.

We've put together this handy guide to help you get the best fitting bike for your young person.

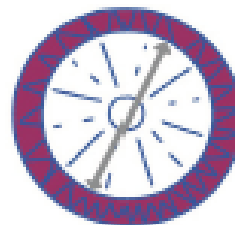
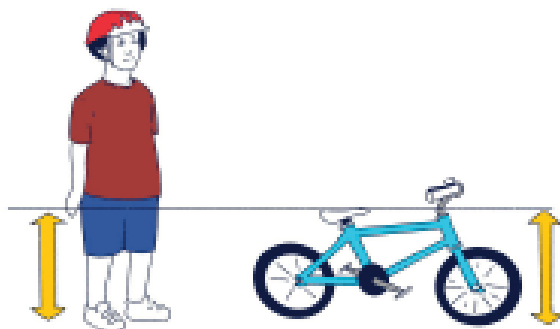
The most useful thing to know when working out what size bicycle your young person needs is their inseam/inside leg measurement and height.

- The lowest height you can set the saddle from the ground should not be any more than the child's inseam.
- A beginner rider should be able to sit on the saddle with their feet flat on the ground.
- A more experienced rider should be able to sit on the saddle while keeping their tip-toes on the ground. This is usually their inseam measurement plus roughly five to ten centimetres.

Wheel Size (Suggested)	Age	Inseam	Height
12"	2-3 years	38-46cm	91-99cm
14"	2-4 years	38-51cm	94-112cm
16"	4-4 years	41-56cm	104-122cm
20"	5-8 years	49-64cm	114-137cm
24"	8-11 years	58-71cm	124-150cm
26"	10+ years	64+ cm	142cm + cm

The table above gives a rough idea of what size wheel bike you should start looking at, based on your child's inseam. Most manufacturers don't advertise the minimum seat height of their bicycles, but your local bike shop will be happy to help with this and you'll know to bring along a tape measure if you're shopping for a second hand bike!

One easy way to measure a child's inseam is to have them hold a book between their legs just below their crotch. Measuring to the top of the book from the floor will give you an accurate measurement.



Wheel diameter is based on the metal part of the wheel—Tyres can vary quite a bit so don't measure these!

NB: Balance Bikes! If you're looking at a balance bike (one without pedals!) then you need to make sure the seat height can be set just under the child's inseam measurement.

Tips for buying a child's bike

- **Weight** - very important. Can your child lift it? Heavy bikes can be hard to handle and can put children off cycling.
- **Brakes** - make sure your child can reach and operate the brake comfortably without having to overstretch their hands.
- **Gears** - keep it simple. Single-speed for under 6s and rear gears only for older children. Make sure they can operate the gear shifters easily. Avoid front gears, they're difficult to operate and just add more weight to the bike.
- **Suspension** - avoid suspension unless you're planning on riding off-road. It adds more weight and makes the bike harder to handle.



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
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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)