



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

Friday 16th January 2026

NEWSLETTER

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to 2026. We have started the New Year where we left off, with learning and enjoyment all over the school. It has been lovely to see the 'talk for writing' in Key Stage 1, the 'purposeful provision' in Early Years and super project work in Key Stage 2 from the Galapagos Islands to space.

Worship

We were privileged to welcome Bishop Rhiannon into school to lead our collective worship on Tuesday 6th January to celebrate Epiphany. All the children wore crowns on their heads to signify the visit of the kings with their gifts for Jesus. We talked about celebrations all around the world and the children voted which was their favourite custom - cake was the winner!

I led worship about the baptism of Jesus, and the life of John the Baptist. We talked about speaking up when we believe something is unfair, and who we can trust to tell things to. Mrs Dodd led worship on Thursday about being proud of our differences and valuing who we are.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Clubs all started this week. There are a couple of places left on our Monday Story Club, Tuesday and Thursday Aspire Football and Tuesday Mindful Colouring. Please contact the office if you'd like to sign your child up.

Bargain Offer!

Beautiful St. James' Photography Competition Calendars available for the reduced price of £2. Including all school inset and terms dates and other key events. Order via the school shop.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all those who completed our parent survey in December. It is really important for us to receive your feedback. Here are the headlines:

- My child is happy at St. James' - 100% agreed or strongly agreed
- My child feels safe at St. James' - 100% agreed or strongly agreed
- St. James' makes sure it's pupils are well behaved - 97% agreed or strongly agreed
- The school is led and managed well - 98% agreed or strongly agreed
- St. James' makes me aware of what my child is learning - 100% agreed or strongly agreed
- St. James' has high expectations for my child - 95% agreed or strongly agreed
- St. James' supports my child's wider personal development - 100% agreed or strongly agreed
- My child is encouraged to have good attendance and punctuality - 100% agreed or strongly agreed

- The Christian ethos of St. James' promotes and understanding of, and respect for, diverse communities in our area, our country and the world - 100% agreed or strongly agreed
- My child is encouraged to be active, exercise and take part in sport - 100% agreed or strongly agreed
- When the school makes decisions, it has the child's best interests at heart - 93% said always
- I would recommend St. James' to another parent - 100% said yes

Attendance and Fines

Did you know that both parents are liable for a penalty fine when a child is absent for an unauthorised holiday, whether you live together or not? And that it is a fine of at least £80 per parent, per child. Please think very carefully before booking a term time holiday as it is very rare for us to be able to authorise a term time absence and avoid a fine from BCP. Attendance matters.

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 95.2% - let's see if we can get even nearer to 100%.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Our Eco Club, the St. James' Planet Protectors, have signed up to take part in the RSPB's 'Big Schools' Birdwatch' and we are really excited to get out and observe the nature in our school environment. If you'd like to get involved, why not sign up for the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' from 23-25th January 2026? It's totally free and comes with some recording sheets to keep track of what you see. We'd love to hear about which birds you spot in your gardens!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

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:

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/3:10pm

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

Wednesday 25th March - Parent's Evening - face to face in hall

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.



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 SPARKLERS

SUNDAYS

10AM

11TH JAN

THE BAPTISM
OF JESUS

UNDERSTANDING
BAPTISM & THE
POWER OF WATER

18TH JAN

JESUS IS 'THE
LAMB OF GOD'

THE HOLY SPIRIT
COMES AS A DOVE

25TH JAN

JESUS'
DECIPLES

'LEAVE EVERYTHING
AND FOLLOW ME'



1ST FEB

ALL AGE FAMILY
SERVICE - WITH
SCALOPINI
CHILDREN &
FAMILY CHOIR

8TH FEB

JESUS'
SERMON ON
THE MOUNT

'YOU ARE THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD'

15TH & 22ND
FEB

BREAK FOR HALF
TERM - ALL
WELCOME TO
JOIN USUAL 10AM
SERVICE

BIBLE STORIES

GAMES

CRAFTS

MUSIC



St James Church - Pokesdown Hill - BH7 6DW
www.stjamespokesdown.co.uk



SENDiass4BCP

**Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Information, Advice and Support Services
for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole**

We are a **free, impartial, confidential** and **arms-length** service for children and young people (up to the age of 25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their parents/carers.

We provide information, advice, and support with relation to education, social, and healthcare matters, through our online resources, at events and workshops, by our advice line service and through individual casework.



01202 128181

help@sendiass4bcp.org



sendiass4bcp.org



HOW WE CAN HELP



Confidential
advice line



Your options, rights
and responsibilities



Responsibilities of
schools, colleges and
the Local Authority



Education, Health
and Care Plans
(EHCPs)



Help with paperwork;
reading / writing
forms, letters and
reports



Support preparing
for and attending
meetings



Resolving
disagreements



Suspensions and
permanent
exclusions



Managing mediation
and appeals to the
First-Tier Tribunal



Support with
complaints



Signposting to other
statutory and
voluntary services



Face to face
appointments at your
own home or local to
your address



SENDiass4BCP

**Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Information, Advice and Support Services
for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole**

We are a **FREE, IMPARTIAL, CONFIDENTIAL** and **ARMS-LENGTH** service for children and young people (up to the age of 25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their parents/carers.

We provide information, advice and support with relation to education, social, and healthcare matters, through our online resources, at events and workshops, via our advice line service and through individual casework.



01202 128181

help@sendiass4bcp.org



sendiass4bcp.org



HOW WE CAN HELP



Confidential advice line



Your options, rights and responsibilities



Responsibilities of schools, colleges and the Local Authority



Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)



Paperwork; reading / writing forms, letters and reports



Preparing for and attending meetings



Resolving disagreements



Suspensions and permanent exclusions



Mediation and appeals to the First-Tier Tribunal



Support with complaints



Signposting to other statutory and voluntary services



Face to face and virtual appointments available

 **Information,
Advice & Support
Services Network**



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)