



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

Friday 30th January 2026

NEWSLETTER

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you... Isaiah 43 v 2

Dear Parents and Carers

January has nearly passed and the mornings are definitely getting brighter – although the rain doesn't seem to have stopped falling. The flooding in our surrounding areas has been extreme, causing hurt and hardship to many of our community, and we have been grateful for your efforts in getting your children to and from school.

There is now a day in January, where it has been recognised that people can struggle. 'Blue Monday' is the name for the third Monday in January, often cited as the year's most depressing day, calculated by factors like poor weather, post-Christmas blues, debt, and failed resolutions. Life can be hard at all times in the year, and it can become easy to feel low. Our children are a constant reminder of hope. They are wonderfully innocent beings who view life in a much simpler form. We should try our hardest to shelter them from outside influences, by teaching them to celebrate each day and being resilient. Of course, we have another back up – our Lord Jesus, who has promised to be with us at all times. He is the light in the darkness and is always happy for us to check in with Him in times of trouble.

Worship

This week, I led worship on Holocaust Memorial Day. We talked about [Sir Nicholas Winton, OBE, and the remarkable story of the kinder transport, where he and others helped rescue 669 children from Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia](#). Jesus reminds us to love our neighbours, no matter who they are and what they look like. The parable of the Good Samaritan is a perfect example of this.

Mr Jewell came in and told the story of the parable of the talents. Our children all have wonderful talents and we must encourage them to grow (in everything they do!)

Staffing

Emma Daw (Miss Daw), is going to have a little girl in the spring and will be leaving to go on her maternity leave shortly before Easter. We wish her, and her partner Alex every happiness in the coming weeks and months.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Cat Ford will be in place to teach the Duckling's class in her absence. Mrs Ford is a wonderful, experienced teacher who blew us away at her interview. We are very excited to have her at St. James'.

Mrs Hopkins is leaving us. Linda has been with us for a number of years and has been a part of the St. James' family for a number of years as a parent/governor/support staff. Thank you for everything you have done for our children – we will miss you.

Do You Fancy Being a School Governor?

We have an opportunity for a parent to join our governing body at St. James'. We meet once each term to discuss all areas of the academy. The governor role is to support and challenge. If you are interested, please pop into the office, or email office@stjames.academy. We would be happy to provide more information about the role.

Parish Administrator/Caretaker Role

The Church has a vacancy for a six month fixed term contract, 10 hours per week @ £13.45 per hour. Application details available at <https://www.stjamespokesdown.co.uk/> Application deadline is Sunday 15th February.

Reminders:

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%.

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:

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 5th March - School Nurse Parent Drop-in – Church Annexe from 1:30pm

Thursday 12th March - Stour Class Worship

Tuesday 24th March – Parent's Evening – face to face in hall

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

Thursday 7th May – Biscay Class Worship

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.**

Parent drop-in

Your next drop-in will be on:

Thursday 5th March 2026

1:30pm – 3pm

Please contact the school office to book a slot

(office@stjames.academy)

Your school nursing team can provide non-judgemental and confidential support and advice about:

Healthy lifestyle advice

Emotional health and well-being support

Bedwetting and toileting

Nutrition and growth

Sleep advice

Signposting to various services

Parenting advice

Behaviour support



You can contact us via

- School nursing admin hub on 01929 557 558
- [Parentline](#) advice 5-19 texting service on 07312263131
- Website at www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing

Follow us on social media:



[DorsetHealthCare School Nursing](#)



[dorsethealthcare_schoolnursing](#)

We provide a confidential service. This means that you can discuss personal information in confidence. We will not discuss your personal information with anyone else without your permission. This includes parents and teachers. We would only pass on your information in order to protect you or someone else from serious harm. Whenever possible we would discuss this with you first.

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 SCALLOPINI 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



SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2026
FREE T-SHIRT AND MEDAL FOR ALL RUNNERS!

1K KIDS FUN RUN - £8.00

5K RUN - £12.00

(ALL RACES ARE PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY. NO ON THE DAY SIGNUPS)

FOR THE MUMS & DADS THERE'S A 10K OR A HALF MARATHON OPTION TOO!



SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP





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)