



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

Friday 13th February 2026

NEWSLETTER

*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
1 John 4:16-18*

Dear Parents and Carers

That is half of the academic year gone and when we return for term 4, we get more light, more warmth and hopefully less rain. We look forward to seeing the children back for a fairly short term 4, before our Easter break.

There is always lots to look forward to, but term 3 highlights have included; a whole school treat with the science dome, some incredible Galapagos learning in year 6, an immersion into space in year 5, year 4 have been learning about climate and saving the planet, and year 3 have designed and made delicious pizza! In year 2 they have delved into the world of chocolate and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', year 1 have been around the world with Paddington and Early Years have been exploring our local area. It's exhausting just writing about it all, but the learning is wonderful to see.

Worship

Last week our Worship Leaders led collective worship all about light, and letting your light shine. They planned and delivered it in front of the whole school, staff and parents. It is always special when our children deliver messages and lead us.

We also had Galilee Class Worship all about forgiveness last week, where the children danced, acted, read and prayed so beautifully, reminding us that we need to forgive one another. Our youngest children led our worship this week. Ducklings and Tadpoles taught us all about love - God's love. They retold the story that Jesus taught us about the Good Samaritan, and how we should love one another, just as He taught us.

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. **The deadline for applying is Friday 20th February.** Thank you to those who have applied already.

Book Fayre Parent Helpers

We are still in need of parent volunteers to run our book fayre. Dates with no helper are Thursday 12th March, Friday 13th March and Monday 16th March from 2:50pm until 3:45pm.

If you are able to spare some time we would be extremely grateful. Please sign up with the office. We need at least two parents per session to help things run smoothly!

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:

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 – book slot with office

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.**



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools

NHS
Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust


PARENT/CARER WEBINAR


HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE BIG EMOTIONS


Is your child finding big feelings hard to manage? Are they becoming upset, angry or worried, or finding it hard to calm down after things go wrong? The MHST might be able to help. This webinar is suitable for parent/carers of children up to 12.

In this 1 hour live session we will:

- Explore emotional regulation
- Understand triggers and early warning signs
- Share ways to support your child to calm and cope
- Offer practical strategies you can try at home

 Tuesday 24th Feb

 5pm-6pm

 Online event



 For more information and to sign up: <https://bit.ly/4rKSObv>

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

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.



GIRLS CRICKET TRAINING SESSION

BOURNEMOUTH CRICKET CLUB

FREE TO ATTEND

**ALL WELCOME - NEW & EXISTING PLAYERS
SCHOOL YEARS 5 & UPWARDS**

- ★ Fun, friendly coaching
- ★ Build skills, confidence & teamwork
- ★ Great for beginners & experienced players
- ★ Supportive, welcoming environment

**Come along, get involved, and give cricket a go.
Bring a friend and join the fun.**

CANFORD SCHOOL

SUNDAY 22ND FEB 2026

11AM UNTIL 1PM

**To find out more, or to confirm your place, please
email us at girlscricket@bournemouthcc.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
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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)