



St. James' Church of England Academy
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BOURNEMOUTH
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Friday 6th March 2026

NEWSLETTER

*Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.
But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12 v 24*

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now in March, and hasn't it been nice to feel the warmth of the sun, accompanied by longer daylight. There is certainly something connected with light, warmth and happiness. The children have been immersed in their learning so far this term, with new project learning. This term is a shorter one (due to the timing of Easter Sunday), and we only have 3 more weeks left before we break up for Easter on Friday 27th March at 1:20pm.

Worship

We were led by Bengal class yesterday, where the children talked to us all about joy of reading and, or course, the greatest book of all time – the Bible. There are 66 books in the Bible and each full of dreams, animals, morals, songs and much more. It is the biggest selling book of all time, translated into more than 700 languages – worldwide. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic, whilst the New Testament was predominantly written in Greek. Interestingly – it is also the most stolen book of all time, probably due to its prevalence in hotels and shops, (I wonder if Jesus would approve?) The words 'fear not' are repeated 365 times in the bible – that's one for each day of the year!

Staffing changes

Miss Pain is leaving us at Easter, to take up a wonderful opportunity taking charge of her own nursery in the Hengistbury Head area. Gemma has worked here for 4 years now, leading music and languages. We will miss her smile and fantastic teaching – thank you. Nile class will have Mrs South continuing as their full time Class Teacher for the summer term.

Miss Daw starts her maternity leave today – we wish her and her partner Alex, all the best for a successful and happy start to parenthood.

Town Champions - Year 5 Lead Winners

Our Year 5 football team played yesterday in a central group of all the league winners of the regional primary schools at the Littledown Centre.

After a tense penalty shootout in the semi-finals, they went on to beat Avonwood in the final game to lift the trophy.

Well done boys – we are very proud of you! I'll have Mars bars ready for you on Monday when we will celebrate with the whole school!

The Book Fair Is Coming!

We will be having a book fair in school on Wednesday 11th March, Thursday 12th March, Friday 13th March and Monday 16th March in the library. It will be open every day after school from 3:10pm until 3:45pm.

We receive commission for each book sold which will go towards books for our school library, so please support us if you can.

Parent Helpers - We are still in need of parent volunteers to help run our book fayre. The dates where we currently only have one helper are Thursday 12th March, Friday 13th March and Monday 16th March. Help is needed from 2:50pm until 3:45pm on each of these days. If you are able to spare some time we would be extremely grateful. Please sign up at the school office.

Head Lice

They are very common in young children and spread by head-to-head contact. To help minimise the spread, please ensure ALL long hair is tied up at school, and regularly check your child's head. Information is on the NHS website on how to treat. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Music Lessons

At St. James', we are always keen to offer children as wide a variety of opportunities and experiences as possible and we are delighted to continue to offer Guitar/Ukelele, Violin and Piano lessons. Please email the office if you wish your child to **continue** or **start** lessons in the Summer term **by the 12th March**.

Mrs Bright (Violin/Recorder) and Mr Bacon (Piano) will continue too – see separate email on how to sign up directly with them.

Children's Toothbrushing Guide

There is a new launch of the [The Children's Toothbrushing Guide - Starting Reception](#) designed to support nurseries and early years settings in sharing clear, trusted oral-health related advice with families.

Created in collaboration with the early years sector, including the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry and the Oral Health Foundation, the Guide provides practical information to help settings support children's oral health from the very earliest years.

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 95.3% - 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 12th March - Stour Class Worship

Friday 20th March - Comic Relief Red Nose day - Mufti day at school; wear something red!

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.

St James Church

EASTER PARTY

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH: 1.20-3PM

FREE EVENT!

STRAIGHT AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP

PLEASE BRING A GROWN UP!

EASTER EGG HUNT

DRINKS & SNACKS

CRAFTS

GAMES



HAPPY
EASTER

ST JAMES SPARKLERS

SUNDAYS

10AM

1ST MARCH



ALL AGE FAMILY SERVICE - WITH SCALLOPINI CHILDREN & FAMILY CHOIR



8TH MARCH

WHO ARE YOU?

JESUS' GIFT OF WATER SHARED FOR ALL

15TH MARCH

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

MOTHERING SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS



22ND MARCH

WAKE ME UP!

LAZARUS LIVES AGAIN :-)

29TH MARCH

BREAK FOR EASTER HOLS - ALL WELCOME TO JOIN USUAL 10AM SERVICE

3RD APRIL

10AM GOOD FRIDAY INTERACTIVE ALL AGE FAMILY SERVICE

5TH APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY

ALL AGE FAMILY SERVICE - WITH SCALLOPINI CHILDREN & FAMILY CHOIR & EASTER COMMUNION



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) |