



St. James' Church of England Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
BOURNEMOUTH
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Friday 20th March 2026

NEWSLETTER

*I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.
John 13 v 34*

Dear Parents and Carers

We have one week of school left in this short term 4, before breaking up for Easter. We will be going into the church for Easter workshops, led by the church community, and I know the children have been learning all about why Easter is so special to Christians.

Last week was science week, and Miss Martin organised a wonderfully immersive week of experiments and scientific thinking. You will be able to see evidence next week when you come in for parent's evening on Tuesday and Wednesday in school.

Worship

We were led by Stour Class last week for our Mothering Sunday worship. It was beautiful and they all reminded us how special our mummies are. This week I led worship about ants, and how they work as a team, all having roles to play. St. Paul reminded us that we are all part of one body and play many parts. Yes – we are all individuals, but we can all play on God's team!

Next week we are looking forward to Mediterranean Class leading worship.

Inclusion Quality Mark

This week we had a 2 day assessment for our application for the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM). The assessor, Ian, was suitably impressed by St. James' and we had some lovely feedback. He is recommending us for an IQM centre of excellence for our culture of belonging for every child at St. James'. Thank you to the parents that Ian spoke to, for your wonderful comments (and tears) about life at St. James'. A huge thank you to Mrs Price for her tireless work in inclusion.

Parent's Evening

A reminder that we have our 'in person' parent's evening in the school hall on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. You will have an opportunity to see your child's books in their classroom before or after your appointment.

Parent Coffee Morning

Please join us for a relaxed and supportive morning with Kelly Leslie, our School's Family Support Worker on Friday 27th March, 9am -10:30am in the Church Annexe. Meet other parents, be part of our school community and ask for advice or support. Tea, coffee and cake provided! Everyone is welcome – we'd love to see you there.

Parent Governor Election

Thank you to those who have voted for our new Parent Governor. There are 2 candidates, so far we have had 78 responses. The scores stand at 42 vs 36 so it's pretty close! The closing date is this coming Monday 23rd March at 5pm.

Safe Parking

We still have parents parking irresponsibly around our site. We repeatedly ask you to park responsibly and safely so that children are safe. Please can we all make an effort to be kind. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Extra-curricular Clubs

There will be no clubs next week. You will have received a separate email with information about signing up for clubs for after Easter holidays. The dates for each club are listed on the timetable.

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:

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 – Parent Coffee Morning @ 9am – church annexe

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.**



TURN LITTLE LIDS INTO A BIG DIFFERENCE!



We're Collecting Milk Bottle Plastic Lids!
for 'Win on Waste' Recycling!

Bring in your milk bottle lids to help our local recycling centre!



This initiative is led by our school's eco club:
The St James' Planet Protectors



WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?



Reduce Waste



Help the Environment



Support Local Recycling



Small Actions,
BIG Impact!



HOW TO DO IT!



2. Rinse & Dry the Lid



3. Bring it to School



4. Drop it in the Collection Box

WHAT CAN WE COLLECT?

✓ Plastic Milk Bottle Lids



Clean & Any Colour!

Do NOT Send:



No Dirty Lids



No Metal Lids



No Metal Lids



No Full Bottles



No Full Bottles

OUR GOAL: FILL THE BOX!



Start saving your lids today!

Thank you for helping our school make a difference!



BCP Council have

Vacancies

for

Passenger Assistants

To support children with SEND on their journeys to and from school daily.

You would need to be available (approx.)

7am – 10am and **2.30pm – 5pm** daily.

Term Time only

Full training given to include First Aid, Epilepsy, Safeguarding, Autism and Induction, as well as on the job training with existing Passenger Assistants.

Both Male and Female applicants welcomed.

For a Job Description and Application form please email:

claire.vass@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Or call

01202 123683

for an informal chat.

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)