



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

Friday 1st May 2026

NEWSLETTER

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.' Psalm 46:1–2

Dear Parents and Carers

It is May already! Today is called May Day – an ancient spring festival marking the start of summer with May pole dancing and crowning a May Queen. It is still celebrated today with a May bank holiday at the start of the month. May Day happens to fall exactly between the spring and the summer equinox and dates back to Roman times.

Another meaning of mayday is a distress call, still used by pilots and seafarers when they are in trouble. The term 'mayday' was first conceived in 1923 by a senior radio officer at Croydon Airport. Like a lot of our language, it originated from French - m'aider ("help me"). This was deemed far less confusing than using SOS over the radio. Every day is a school day!

Worship

This week I shared the story of Onesimus, found in the book of Philemon. It is a story about forgiveness and one that doesn't actually have an ending. The story ends on a cliff-hanger, and the children had to decide whether Philemon forgave Onesimus for running away and stealing from him. Forgiveness is always hard and closely linked to love. Our school Christian values of Love, Hope and Forgiveness are regularly revisited, to help us try and understand a little more.

PSA Quiz Night

On **Friday 5th June**, we have our PSA quiz starting at 7pm in the school hall. Please come along and support this (and try and beat the teacher team – if you think you can!) Please contact Felicity via email felicitybrantingham@gmail.com or call on 07770 592213 to book your team - £5 per person (maximum of 6 in a team) – cheese boards included!

St. James' Pre-school Update

As you will be aware, the pre-school at St. James' church has been vacant since the end of 2025. Woodlands Preschool (an outstanding provider) are going to provide a second nursery at St. James'. Although it will not formally be a St. James' pre-school there will be strong links, with lunches, early years practice, playground and worship attendance all being shared. We will share further details about opening times as soon as we receive them.

Road Closure

Between **Tuesday 5th May and Saturday 16th May**, the top of Petersfield Road will be closed, due to roadworks. This will affect the entrance to King's Park (adjacent to the play park). Please plan your route to and from school accordingly if this affects you.

A member of THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER ACADEMY TRUST

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Class Photos

On Wednesday 6th May, Frazer portraits are coming in to take photos of all of our classes. Please ensure that your child is dressed in summer school uniform – **no PE kits please**.

Year 4 will have forest school, and will be asked to bring a change of clothes in a bag. They will go first, so that they can get changed.

If your child has a sports club on a Wednesday (team athletics and volleyball) – again they may bring a change of clothes in a bag, so that they can have their class photo in full uniform and get changed.

Year 3 children can stay in their uniform that day for their PE day.

Dogs

Please note that dogs should not be brought onto the school site at drop-off or collection times. This helps us keep all pupils safe and comfortable, particularly those with allergies or anxiety.

Relish

Please could we remind parents/carers of the importance of keeping Relish meal balances topped up. If an account goes into debt, your child will be provided with soup until the outstanding balance has been cleared.

Volunteer Readers

If you have a little time to spare, we would love to have some more adults to read with pupils, especially at the start of the day between 8:40am and 9am. To keep everyone safe, we do have to ask you to fill in a little paperwork, but reading with children is such a worthwhile and rewarding activity, it's worth it! Please let the office know if you can help.

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%.

School Uniform

Thank you to those children who are always dressed so smartly in St. James' colours. Our uniform details are all on the website and children may wear their summer uniform now (weather permitting).

We understand that the traditional striped summer dresses for girls can sometimes be harder to find and are often more expensive. With this in mind, we are very happy for girls to wear the **checked-style summer dresses** as an alternative. Thank you for your support.

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 4th May - Bank holiday

Wednesday 6th May - Class Photos

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

Friday 5th June - PSA Quiz Night - hall @ 7pm

Sunday 7th - Wednesday 10th June - Year 6 PGL Residential

Tuesday 9th June - New EYFS Parent's Information Evening - hall @ 6pm

Wednesday 10th June - School Nurse Drop In - Church Annexe (book with office)

Thursday 11th June - School's 170th Birthday

Thursday 18th June - Amazon and Nile Class Worship

Friday 19th June - Sports Day at King's Park Stadium

Thursday 25th June - Bourne Class Worship

Friday 26th June - New Class Transition Day

Monday 29th June - Music Evening

Friday 10th July - Written Reports out to Parents

Saturday 11th July - St. James' Summer Fayre (new date)

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.**

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Sessions for anyone parenting children with additional needs aged 3 to 11

Thursdays 7-9pm
14th & 21st May, 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th June

St. James CE Primary Academy
Bournemouth, BH7 6DW

To book or for more information
Contact Nikki Sparrow
nsparrow@stjames.academy

Or Call School Office
01202 426696

Cost: £10 (for course handbook)



Common-sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship

TIME OUT FOR PARENTS



CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Time Out for Parents courses from Care for the Family provide common-sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship.

If you have children with additional needs aged 3 to 11, then *Time Out for Parents – Children with Additional Needs* is for you. Over 6 sessions you'll increase your skills and confidence as a parent and discover practical tools to make your relationship with your child even better.

The sessions

- Session 1 The additional needs experience
- Session 2 Raising emotionally healthy children
- Session 3 Understanding feelings
- Session 4 Boundaries and battles
- Session 5 A behaviour toolkit
- Session 6 The wider circle of care



Care for the Family, Tovey House, Cleppa Park, Newport, NP10 8BA.
Tel: 029 2081 0800. cff.org.uk

Care for the Family is a Christian Initiative to strengthen family life, offering support to everyone. A registered charity (England and Wales: 1066905; Scotland: SC038497).

School Nursing Team
0-19 CYP Public
Health Service

Parent drop-in

NHS
Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

Your next drop-in will be on:
Wednesday 10th June 2026

8:45am – 10:15am

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

19TH APRIL

BREAKING BREAD

WHEN DO YOU SEE
& RECOGNISE
JESUS?



26TH APRIL

GATEWAY TO
LIFE

JESUS IS OUR
SHEPHERD &
KEEPS US SAFE

3RD MAY

ALL AGE FAMILY
SERVICE - WITH
SCALLOPINI
CHILDREN &
FAMILY CHOIR

10TH MAY

SHARING YOUR
HOPE

DO NOT BE
AFRAID & OPEN
YOUR HEART

17TH MAY

SUPPORT THROUGH
SUFFERING

GOD IS WITH US
DURING HARD
TIMES

24TH/31ST MAY

BREAK FOR MAY
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



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)



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

Term Dates 2027-2028

AUTUMN TERM

Inset Day	Wednesday 1 st September 2027
Inset Day	Thursday 2 nd September
Inset Day	Friday 3 rd September
First Day	Monday 6 th September
Half Term	Monday 25 th October – Friday 29 th October
Last Day	Friday 17 th December (finish at 1.20pm)

SPRING TERM

Inset Day	Tuesday 4 th January 2028
First Day	Wednesday 5 th January
Half Term	Monday 14 th February – Friday 18 th February
Last Day	Friday 31 st March (finish at 1.20pm)

SUMMER TERM

First Day	Tuesday 18 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 1 st May
Half Term	Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June
Inset Day	Monday 5 th June
Last Day	Friday 21 st July (finish at 1.20pm)