



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

Friday 15th May 2026

NEWSLETTER

*For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance.
Matthew 25 v 29*

Dear Parents and Carers

As we near the end of term 5, it is good to reflect on the fact that we are coming to the end of the academic year. We have achieved so much, and your child has grown, physically, spiritually and academically. We have lots of exciting things planned for our final half term – school trips, beach visits, sports week, arts weeks, productions and leaver's events. Please read the newsletter and check our website to keep updated.

Worship

Last week we were treated to a worship by Biscay class, where our year 3 children taught us all about talents, including retelling of the story of the parable of the talents. It is important that we share our God-given talents with the world, to help make it a better place. We all have talents, and it is important that we don't hide them.

PSA Disco

Don't forget to sign your child up for the PSA Disco if they are in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6. Please do this via Arbor (Shop). KSI children's discos will be held within school time.

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 teams – 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' – called Tiny Seeds. 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. As soon as more information regarding opening times will be shared with you all. However, we understand that they will be term time only, 8.30am - 3.30pm (to fit in with school) and available from 2 years until school age.

Watch out for flyers as soon as they are available, but if you want to register an interest, please contact us at the school office and we will pass on your details. There will be a couple of Open Mornings in the summer term for you to get a feel for 'Tiny Seeds' pre-school.

Class Photos

As advised in a previous email, please order your child's class photo by Tuesday 2nd June to qualify for free delivery to school directly with Fraser Portraits.

Sports Day T-Shirt Sale (PSA)

Sports day t-shirts will be on sale after school on Tuesday 2nd June, Wednesday 3rd June and Wednesday 10th June at a cost of £3.50. We would prefer payment by card, but cash is acceptable too.

A member of THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER ACADEMY TRUST

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Relish

On Thursday 21st May it's Census Day. **All children can receive a free lunch!** So no need to bring a packed lunch. The number of pupils who receive a school meal on Census Day affects our school funding. Don't forget to pre-order by midnight the day before.

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.

Music Evening 2026

Our annual celebration of all things music and performance is coming up **on Monday 29th June**. All pupils who learn an instrument in school will be invited to perform but we would also love to have other talented acts from our school community. Details will be sent separately but **auditions** for any Key Stage 2 children who would like to sing, dance, play an instrument either as a solo or as a group will take place on **Thursday and Friday, 4th and 5th June at lunchtime**. Start practising and we look forward to seeing your acts!

Gentle Reminders from the Office

Absences - if your child is absent due to illness, this must be reported to the school office **before 9am on each day of absence**. If your child is expected to be absent for more than one day, please ensure this has been agreed with the office in advance.

Lost Property – please ensure that ALL items are named. Unfortunately it is very difficult to return items to children if they do not have a name.

Headlice - 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.

Festival of Design & Engineering (from Miss Martin)

I would like to let you know about an exciting upcoming event that may be of interest to some of our students and families.

Festival of Design & Engineering is taking place at Bournemouth University on Saturday 20th June. Families and students are very welcome to attend the public day. This is an out-of-school event and there will not be an "on duty" member of staff from St. James' attending to facilitate or supervise. However, it could be a lovely opportunity for families to enjoy together, particularly if your child has an interest in engineering, design, or technology.

If your family attends, we would love to see any photos from the day. Please encourage your child to bring pictures into school to share with their class - they may even be featured on the school website!

More information about the event can be found here:

<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/our-faculties/faculty-media-science-technology/festival-design-engineering>

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.

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.

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 21st May - Victoria Class Worship

Thursday 21st May - Summer Census Day

Friday 22nd May – PSA Summer Discos

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 (community celebration in the autumn)

Thursday 18th June - Amazon and Nile Class Worship

Thursday 18th June – Sports Day at King's Park Stadium

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

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.



Join us for The

GREAT BIG RELISH BBQ

Offering A Free Meal This Census Day!

Let's celebrate together!

A Free Meal for all Students KS1 & KS2

Thursday 21st of May 2026



Parent drop-in

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' Summer
Disco

Friday 22nd May

Reception: 1.30 - 2.10 pm

Y1 & Y2: 2.15 - 3.00 pm

Y3 & Y4: 3.10 - 4.00 pm

Y5 & Y6: 4.15 - 5.15 pm

Tickets:

KS1: £1

KS2: £3.50

Drinks & snack inc.

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)