



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## NEWSLETTER

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths. Psalm 23 v 1-3*

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your understanding, as to what was a difficult decision to close the school for children yesterday. With temperatures exceeding 34 degrees in classrooms with 32 bodies, it was clear that school wasn't an appropriate place to keep our children safe, despite fans, using the church and adjusted timetables. It really was unprecedented, with the hottest day in June on record. Please continue to provide water bottles, sun hats and put sun cream on your child before school.

Last week we celebrated a fantastic Sports Week (thank you Miss Lunn) and next week we celebrate Arts Week, where Mrs Allery has organised a week of all things arty - from music and dance, to drawing, painting and sculpting.

### Worship

Last week Year 2 led a wonderful worship about teamwork, retelling the story of the paralysed man and his four friends who went to see Jesus. The story was beautifully told through artwork.

This week I led worship about Jesus, the good shepherd and shared how Jesus looks after us all and knows us by our name.

Our postponed **Bourne Class Worship** will now be on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**.

### New Classes

Today, your children had their Transition Day, where they visited their new classrooms and met the adults who will be supporting them in the next academic year. They will be bringing home a letter with further information about their new class.

### Saying Goodbye and Saying Hello

We say goodbye to Mrs Willmore (formerly Miss Wingate), who is off travelling the world with her new husband next year. We wish her well and want to thank her for all her hard work in Early Years at St. James'.

Mrs Dimambro and Mrs Bircham are retiring! After over a decade of service in nurture for our vulnerable pupils, the ladies (known affectionately together as Direne) are leaving us to enjoy some well-earned retirement. I am sure we will see them around school in the future but want to thank them both for their hard work and dedication for all our children.

Mrs Fakorede will be known as Mrs Johnson from now on – so don't think we have a new teacher.

**A member of THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER ACADEMY TRUST**

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Miss Cottenham will be joining our teaching team, relocating from Plymouth, where she has experience as a Key Stage 1 Teacher. She will be teaching in Year 1 next year and we are very excited to have her in our teaching team.

Miss Gya-Guest will be joining Mr Parsons as our Early Years Teachers next year. We are looking forward to her energy and enthusiasm.

Miss Perry will be leaving us next year to go and have a baby boy in August; we wish her well with the birth of her first child and look forward to seeing her when she returns.

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs South, who has completed her teacher training. She is going to teach at Corpus Christi, and we will still see her around, as her daughter starts with us in Early Years next year! Thank you, Megan, for all you have done, and congratulations on securing a teaching post.

### Music Evening 2026

Our annual celebration of all things music and creative arts is on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June**. The heat has slightly altered our preparations, but we know you are in for a treat with a whole range of performances on the way from recorders, violins and guitars to hip hop, drums and musicals! Children will need to be dropped off at the children's entrance at 5pm and the performance will start at 5.30pm.

Parents and family are welcome to attend but please be mindful that it may not be suitable for small children who may struggle to keep still during individual performances. It is important that we give all of our musicians the chance to perform at their best with an attentive audience.

### Arts Week

**Next Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> July)**, we will be holding an Art Exhibition in the church. This will be a culmination of children's work from the week. Parents will be able to go in from 2.15pm, and the children can accompany you after school.

Please can your child **bring a paint shirt/painting apron in next week**, so that they can enjoy getting involved in all things messy, without getting their uniform dirty.

### Parent Prayer Meeting

Following our initial meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, our Parent Prayer Meeting will now take place every Tuesday morning for the rest of term at 8.40am in the church. Everyone is welcome to attend, including little ones! If you are unable to join us but would be interested in attending in the future, please complete this brief feedback form. We are still exploring the most suitable time to meet and may also look to organise an evening meeting once per half term for those who are interested.

<https://forms.office.com/r/gNDMZp3SnP>

### St. James' Preschool Update

You may notice a banner at the front of school for 'Tiny Seeds preschool. This will be the new preschool on our site (located in the church) from September. If you or you know someone who is interested then their email is [info@tinyseedspreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@tinyseedspreschool.co.uk) or phone 07960 198988.

Although it will not formally be a St. James' preschool – 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. There will be a couple of open mornings in the summer term for you to get a feel for 'Tiny Seeds' preschool. Their website is [www.tinyseedspreschool.co.uk](http://www.tinyseedspreschool.co.uk)

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> June - Arts Week**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June** - Music Evening

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 1 Beach Visit

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - EYFS new intake stay and play session

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - EYFS Longdown Dairy Farm visit

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** - Mufti Day for donations for the Summer Fayre

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** - Art Exhibition in church 2.15pm

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 3 Ancient Technology Centre

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July** - Bourne Class Worship (new date)

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July** - Written Reports out to Parents

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 6 Leaver's Disco - 6pm – 8pm - school hall

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July** - St. James' Summer Fayre

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 6 Production Evenings - 6.30pm - 8.30pm

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Year 5 and 6 Leaver's Eucharist - 1.30pm - church

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Year 6 leaver's academy awards evening - 6pm - 8pm - school hall

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** - Break up for summer holidays @ 1:20pm

Over the summer we have several projects going on at school. A new (refreshed) office space at the front of the school, an outdoor classroom being constructed by our forest school, a new PE shed on the bottom playground - to make way for a new outdoor stage! We are also pleased to be installing new Early Years toilets in the autumn.

We are also refreshing our ICT equipment and furniture in the classrooms. We are very lucky to have Mr Lillis, who project manages these improvements, and our trust DCAT, for enabling us to make our environment the very best it can be for our children and adults.

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.***



# OPENING DAY

**TUESDAY 30TH JUNE 2026**

**APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**PLEASE GET INTOUCH TO BOOK A SLOT**

ST. JAMES THE GREATER, POKESDOWN HILL,  
BOURNEMOUTH, BH7 6DW

**REGISTERING  
NOW  
FOR 2-5 YEAR  
OLDS**



**TERM-TIME ONLY  
OPEN 8:30AM -  
3:30PM**

07960198988 | [www.tinyseedspreschool.co.uk](http://www.tinyseedspreschool.co.uk)  
[info@tinyseedspreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@tinyseedspreschool.co.uk)



# ST. JAMES' SUMMER FAYRE

FACE PAINTING

GAMES

RAFFLE



BBQ



BOOK &  
PUZZLE SALE

CHOCOLATE  
TOMBOLA

ICE CREAM

SECOND HAND  
UNIFORM SALE

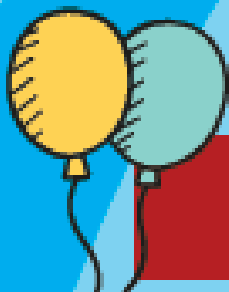
BAR &  
SOFT DRINKS

CAKES

STALLS

ARTS & CRAFTS

BOUNCY CASTLE



£3  
CHILDREN

£1  
ADULTS

**SATURDAY 11TH JULY**  
**11AM - 2PM**



USE QR CODE TO PURCHASE TICKETS  
CHILDREN'S PRICE INCLUDES PSA & CHURCH  
GAMES, PSA ARTS & CRAFTS AND SCAVENGER HUNT.  
UNDER 2'S FREE.



## July 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

**£24 each or FREE with School Membership**

Book online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Recordings available for 48 hours

Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	6 July 10am
Anxiety Explained	6 July 7pm
Introduction to OCD	7 July 10am
What is ACT?	7 July 7pm
Decreasing Depression	13 July 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	13 July 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	14 July 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	14 July 7pm
<b>FREE - Supporting Healthy Screen Use</b>	16 July 7-8pm
Autism-Improving Communication	20 July 10am
Improving Family Communication	20 July 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	21 July 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	21 July 7pm
Understanding Anger	27 July 10am
School Anxiety	27 July 7pm
Facing Defiance	28 July 10am
Supporting Health Screen Use	28 July 7pm

# ST JAMES SPARKLERS

SUNDAYS

10AM

14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE



OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

SHARING GOOD NEWS EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD

21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE

NO COMPROMISE

FACING CHALLENGES TOGETHER



28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

RECOGNISED

HONOURING JESUS IN HOW WE LOVE OTHERS

5<sup>TH</sup> JULY

ALL AGE FAMILY SERVICE - WITH SCALLOPINI CHILDREN & FAMILY CHOIR



12<sup>TH</sup> JULY

CHOOSING WELL  
HOW DO WE MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE?



19<sup>TH</sup> JULY

CELEBRATING ST JAMES TIDE - CAFE CHURCH WITH FREE LUNCH AND GAMES



SPARKLERS THEN BREAK FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS  
ALL WELCOME TO JOIN REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICE!

BIBLE STORIES

GAMES

CRAFTS

MUSIC



St James Church - Pokesdown Hill - BH7 6DW  
[www.stjamespokesdown.co.uk](http://www.stjamespokesdown.co.uk)



## St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

### Term Dates 2026-2027

#### **AUTUMN TERM**

Inset Day	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026
Inset Day	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
First Day	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
Half Term	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
Last Day	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December (finish at 1.20pm)

#### **SPRING TERM**

Inset Day	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027
First Day	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
Half Term	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
Last Day	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March (finish at 1.20pm)
Inset Day	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March

#### **SUMMER TERM**

First Day	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
Half Term	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
Inset Day	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Last Day	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July (finish at 1.20pm)



**St. James' Church of  
England Primary  
Academy**

**Term Dates 2027-2028**

**AUTUMN TERM**

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

**SPRING TERM**

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

**SUMMER TERM**

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