



St. James' Church of England Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
BOURNEMOUTH
BH7 6DW
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Friday 10th July 2026

NEWSLETTER

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

Dear Parents and Carers

This is our penultimate newsletter of the academic year 2025/26. It has been a fun filled, action packed year and there is still more to come. As I always say, I liken this period in the school year to the traveller at the end of Gladiators – and we keep driving until the very end.

Thank you to those that have read the newsletter this year, it really does help with communication and knowing key dates and possible adaptations to the school day.

Worship

This week I shared stories about the Christians who proudly represent Jesus at this world cup, particularly the England players Eze, Guehi, Saka and Toney. We then all watched the highlights of the game against Mexico. It was lovely to see the children cheering and enjoying the result. Let's see how far England can go!

Bourne Class finally led our worship yesterday all about the summer and sunshine, despite it ironically being postponed due to the hot weather! That was our final class worship of the year. It is always lovely to invite parents in to watch our children lead worship and don't forget you are always warmly welcome to come to any of our collective worships on a Monday and see what it's all about.

Our collective worship is the heartbeat of our school, where we explore themes and situations and try to think what Jesus would do. Mrs Dodd leads our sign and sing worship every Tuesday which supports this through music.

Lost in Reality - Year 6 Production 2026!

On **Monday and Tuesday 13th and 14th July**, Year 6 will be performing in the premiere of 'Lost in Reality', a hilarious jape through Race Across the World, Traitors, Strictly and more, following Mr Brown on his quest to find fame! There are a few tickets left so please contact the office if you would like to come.

St. James' Preschool Update

Tiny Seeds, the new preschool on our site (located in the church from September) are holding another **Open Day on 20th July** and will be taking bookings for prospective parents to visit the nursery.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please get in touch by email at info@tinyseedspreschool.co.uk or by phone on 07960 198988. Further information can be found on their website: www.tinyseedspreschool.co.uk



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School Clubs

We are already thinking about extra-curricular clubs for the start of next year and will share our provision at the beginning of September.

There are a range of music lessons available during school time and Mrs Bright's recorder lesson offer is attached to this newsletter.

Most of our clubs are free, and all of our teachers run a club. There are some provided by outside providers such as Frogs Drama, Karate, Gymnastics, Tennis, Sailing and Aspire that come with a charge. We always endeavour to offer exciting and engaging opportunities for our children, and if you have any links to clubs and activities that you think our school could benefit from, please do get in touch.

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. Information is on the NHS website on how to treat. [Head lice and nits - NHS](#)

Summer Swimming

Exciting news – a new swimming school is launching this September!

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Finnigan and Mrs Garel Jones will be launching their very own Swimming School in September 2026!

The lessons will cater for pre-school children through to Stage 2 swimmers, providing a fun, supportive, and confidence-building environment where young swimmers can develop essential water skills and enjoy learning to swim.

Their flyer containing details on lesson times, venue, and how to book is at the end of this newsletter.

With a special offer of 5% off for the pupils of St. James' they look forward to welcoming you to the pool and supporting the next generation of confident swimmers – one splash at a time!

BCP - Anti-Social Behaviour

The Safer BCP Partnership is creating a new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area.

They want to understand more about people's perceptions and experiences of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the BCP area. This will help them to create a strategy, alongside the data they hold, that focuses on the areas and behaviours that are having the greatest impact on residents' lives.

They've created a survey asking for people's views and have had a great response so far, however they'd appreciate a greater take up from parents/carers and young people. Please click on the link.

The deadline to complete the survey is 12th July.

[Project: Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy | BCP Council](#)

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:

Friday 10th July - Written Reports out to Parents

Friday 10th July - Year 6 Leaver's Disco - 6pm – 8pm - school hall

Saturday 11th July - St. James' Summer Fayre

Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July - Year 6 Production Evenings - 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 21st July - Year 5 and 6 Leaver's Eucharist - 1.30pm - church

Tuesday 21st July - Year 6 leaver's academy awards evening - 6pm - 8pm - school hall

Wednesday 22nd July - Break up for summer holidays @ 1:20pm

Thursday 3rd September - Children return to school for the start of the academic year 2026/2027

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.**

A vibrant poster for St. James' Summer Fayre. The background is a bright blue with a sunburst pattern of lighter blue rays. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting (red, yellow, green, blue) is strung across. Below the bunting are two crests: a green shield with a gold bell and a blue scallop shell with a white cross. The title 'ST. JAMES' SUMMER FAYRE' is written in large, bold, white capital letters with a black outline. In the center is a large, stylized ice cream cone with a wooden stick. The ice cream is a swirl of yellow, pink, and purple. Radiating from the center are various activities and items, each accompanied by a small icon. The activities include Face Painting (with a paint palette icon), Games (with a game controller icon), Raffle (with a raffle ticket icon), Book & Puzzle Sale (with a book icon), Ice Cream (with a cone icon), Bar & Soft Drinks (with a glass icon), Stalls (with a stall icon), Bouncy Castle (with a castle icon), Arts & Crafts (with a paint palette icon), Cakes (with a cake icon), Second Hand Uniform Sale (with a uniform icon), Chocolate Tombola (with a tombola ball icon), and BBQ (with a grill icon). At the bottom, a red banner contains the date and time. To the left of the banner are two balloons (yellow and blue). To the right are two speech bubbles indicating ticket prices: £3 for children and £1 for adults. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and a block of text explains that the children's price includes PSA & Church Games, PSA Arts & Crafts, and a Scavenger Hunt, while under 2s are free.

ST. JAMES' SUMMER FAYRE

GAMES

RAFFLE

FACE PAINTING

BOOK &
PUZZLE SALE

ICE CREAM

CHOCOLATE
TOMBOLA

BAR &
SOFT DRINKS

SECOND HAND
UNIFORM SALE

STALLS

CAKES

BOUNCY CASTLE

ARTS & CRAFTS

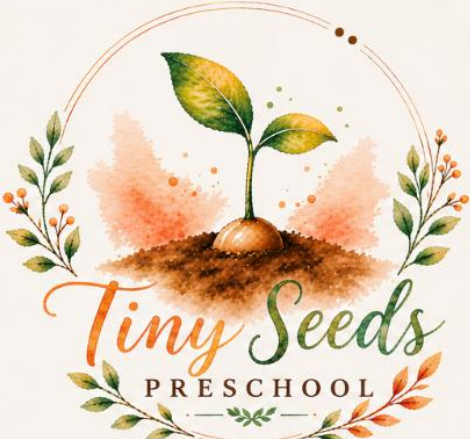
£3
CHILDREN

£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.



Tiny Seeds
PRESCHOOL

OPEN DAY

Monday 20th July
10am - 3pm
APPOINTMENT ONLY

ENROLLING FOR CHILDREN
AGED 2-5 YEAR OLDS

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2026



TERM TIME
ONLY SETTING



ST JAMES THE GREATER
POKESDOWN HILL
BOURNEMOUTH
BH7 6DW



ST JAMES SPARKLERS

SUNDAYS

10AM



14TH JUNE

OUT OF YOUR
COMFORT ZONE

SHARING GOOD
NEWS EVEN WHEN
IT'S HARD

21ST JUNE

NO COMPROMISE

FACING
CHALLENGES
TOGETHER



28TH JUNE

RECOGNISED

HONOURING JESUS
IN HOW WE LOVE
OTHERS



5TH JULY



ALL AGE FAMILY
SERVICE - WITH
SCALLOPINI
CHILDREN &
FAMILY CHOIR



12TH JULY

CHOOSING WELL

HOW DO WE MAKE
THE RIGHT
CHOICES IN LIFE?

19TH 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



Discover the

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StJames2026

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Visit russellcotes.com or scan



Russell-Cotes Art Gallery &
Museum,
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Bournemouth, BH1 3AA
01202 128000
russellcotes.com

Open 10am–5pm Tuesday–Sunday, see website for further details

What's On at the Russell-Cotes this summer?

Flower Fairies™: Enchantment by the Sea.

Until 4 October 2026



Discover the magic of Cicely Mary Barker's Flower Fairies in a stunning seaside setting. Step into a world of magic and wonder with Flower Fairies™: Enchantment by the Sea, an exhibition celebrating the timeless artistry of Cicely Mary Barker (1895–1973). Explore original artworks from the beloved Flower Fairies books, along with delicate preparatory sketches, personal sketchbooks and beautiful landscapes inspired by Dorset.

Summer Holidays Activities, 23 July – 31 August

Be enchanted this Summer holiday with our fairy themed trails, crafts and workshops celebrating our current exhibition Flower Fairies™: Enchantment by the Sea.



Trails and Activities Include (see our website for more details):

- House Trail – spot the Flower Fairies hidden throughout the historic house and galleries
- Exhibition Activities – there's lots of family friendly activities in our exhibition
- Garden Trail – find the Flower Fairies in the garden and match them to their poem
- Garden Games – enjoy traditional garden games outside (weather permitting)
- Pre-bookable Fairy Craft Workshops – Wednesdays 10.30am–12.00pm, £9 per child.
- Fairy Garden Party – Join us 11am–1pm Thursday 30 July for a fairy themed family activities in the Russell-Cotes garden.

July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 1 children

Year 2 Recorder Lessons 2025/26

Your child recently enjoyed a performance of recorder music, given by the current Year 2 pupils. At St James, children in Year 2 have the opportunity to learn how to play the recorder. Tuition takes place in small groups during school time on Wednesday afternoons, where children learn not only how to play the recorder, but about all the key elements of music. Pupils will build good listening skills and gain confidence and self-esteem, taking part in group work. The aim is to give them a firm foundation on which to build any future music or instrumental learning.

Lessons are payable on a termly basis, in advance and are non-refundable. The cost is £40 per term of 10 lessons. If you wish your child to take recorder lessons from September, **please email me by Friday 10th July at kathrynbright@ntlworld.com with the following details:**

- **Full name and current year 1 class of child**
- **Full name of parent(s) and contact details (email address and mobile phone number)**

Once I have received this information, I will contact you with confirmation of your child's place, plus details of how to pay by bank transfer.

Please note, once your child has committed to recorder lessons you **must give half a term's notice in writing should they wish to stop.**

Children will be expected to practise regularly and must remember to bring in their recorder and music on the day of their lesson. Descant recorders and music book ('Recorder from the Beginning Book 1' by John Pitt) are widely available online.

Please feel free to email me if you have any queries.

Kathryn Bright
Recorder Teacher



BLUE WAVE
— BOURNEMOUTH —

SWIM • LEARN • ACHIEVE

SWIMMING LESSONS



SWIMMING LESSONS
FOR PRE-SCHOOL,
STAGES 1 & 2



MAXIMUM
2 CHILDREN
PER CLASS



TEACHERS
MRS FINNIGAN
AND MRS G



A RANGE OF
SESSION TIMES



info@bluewavebournemouth.co.uk



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11 PRIORY RD,
BOURNEMOUTH
BH2 5DF



FREE ON-SITE PARKING



CALL OR WHATSAPP
07976 053988
07818 034051

**BOOK YOUR
SEPTEMBER
SLOT!**





BLUE WAVE

— BOURNEMOUTH —

SWIM • LEARN • ACHIEVE

CONFIDENCE STARTS HERE

At Blue Wave Bournemouth,
we make learning to swim
fun, safe and rewarding.

From first splashes to confident
strokes, we're with your child
every step of the way.

MEET YOUR SWIM TEACHERS



SUZY

Suzy is a fully qualified
swim teacher and a
teaching assistant
specialising in SEN.

- ✓ Experienced in supporting children with additional needs in a calm, nurturing and inclusive environment.
- ✓ Creates a fun, safe space where every child can build confidence at their own pace.
- ✓ From first lessons to Stage 2, Suzy focuses on confidence, technique, water safety and making every lesson enjoyable.

QUALIFICATIONS



FULLY QUALIFIED
SWIM TEACHER



SEN TEACHING
EXPERIENCE



FOCUS ON WATER
CONFIDENCE & SAFETY



FRIENDLY, PATIENT
& SUPPORTIVE
APPROACH



VAL

Val is a fully qualified
swim teacher as well as
being Head of PE at a
local primary school.

- ✓ She enjoys helping children overcome fears, develop new skills and celebrate every achievement.
- ✓ Working alongside Suzy, Val delivers structured lessons that are relaxed, enjoyable and tailored to each swimmer's ability.

QUALIFICATIONS



FULLY QUALIFIED
SWIM TEACHER



WATER SAFETY
FOCUSED



SMALL CLASS
SPECIALIST



FRIENDLY &
ENCOURAGING
TEACHING STYLE

BOOK YOUR
SEPTEMBER
SLOT!

Ready to
MAKE A SPLASH?

Book your September slot today!



HOTEL COLLINGWOOD
11 Priory Rd, Bournemouth
BH2 5DF



CALL OR WHATSAPP
07976 053988 | 07818 034051



info@bluewavebournemouth.co.uk



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

Term Dates 2026-2027

AUTUMN TERM

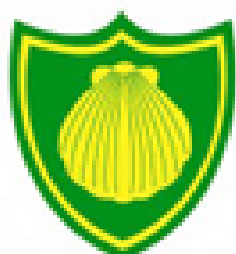
Inset Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Inset Day	Wednesday 2 nd September
First Day	Thursday 3 rd September
Half Term	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October
Last Day	Friday 18 th December (finish at 1.20pm)

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)