



Friday 11th September 2026

NEWSLETTER

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10 v 13-16

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! It really is so lovely to be back. The school is meant to have children in it. I pondered this whilst attending school over the summer holidays, to meet with Mr Lillis and see how the building work was progressing, and to prepare for the upcoming academic year. It becomes a vibrant, happy place, filled with laughter and learning. The children have started the year beautifully, displayed wonderful learning behaviours following our Ready, Respectful and Safe behaviour code.

With regards to the summer; we have had significant refurbishment and building work to make our school look and feel even better. The school office has been transformed to a more open plan working environment, also allowing Mrs Dodd and myself to have our own office and meeting space next door.

We have had a beautiful outdoor classroom (the new Rainbow room) built at the very front of the school, next to our Forest school – this will provide a wonderful learning environment for up to 10 pupils, with its own kitchen and toilet areas. We have had an Early Years makeover outside, with a new mud kitchen, sand pit and flooring, which allows purposeful learning and enhanced provision. We have also had a new PE shed built on our bottom playground, allowing us to store our PE equipment in a safe space.

The next phase will be to turn the old shed and shelter into a purpose-built all-weather stage for our children to perform in all weathers!

Worship

We started back this week with a reminder how special and unique we all are. I read '[You are special](#)' by [Max Lucado](#), where Punchinello learns the importance of trusting his maker, Eli. It is a reminder that we can check in with God at any time.

Reverend Rachel led our worship in church on Thursday morning. It is such a lovely thing to be part of St. James' church, as one big family.

If any parent wants to come and join our Monday worship at 9am in the hall, you are more than welcome. Just let the office know so that we can sign you in and out of school. We will put chairs out just in case. It would be lovely to see some of you there, and you can see and hear what the children do.

We also saw the return of our Parent Prayer group on Tuesday morning in church at 8.40am. If anyone would like to join, you are warmly welcome. Just pop into the church after school drop off in the morning, we would love to see you there.

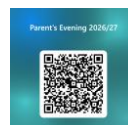
Open Classrooms

On Monday, 14th September at 3.20pm, we are inviting parents and children in to see their classrooms and learning environments. We are changing our annual parent information/meet the teacher meetings, so that they are online information videos which will be found on the year group pages of our school website. These should be available as of today.

Parent Consultations and Reports

We have been holding Online Parent's Evenings in the autumn term for the last few years, and we wanted to gauge a preference from you (parents and carers), as to whether this works, or whether you would prefer an in-person Parent Consultation, like we do in the spring term. As usual, your child's written report will come out at the end of the academic year in July 2027.

Please use the QR code below to select your preference.



School Clubs

Our **Sailing Club** takes place from Thursday 17th September from 3:30pm – 5pm at Christchurch Harbour, Mudeford Quay. This is a great place to learn due to sheltered, shallow waters and as a team they have a lot of experience teaching children sailing skills in a fun and safe way. Please email nick@shoresports.co.uk if you have any questions.

You would need to transport your child to and from this venue. Please sign up and pay via Arbor if you wish your child to participate **by Tuesday 11th September**.

All other extra-curricular clubs will be available to sign up, via Arbor, from 9am, Saturday 12th September.

Parent Mental Health Workshop

We are pleased to be hosting a parent workshop led by the Mental Health Services Team on **Friday 25th September at 9am**.

The session will provide practical advice and strategies to help support children with behaviour, anxiety, and worries, and will offer an opportunity to learn from experienced professionals.

If you would like to attend, please sign up via **Arbor (Trips)** so we can plan accordingly and have an idea of numbers.

National Fitness Day - Wednesday 16th September

On **Wednesday 16th September**, we will be celebrating **National Fitness Day** throughout the school day. Children are welcome to come to school wearing a **sports kit** if they wish.

To start the day, **Miss Lunn** will be leading a **Wake and Shake** session on the playground from **8:15am to 8:30am** (weather permitting). We would love to see as many families as possible joining us!

Throughout the day, lessons will include more active learning opportunities, and there will also be a friendly competition between year groups to see which team of adults can achieve the highest number of steps.

We look forward to an energetic and fun-filled day and hope to see you on the playground on Wednesday morning!

Easyfundraising - We Need You!

We have signed up to easyfundraising.co.uk and we need your help! When you visit a retailer through easyfundraising and make a purchase, they pay the company a marketing fee for introducing you.

Easyfundraising turn some of that money into a donation for your chosen cause - in this case, St. James'! You don't pay anything extra because retailers, not shoppers, fund the donations.

There are a whole range of shops and retailers including Tesco, Asda, John Lewis, M&S, Amazon, Ebay, Screwfix, Tui, Moneysupermarket and many more! Over 8000 retailers in total.

Please use the QR code to register and get the donations pouring in so that we can buy some new ICT equipment to make learning even more fun for your children. Find out more at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjames-ce-primary-academy-bournemouth>



Reminders:

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 96% - let's see if we can get even nearer to 100%.

Whilst I will always prioritise positive relationships with families, sometimes the local authority have little or no option than to issue a fine based on term time absences, such as holidays and lateness.

Relish

All parents must pre-order by midnight the day before - you can now pre-order for the whole of the summer term.

All payments must be made through Arbor meal payments as usual.

School Uniform

Thank you to those children who are always dressed so smartly in St. James' colours. We continue to look our smartest and we are taking pride in our appearance and our belonging to St. James'. Please try to ensure your child is dressed appropriately, following our uniform policy. Our uniform details are all on the website. Thank you for your support.

PE Days 2026/27

In our new academic year, your child's PE days will be:

Mondays - Harbour

Tuesdays – Year 1 and Year 3

Wednesdays - Year 4 and Year 5

Thursdays - Early Years

Fridays – Year 2 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 14th September 2026 – Open Classrooms Years 1, 2, 3, 5, 6. 3.20pm - 4pm

Wednesday 16th September – National Fitness Day

Wednesday 16th September – Early Years children in full time and new parents are invited into church for a coffee, so that you can meet other parents from 8.45am

Monday 21st September – Extra Curricular Clubs start

Monday 28th September – Early Years Open Classroom 3.20pm - 4.00pm

Thursday 1st October – Harvest Festival in church. 9am: Infant school (EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2), 2.30pm: Junior school (Years 3 - 6). Parents are warmly invited

Monday 12th October – Children's Individual Photographs. School uniform - **No PE kit please**
Wednesday 14th October – Year 2 and 4 Survival Day!
Friday 16th October – School 170th Birthday Open evening 4pm – 7pm
Friday 23rd October – Break up for half term and Church Light Party at 3pm
Monday 2nd November – Children return for the final half of autumn term
Wednesday 4th November – Year 4 Swimming Lessons begin
Saturday 7th November – School Open Morning 10am – 12pm
Wednesday 11th November – Year 6 leading worship – Parents invited. 9am
Thursday 19th November – Malawi Class Worship. 9am
Tuesday 15th December – Year 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight – church: 6pm
Friday 18th December – Break up at 1.20pm for Christmas holidays
Friday 18th June 2027 – Sports day at King's Park stadium

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 19:14 Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.'

*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.***



St. James' CE Primary
is 170 years old.

Come and join us for an Open evening celebration in school, on Friday 16th October 2026, 4pm – 7pm.

If you are an ex-pupil, staff member, parent, we would love to hear from you, and if you have any old photos of memorabilia – even better.

Any questions, please contact the school office,
office@stjames.academy or call 01202 426696.



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools



Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

IS YOUR CHILD'S ANXIETY OR DIFFICULT BEHAVIOUR CAUSING CONCERN?

School: St James' Primary School

Date: Friday 25th September

Time: 9am-10am

Come and find out how your Mental Health Support Team in School can support with fears & worries and difficult behaviour in children.

Behaviour difficulties are common in children but when it impacts family life it can feel isolating. When this happens, you may need support overcoming the challenging behaviour.

Worry and anxiety are normal emotions, but when they begin to impact a child's daily life, such as hobbies and clubs, they might need support to overcome their worries.

**No need to
book! We just
ask you inform
school so we
have an idea
of numbers.**

At MHST we understand that parents and carers know their children best, so we want to support you. This workshop will introduce the principles of the support we can give to you as a parent to support your child overcome their difficulties.



SCAN
ME

FREE
RESOURCES



CREATIVE ENSEMBLE

SoundStorm's Creative Ensemble is back!



When? Sessions will take place on Saturdays: 10th October, 14th November, 9th January, 13th February, 13th March and 8th May from 10:30am-3pm (for members and non-members) and on Saturday 12th June (rehearsal from 10:30am-3pm and concert to take place in late afternoon, exact time tbc – for members only).

What is it? An ensemble led by musicians from the SoundStorm team. Open to all musicians on any instrument, including voice. All standards are welcome, from beginner to expert.

Where? Magna Academy, Ashdown Close, Poole, Dorset, BH17 8RE
Who can participate? Young people aged 10-17. You don't need to be able to read music; everything will be learnt by ear.

How much? £70 (up until end of June 2027). £15.00 for one-off session. Membership places are limited so please apply asap.

For more info on the Creative Ensemble and to sign up, please visit:

<https://soundstorm-music.org.uk/schools-teachers/music-hub/ensembles/creative-ensemble/>

YOUTH
MUSIC



Support for young people's learning by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



SOUNDSTORM
MUSIC EDUCATION AGENCY

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



SOUTH
COST
MUSIC

Have you started this year's Summer Reading Challenge?



There's still plenty of time to finish your books
and head back to the library to collect your
stickers, certificate and medal.

The official end date is
Saturday 19th September.



You can bring your certificates and medals into school to show us.
We'd love to see them!



BCP
Council

THE
READING
AGENCY

Summer Reading Challenge

Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026, Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026

GO
ALL
IN.



LIBRARIES STORY DOOR TRAIL

25 MAY - 28 SEPTEMBER

24 local schools have each created a story door,
and there's one hidden in every BCP library...



Scan the QR code or visit:
bcpcouncil.gov.uk/story-doors-trail
to download the trail map and get started!



HOW MANY DOORS CAN YOU FIND?



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

**BOOK YOUR
SEPTEMBER
SLOT!**



HOTEL COLLINGWOOD
11 PRIORY RD,
BOURNEMOUTH
BH2 5DF



FREE ON-SITE PARKING



CALL OR WHATSAPP
07976 053988
07818 034051



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
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info@bluewavebournemouth.co.uk



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

Term Dates 2026-2027

AUTUMN TERM

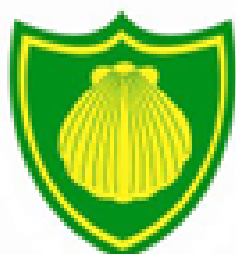
Inset Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Inset Day	Wednesday 2 nd September
First Day	Thursday 3 rd September
Half Term	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October
Last Day	Friday 18 th December (finish at 1.20pm)

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)