



Friday 25th September 2026

## NEWSLETTER

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."* Deuteronomy 31:6

Dear Parents and Carers

We only have 1 week left of September! School days really do whizz by. Walking around the academy it is wonderful to see the learning habits, displays, children's books and enjoyment that is happening. There is always a purposeful buzz when I or my leadership team walk around the school.

Our Junior Leadership Team (including Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies) were formed this week after a rigorous interview process. We had 19 children from Year 6 who applied for the positions, and we were so impressed that we have decided to create extra posts to allow for our JLT to be expanded to shadow the school Senior Leadership Team (the old people)!

Many congratulations to **Iris, Victoria, Zara, Nancy, George, Lennox, Rex** and **Shrikar** for forming the initial Junior Leadership Team of 2026/27.

### Worship

On Monday I led worship all about the men who built their house upon the sand and the rock, and the importance of strong foundations to build our lives upon. As always, parents are warmly welcomed to attend our whole school collective worship every Monday. Just come to the gate nearest the church annexe and you will be let into the hall at 8.50am.

Mr Jewell came in yesterday and led worship about new beginnings, and the new life that Zacchaeus the tax collector enjoyed after being reborn, after meeting Jesus.

Next week we have our 2 Harvest Festivals in church. 9am for Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2, and parents.

2.30pm for Key Stage 2 children and parents. Attached is a poster and wish list from the foodbank for donations.

### Free Lunch on Census Day - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 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 effects our school funding. Don't forget to pre-order by midnight the day before.

### Parent Consultations

You may remember we asked for your feedback as to whether you would like to continue with an online Parent Consultation in the Autumn term. The majority of voted to have 'in-person' parent's evenings in

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both Autumn and Spring Term. Therefore, parent's evening will take place in the school hall on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. A digital sign up will be sent to you nearer the time to secure your session with your child's teacher. Mrs Price (our wonderful Inclusion Leader) will also be available for appointments on both nights in the hall.

You will have also noticed on the year group pages of our website, the year group videos. This has information about the year ahead, and a chance to virtually see your child's teacher.

### **School Birthday Open Evening**

To celebrate 170 years, we are holding an Open Evening at school on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October between 4pm and 7pm**. There will be refreshments provided in the hall, and we would love to see as many ex-pupils, staff, parents as possible.

So far, we have had photos and memorabilia dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and we have a 91-year-old former pupil attending. I wonder if there is anyone older? If you have any photos from St. James', please email them to the office or bring them in and we will look after them.

### **PSA Meetings**

Our next PSA meetings will take place at **8:45am on Friday 2nd October at school** and **6:00pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October at The Brewhouse in Southbourne**.

We would love to welcome any parents or carers who would like to get involved with the PSA, whether you can attend one meeting or both. These meetings are a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the exciting events and fundraising activities planned for the year ahead, as well as share your own ideas for how we can raise money for the school while creating fun experiences and opportunities for our children.

The current PSA team is also looking for some additional support, and there are a few committee roles available for anyone interested in getting more involved. In particular, we are currently seeking a **Chair**, **Vice Chair** and a **Secretary**.

These roles do not need to take up a huge amount of time, and plenty of support will be available. If you think you might be interested, please come along to a meeting to find out more. We'd be delighted to see you there! Thank you for your support – *The PSA Team*.

### **Walking Home and Road Safety**

We have been made aware of some of our children not crossing roads safely. We will talk to the children at school but please reinforce road safety messages at home. We take this very seriously, being a school directly facing an 'A' road, and we have road safety as part of our curriculum. Walking home passes for Year 5 and 6 children have and can be rescinded at any time, if we think that our children are unsafe. Thank you for your support.

### **Food Support for Families**

Following changes to government funding, if you were previously eligible, supermarket vouchers for school holidays will no longer be issued from October half term 2026 onwards. Families can continue to access a range of food and financial support, including Healthy Start Scheme, Free School Meals, Holiday Activities and Food (HAF), local food support, Crisis Payments and money advice.

We've created a new Food Support for Families page on the Family Information Directory (FID), bringing together information about food, money and practical support available to families across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

[Food Support for Families](#)

## Easyfundraising - We Need You!

We have signed up to [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.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

Please remember that school starts at 8:30am and the gates close at 8.40am. Any children who arrive after 9am will be classified as an unauthorised 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 96.5% - let's see if we can get even nearer to 100%.

## Relish

All parents must pre-order by midnight the day before - you can now pre-order for the whole of the autumn 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 28<sup>th</sup> September** – Early Years Open Classroom 3.20pm - 4.00pm

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** – PSA Meeting – 8.45am at school

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> October** – Children's Individual Photographs. School uniform - **No PE kit please**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October** – PSA Meeting – 6pm Brewhouse, Southbourne

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 2 and 4 Survival Day!

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October** – School 170<sup>th</sup> Birthday Open evening 4pm – 7pm

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October** – School Nurse Drop-in – church annexe (sign up with school office)

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – Break up for half term and Church Light Party at 3pm

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – Children return for the final half of autumn term  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 4 Swimming Lessons begin  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November** – School Open Morning 10am – 12pm  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 6 leading worship – Parents invited. 9am  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November** – Parent's Evening in hall 3.20pm - 6.50pm  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November** – Parent's Evening in hall 3.20pm - 5.50pm  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November** – Malawi Class Worship. 9am  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – EYFS Nativity in the hall 2pm and 5pm  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight – church: 6pm  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Break up at 1.20pm for Christmas holidays  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.***

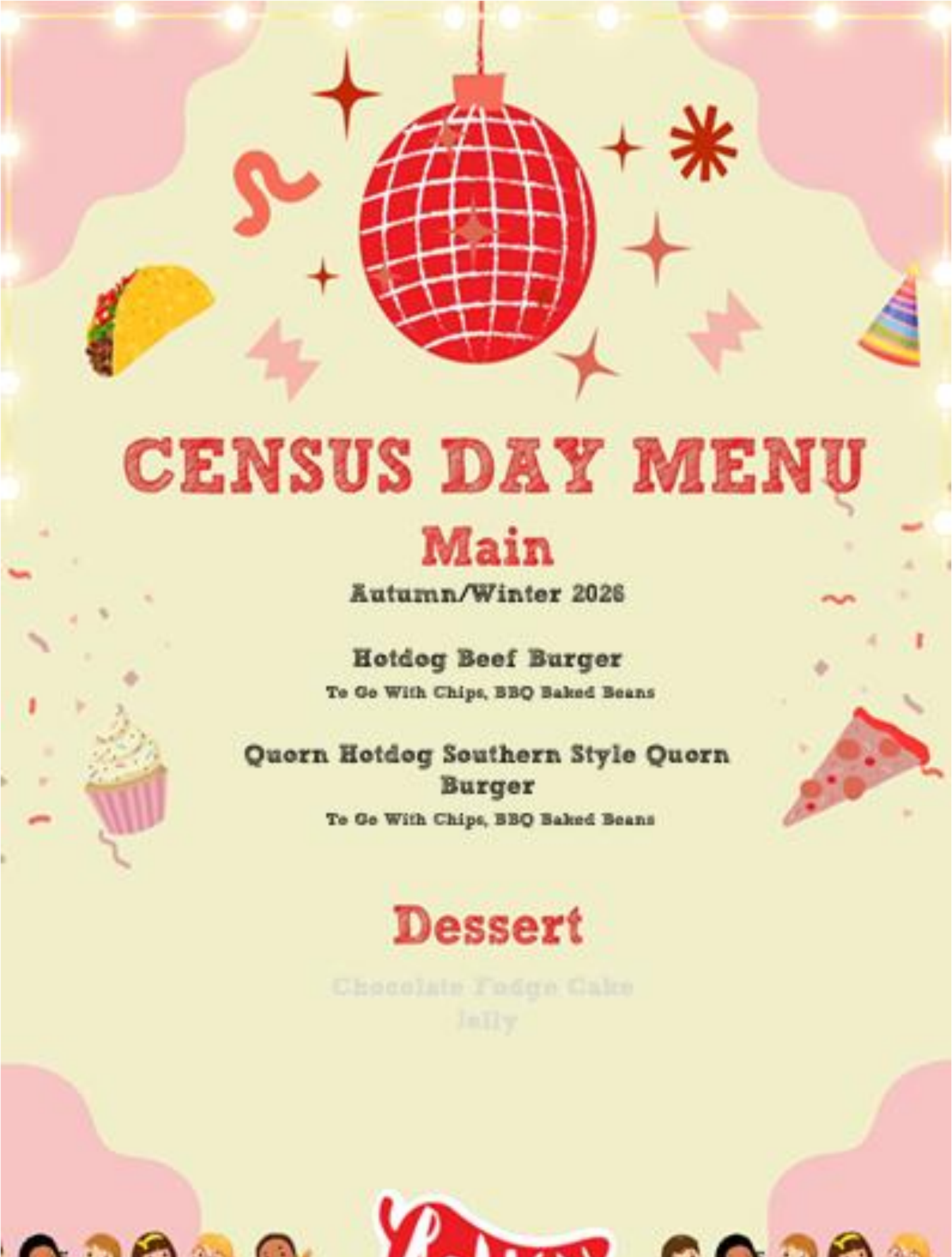


**St. James' CE Primary  
is 170 years old.**

Come and join us for an Open evening celebration in school, on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@stjames.academy) or call 01202 426696.



# CENSUS DAY MENU

## Main

Autumn/Winter 2026

**Hotdog Beef Burger**

To Go With Chips, BBQ Baked Beans

**Quorn Hotdog Southern Style Quorn  
Burger**

To Go With Chips, BBQ Baked Beans

## Dessert

Chocolate Fudge Cake  
Jelly





St James Church  
Pokesdown

# Harvest FESTIVAL

*Join us for*  
**Harvest Festival**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**  
**10am**

*Followed by  
a hot lunch*

**All welcome**



Bournemouth  
**Foodbank**  
Together with Trussell

# HARVEST

*festival*

2026

## Most needed items –

Pot noodles

UHT Milk

Breakfast biscuit/cereal bars

Instant oat pots/small boxes of cereal

Tinned Fruit

Chocolate

Savoury Snacks

Tampons

Deodorant

Washing detergent pods

Adult Toothpaste

## Or Donate via our

Crowdfunder –

QR code below

All donations match

funded by Aviva



# Parent drop-in

## Your next drop-in will be on:

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

**from 8:45am – 10:15am**

(Please contact the school office to  
book a 15 minute slot)



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](http://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' 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)           |