



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

NEWSLETTER

"Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the maker of them all."
Proverbs 22:2

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are definitely in autumn now, with the weather starting to turn a little chillier and the daylight gets shorter by 4 minutes each day. It has been a busy term one, with lots of exciting learning. I delight at children coming to see me, beaming with pride at the learning they have done. There are lots of exciting events coming up, especially in the build up to Christmas, so please keep an eye on dates.

Worship

It was wonderful to see so many families in church last week for our Harvest Festival Services. It was lovely to see the church vibrant and happy. Thank you.

This week I led worship about heroes and what they mean to us. It was linked to Martin Luther King who strived to make the world a fairer and kinder place.

Yesterday we had Pauline and Pam in worship, to talk about the shoebox appeal. This is a Christmas Charity to give to those children who may get nothing. You will have received a message regarding this yesterday. We have a small number of boxes available from the school office, which can be collected at the end of the school day.

School Video

Last week we had a Videographer in school to film a promotion video. He has just returned the final edit and it's pretty wonderful! It will be shared on the school website and online on our social media channels very soon, for you all to enjoy.

You Said, So We Did!

We really appreciate parent feedback so thank you to everyone who voted in our Facebook poll for parents' evening or who took the time to fill in our survey on our revised Relationships and Health Education policy. Your views are valuable!

You said, 'we prefer parents' evening in person' so we have changed November Parent Consultations to be in person instead of on online.

You said, 'we would like you to include more about social media influences and vaping' in our RSHE curriculum so Mrs Clark has adapted our plans to make sure that we cover this in an appropriate and helpful way to keep our children safe.

Thank you to everyone who responded.



A member of THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER ACADEMY TRUST

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Parent Consultations

Parent's evening will take place in the school hall on **Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th 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.

Poppy Appeal

We are pleased to let you know that we are once again supporting the **Poppy Appeal** this year and have a range of Poppy Appeal merchandise available to purchase from next week.

If your child would like to buy any items, please send them to school with some money. Our Year 6 Office Helpers will visit each class during the week to sell the merchandise.

Suggested donations:

- **50p** - Stickers, pencils and paper poppies
- **£1** - Plastic poppies and cotton wristbands
- **£2** - Snap bands

Thank you for your support of this worthwhile cause.

School 170th Birthday Open Evening

We have already had a terrific response from ex-teachers and pupils who are planning on attending next Friday. For those of you who are not aware - we are holding an Open Evening at school on **Friday 16th 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 19th 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 meeting will take place at **6pm on Monday 12th 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*.

Relish

Our Junior Leadership Team met with Chef Dan this week, to discuss the menu for next term, giving the children's perspective. They talked about healthy options, portion sizes, budget restrictions and much more. The new menu will be available online shortly.

Remember - all parents must pre-order by midnight the day before - you can now pre-order for the whole of the term. All payments must be made through Arbor meal payments as usual.

Reminders:

Attendance and Fines

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 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 96.6% - 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. 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 12th October – Children's Individual Photographs. School uniform - **No PE kit please**

Monday 12th October – PSA Meeting – 6pm Brewhouse, Southbourne

Wednesday 14th October – Year 2 and 4 Survival Day!

Friday 16th October – School 170th Birthday Open Evening 4pm – 7pm

Wednesday 21st October – School Nurse Drop-in – church annexe (sign up with school office)

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

Tuesday 17th November – Parent's Evening in hall 3.20pm - 6.50pm

Wednesday 18th November – Parent's Evening in hall 3.20pm - 5.50pm

Tuesday 24th November – Bournemouth School's Carol Concert – Bournemouth Pavilion

Monday 7th December – EYFS Nativity in the hall 2pm and 5pm

Tuesday 8th December – Year 1/Year 2 Christmas Production 2pm and 5pm

Wednesday 9th December – Year 1/Year 2 Christmas Production 9.15am

Friday 11th December – Year 3/Year 4 Christmas Production 9.15am

Monday 14th December – Year 3/Year 4 Christmas Production 2pm and 5pm

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.



School Nursing Team
0-19 CYP Public
Health Service



NHS
Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

Parent drop-in

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

Your next drop-in will be on:

Wednesday 21st October
from 8:45am – 10:15am
(Please contact the school office to book a 15 minute slot)

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](https://www.facebook.com/DorsetHealthCareSchoolNursing)
-  [dorsethealthcare_schoolnursing](https://www.instagram.com/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

Open Morning

Saturday 7th November 2026
10am–12pm

Presentations at 10am and 11am, with an opportunity to explore the school and speak to staff. School tours during school time are also available on request.

Call the school office on 01202 426696.



Top 5%

of schools nationwide
for KS2 outcomes
FISCHER FAMILY TRUST

*Come and see what the family of
St. James' can offer your child.*

St. James' CE Primary Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 6DW

stjamescebournemouth.com

**Dorset Parenting Support
Service**



“Behaviours that challenge us” Information Session

**Free one-off session for parent/carer(s) living in BCP and Dorset
with children aged between 5 and 11 years**

Join our one-off information session to find out more about how you can support and understand your child's challenges and difficulties. Session is delivered by a Child Clinical Psychologist.

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

Face to Face session, venue in BCP area

Wednesday 1st July 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 22nd September 2026

07:00pm - 09:00pm

Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday 19th January 2027

10:00am - 12:00pm

Virtual session via Microsoft Teams

**To book your place, please visit our website:
actionforchildren.org.uk/dorset or scan the QR code**



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**HALF TERM
HOLIDAY CLUB**

Held at St James' Primary School
Pokesdown Hill
Christchurch Road
Boscombe
Bournemouth
BH7 6DW

26th - 29th October
08:00 - 17:00*
Ages 4 - 13
From £25 per day

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Dodgeball

Football

Leaf paper lantern crafts

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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)



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

Term Dates 2028-2029

AUTUMN TERM

Inset Day	Monday 4 th September 2028
Inset Day	Tuesday 5 th September
First Day	Wednesday 6 th September
Half Term	Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October
Last Day	Wednesday 20 th December (finish at 1.20pm)

SPRING TERM

Inset Day	Thursday 4 th January 2029
Inset Day	Friday 5 th January
First Day	Monday 8 th January 2029
Half Term	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February
Last Day	Friday 30 th March (finish at 1.20pm)

SUMMER TERM

First Day	Monday 16 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 7 th May
Half Term	Monday 28 th May – Friday 1 st June
Inset Day	Monday 23 rd June
Last Day	Friday 20 th July (finish at 1.20pm)