



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6DW
01202 426696
Email office@stjames.academy
26th January 2024

Newsletter

There's good in the world, and it's worth fighting for. JRR Tolkien

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now at the end of week 4 of Term 3, and only have two more weeks left until February Half Term. The days are flying by and the learning that is taking place is incredible. We see on a daily basis the growth of your children and the amazement at their limitless ability across all curriculum subjects.

We have parent consultations in Term 4 and we can't wait to share books and news about your children's progress.

One year ago, Ofsted visited us and judged us as being a 'Good' school. With the continued support of our Trust (DCAT), we are going from strength to strength and St. James' is a wonderful school to be part of. I am humbled and privileged to lead such a wonderful staff team and your children are in a great place.

Jane Kelly from Portsmouth and Winchester Diocese came in last week and led a CPD session with our staff; she enjoyed looking around St. James' and was impressed with what she saw. Richard Wharton (Diocesan Education Advisor) is also visiting us next week. External validation is always nice, we know how fantastic our children are, and it's even better when someone else confirms it.

Early indications from BCP school admissions are that we will be full next year (for our Early Years cohort), with over 200 applicants naming us in their top 3 choices. This is encouraging during a low birth rate in the area, and affirming the good things that St. James' does for all children.

Worship

We were led in worship by Mediterranean class last week. They showed their feelings about forgiveness and what it meant to them. They retold the story of Joseph from the Old Testament and how he forgave his brothers. This week we have been thinking about Holocaust Memorial day and Reverend Rachel led our worship on Monday, all about Anne Frank. Mr Brown told the story of the Tiger who came to tea, by Judith Kerr (who was a holocaust survivor).

A Prayer for Holocaust Memorial Day: January 27th 2024

Dear God

We thank you that we live in a safe country where we can be ourselves without being hurt by others.

Today we especially remember people who have been hurt by others just because they are hated for being themselves. We pray that they may feel brave because you love and care for them. Please give us the courage to stand together when we know things are wrong. We pray that people who are filled with hatred, may have a change of heart and show kindness in the world instead. We ask all this in Jesus' name.

Amen



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Registered office: Diocesan Church House, 211 New Church Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4ED





We Borrowed The Moon

Last week, as part of our Year 5 curriculum, we borrowed some moon rocks and asteroids. We were unable to share this at the time (due to security reasons around the priceless objects), but the children got to see, touch and learn about materials that have come from space! What a great addition to their learning. Thank you to Miss Martin and Mrs Clark for making this happen. Check out our website and Instagram for more details.



Fantastic Fred

www.thefantasticfredexperience.com/for-parents-guardians

We have the Fantastic Fred team performing to our children on Tuesday 30th January all day. These are 30 minute performances, at an age appropriate level linked to children's wellbeing and mental health. They are sponsored by the NHS and will be putting on a special performance for adults at 2:15pm, so if you can make it, please arrive at the church in plenty of time. Click on the link above for more information.



We're Going On A Bear Hunt!

On Friday 2nd February, we are asking you to support our charitable giving, by allowing the children to dress in mufti; bring in a teddy bear and donation. We will be planning 'bear themed' activities throughout the day, bear stories and a cake sale at the end of the day. If you, or your child, are able to make and donate some cakes, we would be very grateful.

We are hoping to raise as much money as possible for the Dorset Children's Foundation, who came into school on our disability awareness day. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbICvhLlc-Q>



World Book Day

<https://www.littlestepspublishing.co.uk/books/a-squirrels-tale>

On Wednesday 6th March (the day before World Book Day 2024), we have the talented local author Debs Pharoah Pink coming into St. James' for the day. She will be delivering an assembly and workshops throughout the day for our children. There will also be opportunities for you to purchase signed copies of her book.

The following day, will be an animal themed day to celebrate world book day, where your child can come dressed as an animal from literature.



PE Days In 2024

A reminder that these are the days when the children should come to school in their PE kits:

EYFS – Wednesdays

Year 1 – Tuesdays

Year 2 – Thursdays

Year 3 – Fridays

Year 4 – Tuesdays

Year 5 – Thursdays

Year 6 – Fridays



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Have You Ever Considered A Career In Teaching?

At St. James' we are always keen to help training with new teachers, and embed good pedagogical habits early on. The Poole SCITT which is a Primary Teacher Training programme, are looking for recruits to train to teach. They have some upcoming events:

Information sessions at Poole SCITT, BH17 8AP

Wednesday 7th February 10am - 12pm and Monday 4th March 1pm - 3pm

An informal drop in session at Poole SCITT for anyone interested in applying for primary teacher training. We can answer any queries or questions that you might have and you will have a chance to see the Poole SCITT course premises.

Information evening for those interested in Primary or Secondary teaching at Poole High School, BH15 2BW

Tuesday 19th March 4:30pm - 6pm and Tuesday 14th May 4:30pm - 6pm

An informal drop in session for anyone interested in applying for primary teacher training. There will also be a local secondary teacher training provider attending. We can answer any queries or questions that you might have. (We have attached their flyer to this newsletter).



A Few Requests From The Office

Reporting of absence - please do this by **9am on the morning of each day**, as per our attendance policy, either via Arbor, emailing the office (office@stjames.academy), or leaving a message on the telephone.

If you haven't informed us of more than one day, you will need to let us know each morning.

Unless children have a temperature, vomiting or diarrhoea, or are really too ill to come in, we are happy to have them. We can cope with a huge array of sniffles and grizzles!

Handwashing - with a variety of bugs around, please do highlight the importance of hand washing to your children. We all know how much of a difference washing hands properly can make to the spread of illness.

Lost property - please **name all** your child's clothing, we have increasing amounts of lost property left each day unnamed that we are unable to reunite with their owner!

Arbor - please have a look on Arbor to make sure we have all up-to-date information, including **who is authorised to collect your child**.

Post box - we do have a post box outside the office, and on the visitors gate. Please leave any paperwork that needs returning to the office in one of these, to save you queuing in the office.

Lunches - please remember to provide your child with a packed lunch if you haven't ordered a hot school lunch via Arbor. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 you are entitled to Universal Free School Meals - but you **do still need to order your child's meal choice in advance**.



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Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday 30th January - Fantastic Fred - church. Parents welcome from 2.15pm.

Wednesday 31st January - Glee Club performing at the O2, London

Friday 2nd February - Teddy Bear Day - **mufti and bring a teddy**

Tuesday 6th February - Year 5 Winchester Science Centre visit

Thursday 8th February - Ducklings and Tadpoles class worship - 9am in the hall (please enter through the school hall doors, not the school office)

Friday 9th February - Break up for Spring half term at normal time (3:00pm/3:10pm)

Monday 19th February – Return for Term 4

Friday 21st June - Sports Day

Please check our website for your child's learning and important information on the year group pages. There should be even more year group content from now, and it's really easy to see on a mobile phone.

Yours in Christ,

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.**

'Every pupil and adult flourishes within the family at St. James'. SIAMS report June 2022.

2023-24 Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2024

Half Term Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024

Last Day Thursday 28th March 2024 (finish at 1.20pm)

SUMMER TERM 2024

First Day Monday 15th April 2024

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024

Inset Day Monday 3rd June 2024

Last Day Friday 19th July 2024 (finish at 1.20pm)



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

Term Dates 2024-2025

AUTUMN TERM

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Inset Day | Monday 2 nd September 2024 |
| Inset Day | Tuesday 3 rd September |
| First Day | Wednesday 4 th September |
| Half Term | Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November |
| Last Day | Friday 20 th December (finish at 1.20pm) |

SPRING TERM

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Inset Day | Monday 6 th January 2025 |
| First Day | Tuesday 7 th January |
| Half Term | Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February |
| Last Day | Thursday 3 rd April (finish at 1.20pm) |
| Inset Day | Friday 4 th April |

SUMMER TERM

| | |
|--------------|--|
| First Day | Tuesday 22 nd April |
| Bank Holiday | Monday 5 th May |
| Half Term | Monday 26 th May – 30 th May |
| Inset Day | Monday 2 nd June |
| Last Day | Tuesday 22 nd July (finish at 1.20pm) |

An Introduction to Autism and Neurodiversity for Parents

Led by Kate Tuck & Jackie Horne

Linwood Training, Support & Advice

This session will provide parents with a basic overview of how Autism and Neurodiversity may present in children and young people.

- Information about Autism and Neurodiversity including the 3 areas of difference.
- Parent input “What I wish I had known”.
- Young person input “My experiences”.



Please note that your child does not need a diagnosis to attend this session. No charge to attend. This course is open to families who live in BCP.

Please email ; jackiehorne@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk for session details / availability.





Welcome to The Umbrella Group

We are a parent led support group, for parents of children and young adults with ASD which has been running for 10 years. We are known as **The Umbrella Group**, with its connotations of protection and covering a wide spectrum of behaviours which all come under the same umbrella of autism. We normally meet once a month on the 4th Saturday but meetings can be rescheduled to alternative Saturdays to accommodate speakers and avoid school holidays.

If you wish to attend or would like more information, please contact –

Email -> Debbie Muldoon-Hall debbiewestbourne@gmail.com
Mobile -> Clare Lockyer on 07450 210911
Facebook -> <https://m.facebook.com/groups/312179982770667?ref=share>

Autism Unlimited -> Shares resources and provides information to help parents to connect to other services that have the authority to advise them.

<https://www.autism-unlimited.org/support/book-a-call/>

Please note the Umbrella meetings are for parents and carers only unless otherwise specified

Venue The Pool room at Portfield School, Parley Lane, Hurn, Christchurch BH23 6BP
Day Usually 4th Saturday of the month but occasionally changes due to school holidays and guest speakers 'availability'.
Time 10-1230 am approximately. Please note our meetings often over-run to give parents chance to chat with each other but parents can leave at any time for their own convenience
Cost £1 donation for refreshments and administration.



Umbrella group meeting dates 2024



ASD support for parents and carers
10am -1230 Portfield School

Saturday 27th January 2024 - will still take place

10 – 1230

****Sandy Teale, Criminal Justice discussion - postponed to February****

Meet the parents

An informal opportunity to chat to other Umbrella parents.

Option to add to our noticeboard a photograph, small piece of artwork from your child celebrating what they can achieve

Saturday 24th February 2024

Criminal Justice & offending

Sandy Teale

Educational Consultant / Director MindSenseAbility Ltd

<https://mindsenseability.co.uk/>

Saturday 18th May 2024

10 -1230

Pathological Demand Avoidance

Details tbc

Speakers and themes tbc for meetings on

Saturday 23rd March, Saturday 27th April & Saturday 22nd June

Dates for "An Introduction to Autism & Neurodiversity for Parents". Available to book by emailing jackiehome@linwood.bournemouth.sch.uk. No diagnosis is necessary. No charge to attend. 1 or 2 spaces per family available. Please note these sessions are available to BCP families.

| Date | Start time | Finish time (Approx.) | Venue name and address |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---|
| Friday 3 rd May 2024 | 9.30am | 12pm | Somerford Arc, Southey Road, Christchurch |
| Thursday 23 rd May 2024 | 9.30am | 12pm | The Hamworthy Club, Magna Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH21 3AP |
| Thursday 6 th June 2024 | 9.30am | 12pm | Oakdale Junior School, 3 School Lane, Oakdale, Poole, BH15 3JR. |
| Monday 8 th July 2024 | 9.30am | 12pm | Virtual delivery via Zoom |

The Dorset Children's Foundation Wish List



£10 pays for a sensory pack for a child with ASD or sensory needs.



£45 pays for counselling to help parents cope with life raising a child with complex medical needs.



£60 pays for a bicycle ride for 10 children on specialist adapted bikes.



£65 pays for a visit from a play specialist for those with profound physical and learning disabilities.



£100 pays for a stay and play group for 30 preschool children with special needs.



£160 pays for a Saturday Club session for 30+ children with the most profound physical and learning disabilities.



£250 pays for exclusive use of an indoor skate park for up to 150 people.



£500 is enough to sponsor a fully accessible speedboat trip for up to 11 people.



£3000 pays for 10 families to attend a residential outdoor adventure weekend.

Come and train to teach Primary children with Poole SCITT

- Exceptional school-based training based in Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset schools
- Excellent local reputation
- Consistently high outcomes & excellent employment rates
- Majority of graduates employed in local schools
- High quality personalised training
- Highly influential and involved partner schools



Poole SCITT
Excellence In Education

*For more
information visit:*
www.poolescitt.co.uk