



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
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1st March 2024

Newsletter

In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Dear Parents/Carers

It is March already! Yesterday was a 'bonus day', we don't often have a 366th day of the year, but we had one (it's all to do with catching up on our revolution of the sun!) I wonder how many of you thought about that 'extra day?' We always seem to worry about time and the lack of it. Sometimes time goes slowly – usually when we are doing something we don't enjoy, and at other times – it flies. The expression 'blink and you'll miss it', never seems more true than the growth of our beloved children. They really do grow up so fast. Cherish them, enjoy them and treasure every day that the Lord has made – we will rejoice and be glad in it!



Worship

This week we thought about Lent and the temptations of Jesus'. I brought in some fruit pastilles and told the children about an advertising campaign from my childhood, where they would challenge people to put a fruit pastille in their mouths without chewing it. Our children were surprisingly good at this, despite the difficulty and the temptation. It takes a strong will and a lot of encouragement to truly resist temptation and to do what is right. Putting our faith in one that we love can really help us through those difficult times in life – our friends, our families and our God.



National Science Award Winner!

Some of you may remember we entered a competition last year entitled 'So you want to be an engineer?'

This was a national competition and we had 42 children selected with a merit award or higher for their engineering designs, of which we had eight children who were rewarded as winners for the South West region (7 of them girls!). One thing that stood out, was their selfless designs, all aimed at helping people and making the world a better and kinder place. We had a lovely day at Southampton University, looking at other children's designs and getting our awards.

What we didn't know was that one design would be selected to be made into a prototype by the team of engineers at Southampton University, and hopefully be used in the world of engineering. **Emily, from year 3**, designed a 'seed drone', and this has been chosen by a panel of experts as the winning design. It will be made into a tangible design and she will be celebrated at this year's award ceremony. Well done Emily, you are brilliant, we are all so proud of you.

We will be entering the competition again this year, where all of our children will be able to enter their design for the future.



Netball Champions!

We are Town Champions! Our netball team beat three other town champions to win the overall Bournemouth School's Netball Trophy. We are proud of every one of you, and another success for our sports teams. A big thank you to Mrs Stopler and Mrs Finnigan for all their hard work.



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St. James' Is Going Greener!

We have had all of our lighting changed across the academy (internally and externally), so that we now have energy efficient and brighter lumens! These should not only contribute to our learning environment and wellbeing, but also help to save the planet and help financially. We have plans for solar panelling and electric charge points in the near future as we aim to become DCAT's first carbon neutral school!



Science Fun!

Our Year 1 children were visited by the Science Zone this week. They enjoyed getting messy and sticky looking at changing states of materials! See the school website for more information.



Year 4 Hooke Court Residential

Our Year 4 children are returning from a 3 day residential visit to Hooke Court in Dorset, where they have been immersed in Victorian and historical activities. You can follow their fun on the school Facebook and Instagram pages.



Building Work and School Improvements

We have almost completed our extension to our upper key stage 2 toilets. This will double our toilet facilities upstairs, which has been long awaited. We are extremely grateful to DCAT for facilitating these projects for our children.

Future projects include a renovation of our back playground, decoration and improvement to the front of the school building, Year 1 classroom rejuvenation and internal painting. We are proud of our school building and want to show it love.



DCAT Peer Review

We had some visitors this week from DCAT, who conducted a Peer review of St. James', focussing on three areas of our development plan (writing opportunities, the delivery of our curriculum and our pedagogical approach to teaching and learning). This was extremely positive and Mr Berhane (the deputy CEO of DCAT and improvement lead) remarked on how well the school was doing, with outstanding teachers, capacity in distributive leadership and clear systems and processes, which enabled children to achieve well. It was validation and recognition of the great work that is going on at St. James' and our children.



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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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 is also an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of her book at a cost of £10 - she will be in the Church, after school.

- **World Book Day Thursday 7th March**

Following on from our visit from author, Debs Pharoah Pink, there will be an animal themed day to celebrate world book day, where your child can come dressed as any animal from literature. During the day, we will be sharing our favourite books or poems with our reading buddies, so please encourage your child to bring in a favourite book if they would like to.

- **Books At Bedtime**

This year, we are excited to be holding our annual books at bedtime event in school. Children will leave school at normal time and then return **at 6:00pm** (in PJ's if they wish) to listen to a bedtime story read by a member of staff. The event should finish by 6.45pm. KS2 will enter and leave the event through the Year 3 entrance at the front of the school and EYFS and KS1 will use the school office entrance.

Please sign up via Trips on Arbor **by noon on Monday 4th March** if your child/children are able to attend. We will not be able to accept any children on the night who haven't signed up. We are asking for a donation of £1 to attend the event, which will go towards purchasing new reading books.

- **Book Fair**

Every child will receive a £1 book token. We are having a Book Fair on Thursday 7th March, which you are warmly invited to. This will take place between 2:30pm and 4:00pm in the library. The children will be able to use their World Book Day token to get £1 off any book.

For more information on World Book Day and ideas to share books, please visit www.worldbookday.com



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:

Monday 4th March 1pm - 3pm at Poole SCITT, BH17 8AP - Information Sessions

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

Tuesday 19th March 4:30pm - 6pm and Tuesday 14th May 4:30pm - 6pm at Poole High School, BH15 2BW - Information evening for those interested in Primary or Secondary teaching at Poole High School, BH15 2BW

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. They can answer any queries or questions that you might have. (We have attached their flyer to this newsletter).



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Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day (animal themed mufti day) with Books at Bedtime in school (6pm - 6:45pm)

Thursday 7th March – Nile Class Worship

Thursday 14th March – Year 3 Roman Day

Thursday 14th March – Malawi Class Worship

Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day. Children may wear something red for a donation to comic relief

Monday 18th March – Treehouse Theatre day for Early Years

Thursday 21st March – Bengal Class Worship

Monday 25th March – Parent consultations in the hall (3:20pm – 6:30pm). Books in classrooms

Tuesday 26th March – Parent consultations in the hall (3:20pm – 6:00pm). Books in classrooms

Thursday 28th March – Break up for Easter Holidays at 1:15pm

Monday 15th April – Return to school for Term 5

Friday 21st June - Sports Day at King's Park Athletics Stadium

Saturday 6th July – St. James' School and Church Summer Fayre



SEND Coffee Morning

Unfortunately Friday coffee morning won't be taking place this term. We are looking at some new ways to support parents and will keep you posted.

Please check our website for your child's learning and important information on the year group pages. This will be your first point of access with any news and events. 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'.

Thank you all for your continued support.

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

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)

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