



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6DW
01202 426696
Email office@stjames.academy
19th July 2024

Newsletter

Always remember what you have been taught, and don't let go of it. Keep all that you have learned; it is the most important thing in life. Proverbs 4:13

Dear Parents/Carers


So that's it...the end of the academic year 2023-2024. You may shortly be spending your summer Holy-days busily exploring or quietly relaxing; spending time alone or spending it with friends and family; on a staycation or travelling far and wide. This routine and options during Holy-days changes for individuals each year but also society over the centuries. Years ago, when children didn't go to school, or even when they did, in a predominantly agrarian, then industrial society, children were very busy during August - September in the fields, or with a short downtime from rigorous and dangerous travails in the factory.

The word holiday comes from the Christian Church's Holy-days when on such days of feasting or fasting, no-one was allowed to work. Typically, people gathered in families or wider groups to pray, and share a meal in honour of a Saint, or to celebrate a festival such as Easter or Christmas. Even the poorest in society benefitted from Holy-days. People looked forward to them as a break from the heavy or ordinary work of every day.

So, enjoy your time as a family. I often talk about the value of time. The 6 weeks of summer allow for a relaxation on bedtime, meal times, getting dressed and brushing teeth times... enjoy each other, laugh, smile, and dance. We look forward to seeing you all in September, for the next part of our journey as a family in Jesus.

Worship

We learnt about the fruits of the spirit from St. Paul and how special they are in each of us. We talked about our favourite fruits and why we liked them, the children were given differing fruits from pineapples to mangos, apples to grapes as a symbol of the end product of a plant or tree bearing its fruit. We all have our gifts from God - let's use them for good.

 Year 5 and 6 had their special leaver's Eucharist in the church with Rev. Rachel leading our service. Each leaver received an ichthus fish badge and a candle to remind them of their special time at St. James'. They are welcome back at any time – to the family home.

Food!

As previously mentioned, we are having a kitchen built over the summer break, with a company called Relish providing our food from January 2025. We will continue to use Forerunner as our school meal provider for the autumn term. An email will be sent out in the next couple of weeks with the menu choices and notification of when you can order on Arbor.



King's Park Drive

On Wednesday, Mr Walden and I met with 3 representatives from the local council who are responsible for parking. We (like you) are concerned by the volume of abandoned and dangerous vehicles that have been abandoned on King's Park drive. Removal of these unsightly vehicles will free up approximately 30 parking spaces, providing much needed 'safe' parking spaces for our community. I will update you with further news when I receive it. Hopefully, the update will be visible in September upon our return to school. Our children's safety is and will always be paramount.



Site Improvement

The front of the school will be getting a makeover over the summer, along with our year 1 classrooms and corridors. Our Harbour room will also be getting additional resources, built by Mr Lillis.

The school is looking good, but as always, we want to make it the best place for children and adults to thrive.



Attendance

Attendance in school is proven to be crucial to wellbeing as a child and as an adult and, at St. James', we want to do all that we can to encourage parents and children that children need to be in school. We try to provide an exciting curriculum and experiences that children will not want to miss. From September, there is a new national threshold for attendance fines and we are attaching a letter from BCP explaining the changes.

National Threshold - there will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. For example, a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Please note that late arrivals after the register has closed count as an unauthorised absence for attendance purposes.

We do understand that there are occasions when children are too ill for school or a family emergency that results in a late arrival, we will always seek to work together with you and provide support to improve attendance wherever we can, but the new strategy will mean that fines will be issued for unauthorised absence other than in exceptional circumstances. We are currently building an attendance page on our website where you will be able to find further information and channels of support. If you are struggling, please let us know so that we can work together. Attendance matters.



PE Days

Next year, our PE team is growing and children will be taught by Mrs Finnigan, Mr Battams, Mrs Pine and Miss Janaskova. All children must wear their PE kit all day on their PE day. Your child's PE days will be:

- Tuesdays – Early Years
- Wednesday – Year 1 and Year 4
- Thursdays – Year 2 and 5
- Fridays – Year 3 and Year 6

Music Review 2023 - 2024

What a privilege it has been to be involved in so many performance opportunities this year. Glee Club has gone from strength to strength and Cheerleading club, Dance club and Wake and Shake have all helped to develop our creative performance skills.

In the autumn term, Glee were able to perform to a whole range of audiences including some fabulous Christmas concerts at The Pavilion, The De La Salle Theatre and at the Mayor's Library concert. We also went to sing at JP Morgan for their charity lunch held for local elderly people and sang in local care homes.

The whole school took part in a whole range of Christmas performances in the hall, on the lower playground and candlelit in the church. These are always such special occasions full of singing, dancing, drama and performance enjoyed by all.

In January, one of the highlights of the year was our trip to the O2 in London with Glee for Young Voices. We got to see a dance group, an incredible 13 year old drummer, a rap artist and a gospel singer along with singing everything from Dire Straits to Nancy Sinatra to Coldplay. Singing, waving lights and dancing with thousands of other children, it was an amazing and exciting experience and we can't wait to go again this year.

Summer term has brought a whole new range of experiences. Our wonderful Music Evening was a chance to showcase all of our instrumental lesson as well as again Glee Club bringing the audience to tears with an emotional Fix You and then a lively Mamma Mia number! The Year 6 production, 'The Takeover' was a chance to display some of our dramatic skills and the Ken dance will go down in history! In July, Glee headed off to Hurstpierpoint for DCAT Enriched again and after some serious practice, produced a brilliant performance of Superclifragilisticexpialidocious! The Summer Fayre brought another fabulous Glee performance in the church and cheerleaders and dancers showing their skills on the playground.

We have so enjoyed all of our musical experiences and along with those performances we have been visited by a brass quartet and 4 opera singers along with all of our usual singing and music that is part of everyday life at St. James'.

We can't wait to see what next year brings.



The St. James' family gets bigger by 2!

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Slattery on the birth of their identical twin boys, Antoni and Dylan. We can't wait to meet you both and look forward to seeing a bleary-eyed Mr Slattery in year 6 in September.



As always, 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 wonderful things happening at St. James'. Also, please follow our Stjames_pe Instagram site.

Stay safe, look after each other and be kind...see you on Wednesday 4th September.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alastair Brown'.

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.



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)



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

Term Dates 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM

Inset Day	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Inset Day	Thursday 4 th September
Inset Day	Friday 5 th September
First Day	Monday 8 th September
Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
Last Day	Friday 19 th December (finish at 1.20pm)

SPRING TERM

Inset Day	Monday 5 th January 2026
First Day	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February
Last Day	Friday 27 th March (finish at 1.20pm)

SUMMER TERM

First Day	Monday 13 th April 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – 29 th May
Inset Day	Monday 1 st June 2026
Last Day	Wednesday 22 nd July (finish at 1.20pm)



Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have recently heard about the changes to 'holiday fines'. BCP Council, in partnership with your child's school, would like to take the opportunity to update you on the changes that the Department for Education have made, and why they are happening.

Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. Evidence shows that pupils who have good attendance enjoy better wellbeing and school performance than those who don't.

There are only a few circumstances where a child is allowed to miss school, such as illness or where the school has given permission because of an exceptional circumstance.

However, if your child misses school without a good reason, local councils and schools can intervene and you may be issued a fine.

We're also introducing a new national framework which will mean all councils have the same rules in place for when they need to consider a fine. We explain more on this below.

It's important to acknowledge that children with long-term medical or more serious mental health conditions, and those with special educational needs and disabilities may face additional barriers.

For children who face complex barriers to attendance, schools should have sensitive conversations with children and families and work with them to put support in place for their individual needs.

How much could I be fined if my child misses school?

In the majority of cases, schools and local authorities will try and provide support to help you improve your child's attendance first, but if

this isn't effective or the absence is for unauthorised term time holiday, parents may face paying a fine.

Currently, it's the responsibility of the local authority to decide when to issue fines to parents, meaning the process varies from council to council.

However, under the new national framework, all schools will be required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days**.

This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

We have attached a diagram to this letter to better explain this.

Money raised via fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

How can you be sure parent fines are fair?

Fines are a last resort, and parents will be offered support to help improve their child's attendance first. The vast majority of fines for unauthorised absence (89%) are issued for term time holidays.

If your child is facing barriers to school attendance due to special education needs or disabilities (SEND), schools, local authorities and wider services are required to work together to provide the right support in the first place.

What if my child needs to miss school?

Your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance.
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet.
- You are a gypsy/traveller family with no fixed abode, and you are required to travel for work that day meaning your child cannot attend their usual school.

What happens if my child misses school without a good reason?

If your child is absent and you haven't received advance permission from the headteacher to take your child out of school, the school and local council may take action.

Before that, your child's school and your local council are expected to support you to improve the child's attendance before any measures are put in place.

These measures can include:

- **Issue a fixed penalty notice, otherwise known as a 'fine'** – your local council can give each parent a fine. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.
- **Seek an Education Supervision Order from the family court** – if the council thinks you need support getting your child to go to school but you're not co-operating, they can apply to a court for an Education Supervision Order. A supervisor will be appointed to help you get your child into education. The local council can do this instead of, or as well as, prosecuting you.

- **Prosecute you** – this means you have to go to court. You could get a fine, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court could also give you a Parenting Order.

Why is attendance important?

For most pupils, the best place to be during term-time is school, surrounded by the support of their friends and teachers.

This is important not just for your child's learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and their mental health.

If you want to find out more, you may find these links helpful

[Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2019/05/23/parents-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/)

[DfE external document template \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/external-document-template/)

If you do have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact the school directly to discuss this.

Yours faithfully

BCP School Attendance Team

Inclusion Service, Education & Skills
Children's Services



Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools after 19th August 2024.

Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period.

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

Second Offence

(within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child, payable within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court. If convicted, sanctions can include a fine of up to £2,500 and a prison sentence of up to 3 months, and you will have a criminal record.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

fun &
games

Fitness & Fun Holiday Camp

SPORT

JOIN HARRIET, ALEXIS & RACHEL THIS SUMMER FOR A WEEK
OF FITNESS & FUN

When:

Monday 5th of August - Friday 9th

10.00 AM to 3.00 PM

Monday 26th of August - Friday 30th

10.00 AM to 3.00 PM

Where:

St. Peter's secondary, Southbourne

Drop off and Pick up from the Main
entrance on St.Catherines Road

What We Do:

A whole day of sporting activities and fun
Inculding: Rounders, Tick Tock Relay, Tag
Rugby, Cricket, Athletics, Tug of War,
Football, Dance, Orienteering, Team
building games, Quizzes, Water Fights and
much, much more! Come and Join the fun



Contact:

Email: Harrietslade88@gmail.com

Alternatively you can call us on :

07946562822

Please contact to book your Childs place or for further enquiries. limited spaces available.

Harriet Slade has 5 years experience as a Primary P.E cover and Teaching Assistant. Qualified UKA
Athletics coach and Strength Coach. Coaching youth athletes since 2016

Alexis Major is a Qualified P.E teacher with over 20 Years of coaching experience.

Both first aid trained and Insured.

Cost:

£26 Per Day

Siblings - £15



Why:

- Have Fun!
- Learn new skills and play lots of sport
- Meet new people who become lifelong friends.
- Be apart of a team
- Enjoy being outdoors
- Become more self aware of your own strengths
- Learn to be creative

What to bring:

A packed Lunch, snacks, and a water bottle.

Refills can be made in the canteen..

Suncream, Coat and your energy.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Miss Slade and Mrs Major

BCP activities are on a **first come first served** basis and bookable from 15th July

Activities and events:

Follow **BCP Council Family Information** and **BCP Council Family Hubs** on Facebook
The Parks Foundation: [Home - The Parks Foundation](#) also on Facebook. The individual cafes have their own Facebook pages where they publicise their own events or you can view them on the Parks Foundation website. Also **Kingfisher Barn Visitor Centre**.

BCP Family Hubs: see timetables for individual Hubs as the offer varies. Activities and drop-ins for all ages including teens. [Family hub timetables \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Up in BCP: Summer activities. No cost - £10 [www.upinbcp.co.uk](#) [Summer Activities \(upinbcp.co.uk\)](#)

Booking form is available on their website.

BCP Libraries:

Summer Reading Challenge: [Summer Reading Challenge | BCP \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Presentation: [SRC School Assembly Presentation \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Information: [Summer Reading Challenge](#)

What's on in Libraries: [Libraries Whats On \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Family events: [Family Events - Bournemouth](#)

BCP Family Information Directory: Holiday Activities: [Search Results \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Primary Times: [Family activities and events for primary school children | Primary Times](#)

BCP Mumber: [Summer Holiday - Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Mumber](#) [Free Things To Do with Kids in Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole this Summer - Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Mumber](#)

Soft Play Cafes: [Kids Play Cafe](#)

aim community Summer Sessions

Summer Sessions PLAN

Make the most of the summer and sign up for the Summer Sessions via our booking form which is linked in the caption

- a** abilities & skills
- S** self-esteem & confidence • What's Your Story? Identity and Art
- P** peer relationships • Murder Mystery and Escape Room
- a** adult & family relationships • Making a Meal of it! Fun, Food, Family
- C** communication • Expression through Rhyme and Poetry
- e** education & employment • Dragon's Den/Young Enterprise

Delivered by our experienced mentors

Fun creative activities

Open to all young people aged 11+

£20 per session

Sessions can be booked individually

Focus on empowering self and supporting personal development

Opportunity to build friendships

withyou this summer in BCP

**Free activities for under 18 year olds in
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.**

Football, arts & crafts, jenga, rounders, swingball
and much more. Free snacks and drinks.

Weekdays, 12-2.30pm. Location changes daily.



**Scan here to
see where the
activities will
be each day**

withyou

wearewithyou.org.uk

We Are With You. A registered charity in England (1001957) and Scotland (SC040009), and a private company incorporated in England & Wales with company number 02580377. Registered office: Part Lower Ground Floor, Gate House, 1-3 St. John's Square, London, England, EC1M 4DH.

Date	Venue	Area	What 3 Words
Week one			
Monday 29 July 2024	Kings Park	Bournemouth	///ranked.wins.fries
Tuesday 30 July 2024	Two Riversmeet Skate Park	Christchurch	///peanut.tend.random
Wednesday 31 July 2024	Poole park - next to the ARK	Poole	///forces.energy.cheese
Thursday 1 August 2024	Redhill Park	Bournemouth	///sunset.stars.broke
Friday 2 August 2024	Christchurch quay	Christchurch	///valley.bowls.loyal
Week two			
Monday 5 August 2024	Baiter Skate Park	Poole	///storm.union.venue
Tuesday 6 August 2024	Slades Farm	Bournemouth	///hoot.critic.beats
Wednesday 7 August 2024	Summerford Skate Park	Christchurch	///tight.indoor.agree
Thursday 8 August 2024	Whitecliffe Field - next to play area	Poole	///agent.things.laws
Friday 9 August 2024	Moordown Reck	Bournemouth	///fault.kicked.left
Week three			
Monday 12 August 2024	Stanpit Recreation Ground	Christchurch	///quite.flank.smooth
Tuesday 13 August 2024	Branksome Rec	Poole	///snail.traded.guess
Wednesday 14 August 2024	Queens Park	Bournemouth	///solar.supper.cherry
Thursday 15 August 2024	Two Riversmeet Skate Park	Christchurch	///peanut.tend.random
Friday 16 August 2024	Hamworthy Park - near zipwire	Poole	///rare.nods.pound
Week four			
Monday 19 August 2024	Winton Rec	Bournemouth	///slowly.banks.zips
Tuesday 20 August 2024	Christchurch quay	Christchurch	///camera.spoke.risky
Wednesday 21 August 2024	Upton house	Poole	///maple.frame.flames
Thursday 22 August 2024	Duck lane Skate Park	Bournemouth	///rankings.sands.bluff
Friday 23 August 2024	Summerford Skate Park	Christchurch	///tight.indoor.agree
Week five			
Tuesday 27 August 2024	Verity Park Canford Heath	Poole	///full.Atoms.Junior
Wednesday 28 August 2024	Lower gardens - near badminton court	Bournemouth	///became.strict.loudly
Thursday 29 August 2024	Stanpit Recreation Ground	Christchurch	///quite.flank.smooth
Friday 30 August 2024	Broadstone Rec - near cricket pavilion	Poole	///long.lied.pushes