



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy  
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**20th September 2024**

## Newsletter

*"Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here! Matthew 14 v 27*

Dear Parents and Carers

The sun has been a welcome sight and feel this week, but you can't help thinking there may not be many more warm days in 2024. One of the wonderful things about where we live are the seasons - each one has its own beauty. We are definitely into Autumn now, and I have watched the beech tree in my garden start to shed its leaves, but I am heartened by the thought of colours of trees, wearing cosy jumpers, and tomato soup! The evenings and mornings will get darker now as we move around our axis on our orbit of the sun, to a place where we see less and the southern hemisphere see more.

Our planet is an incredible thing. Not too hot, not too cold... just right, and it's the only one that can sustain life. Coincidence? I don't think so.

*"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."*  
C.S. Lewis

### **Worship**

Courage is a funny thing. We are all afraid of something in our lives and to build up resilience that leads to courage is a difficult thing that is not easily learned. As a parent, I am fairly confident that I would have courage for my children, as I do as a Head Teacher for all of your children. This doesn't just mean picking up spiders and putting them outside, but the courage to stand up for what's right and not be afraid to do so. I am thankful that I can turn to my Lord Jesus in these time. 'Do not be afraid' appears 365 times in the bible - a daily reminder that He has got our backs! Amen

### **Science Award Ceremony - WOW!**

Last year, we had a number of winners in the National Science Competition 'If you were an engineer what would you do?' Well... Emily Jackson (now in year 4), who won the previous year and had her prototype for the 'seed drone' made up by the engineers at Southampton university, has been nominated for the prestigious MacRobert award in Glasgow!

We are so proud of her and her wonderful achievements. You can vote for Emily's prototype on the link below. Emily's is the last one, under Southampton University.

<https://www.primaryengineer.com/primary-engineer-macrobert-medal-public-vote/>



## King's Park Drive

As you will know, we met with 4 members of the BCP traffic team in July with our concerns around safety in King's Park Drive.

As a school, parents have used the steps access to our site for decades. It should be a convenient and safe way to park and enter our site. Over recent months, a large number of abandoned vehicles have been left on the road, which limits safe parking. Some have been there so long, they are growing plants from them! There are trailers, lorries, caravans and other vehicles which unfortunately seem to now be part of the landscape. The council said that it is the Park Department's responsibility, so we are contacting them on a daily basis to get the situation resolved, before someone gets hurt.

Please can you help us by parking safely, not on the yellow lines. I know the morning rush is hard, but leaving one minute earlier means that you can park safely and walk with time. We will always encourage you to walk/scoot/cycle to school where possible; it's a much more fun way of starting the day!

Thank you for your continued support and I will update you with any information as soon as we have received it.



## PE Days

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



## Extra-Curricular Clubs

Clubs started this week and will continue until December. Sometimes, extra places become available, so do let the office know if you want to be added to any waiting lists.

EYFS children will start clubs in the New Year. We will be offering up to 20 places for a sailing club from October which will be for children in upper Key Stage 2 who are proficient swimmers - more information to follow.



## Meet The Teacher/Year Group Information Evening

We hope you enjoyed the information evening. The PowerPoint slides are available on the year group page of the website, in case you wanted a refresher, or to pass the information on to someone.

There will be a number of parent workshops throughout the year in different year groups. Watch this space.



## Harvest Carnival - Thursday 3rd October

This will be a non-uniform day, where your child can come in dressed as a fruit of vegetable! There will be prizes - get thinking. The Bishop of Southampton is attending our services.



## Attendance

Thank you for an excellent start to the year attendance wise. Please remember that the bell goes at 8:40am and late arrivals after the register have to be counted as unauthorised attendance. 20 unauthorised attendances including lates could lead to an £80 fine per parent, per child.



## Uniform

We are delighted to see so many of you in smart uniform. There is no official ruling, but the guidelines for summer and winter uniform is defined by October half term and Easter holidays, but we live in a wonderfully unpredictable climate, so this is not a hardened rule.

We also know how much uniform costs, and how frustrating it is when we lose jumpers and cardigans, as well as growing children! We do have our second hand uniform regularly on sale, for a fraction of the price of Stevensons. **The next sale is from 2:30pm on Tuesday 24th September, outside the playground.**

Please do try to follow our [uniform policy](#), including PE kit on PE days. We are proud to be part of the St. James' family and our uniform is very much part of that identity. Look smart, work smart!



## Toy Plea!

The Sunshine and Rainbow rooms are in need of clean, good quality dinosaurs, figures, lego and construction toys. If you have any at home you are happy to donate, please drop them into the office.



## The Coffee Club

Come and espresso yourself, because brew are not alone. There a latte to talk about, and some of us have bean here before. So come along to St. James' SEND coffee afternoon, for a friendly get together with other parents from the St. James' family.

There will be an opportunity to meet some of the staff from the SEND team including speech and language, nurture and dyslexia. We hope to see many of you on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm**. Please meet at the hall doors for entry.



## Medicines In School

Just a reminder that any prescribed medicines required within school hours **must** be brought to the school office and an 'administration form' must be completed by a parent/carer. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD INTO SCHOOL WITH ANY MEDICATION IN THEIR SCHOOL BAG.**

You are very welcome to come to the school office to give your child pain relief, if required, during the school day.



## Key Dates

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September** – Whole School Flu Immunisation - separate email sent with information

**Thursday 3rd October** - Harvest Carnival

**Tuesday 8th October** - The Coffee Club - 2pm - entry at school hall doors

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October** – Frazer Portraits Individual Photos

**Saturday 9th November** - Open Morning - 10am - noon

**Tuesday 19th November** - Pavilion Carol Concert - Glee Club

**Sunday 24th November** - Glee Christmas Concert at St. Peter's School (afternoon)

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November** – School Open Evening/Book Look – 3.15pm – 4.15pm

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November** – Online Parent Consultation Evening – 4pm – 7pm

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** - Online Parent Consultation Evening – 3.30pm – 6pm

**Friday 20th June** - Sports Day, King's Park Stadium



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## Parenting Course

Please see details attached regarding a new parenting course with Mrs Sparrow, starting on Wednesday 2nd October, 7pm - 9pm at Elim Church, Curzon Road. All parents welcome to sign up.

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 amazing things happening at St. James'. Also, please follow our Stjames\_pe Instagram site.



### **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.

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Information about Speech and Language Support in school**

We are writing to you as Dorset HealthCare's Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy Service (CYP SALT Service) is working in partnership with schools and families in a new way. This letter tells you about how we will be doing this.

BCP Council, Dorset Council and NHS Dorset have been working together to introduce a new way of supporting children's speech, language and communication, this is called The Balanced System ©. This means that children will have access to the right support, from the right person at the right time.

Your child's school will have a Link Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) from September 2024. The SLT, SENCO and school staff will work together. There will be support at universal, targeted and specialist levels. Children will receive support that meets their individual needs.



The Balanced System © M Gascoigne (<https://pathway.thebalancedsystem.org/>)

Universal support	This is for all pupils in the class. The speech and language therapist or assistant will support the school with helpful advice, resources, and signposting to useful websites. These things will help all children and young people with their communication skills.
Targeted support	This is for pupils who need targeted help with a known need. This support is provided in partnership with others. Support may be led by school staff, the speech and language therapist, or the speech and language therapy assistant. This might be a group, using approaches in the classroom, or one-to-one activities. Most children with a known need will find this level and universal support will meet their needs.
Specialist support	A small number of children will need more than universal and targeted support. They will have a speech, language or communication need that cannot be met within existing interventions. This specialist support may be led by school staff, the speech and language therapy team or other professionals e.g., Specialist Teachers. This level of support will be offered at different times, as needed, as part of their support plan.

The school's Link SLT will have regular meetings with the school. They will talk about pupils with identified or suspected speech, language and/or communication difficulties. Together they will agree how to support that pupil best.

### **How will I know if my child is identified as having difficulties?**

Sometimes the next step in assessing the best type of support is for your child to be observed by the Link SLT whilst they are in class or playing in the playground. If targeted level support is identified for your child, your child's teacher will let you know and give you information about it. Some children will be offered an individual appointment if they need a more in-depth assessment. This will take place in school and during the school day. Your child's school will notify you about this. You are always welcome to attend with your child or speak with the therapist before or afterwards.

### **What happens next?**

When we work directly with a child at the specialist level, we will register the child with our service for an episode of care. We will work with your child, your family, school, and other key people in their life. We will lead or support an intervention or short series of interventions. Once these are completed and ongoing support is in place, we will close the episode of care. Your child's school will monitor their progress. If more support is needed in the future, your child's school will talk to their Link SLT and agree the next steps. Most children will not need specialist level support. They will be well supported at universal and targeted levels.

If your child needs to be registered with our service to access the specialist level of support, we enter their details and record our contacts with them on an Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system called SystemOne. This system is also used by their GP. It has been specially designed to hold your child's health information confidentially in one place. Please see the enclosed leaflet about your child's electronic health record. At the start of each school year we are asking all parents/carers to give consent for their child to be supported in this new way of working.

Please complete the form (this could either be on the next page or an electronic one depending on how schools collect consent)

## Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy

### CONSENT, CONFIDENTIALITY AND SHARING INFORMATION

Consent is a continuing process rather than a one-off decision. You will have continuing opportunities to ask further questions and to review your decisions.

*Please only return this form should you wish to opt out of any of the below to enable us to amend your child's electronic patient record to reflect your decision.*

#### 1. Consent to Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy Support and Intervention

Written information has been given to you about the Speech and Language Therapy Service and how we will be working in schools.

If you do not wish us to provide support and intervention to your child, please tick this box.  and return the form to your child's school.

#### 2. Consent to share information with health and non-NHS professionals

We may wish to share information about your child's speech, language, or communication skills with

- The staff at your child's school
- Any other professionals who are providing support for your child e.g., Educational Psychologists, Paediatrician, Specialist teachers

We will only share the relevant information that each organisation needs to know to allow them to support your child appropriately.

If you do not wish us to share relevant information about your child, please tick this box.  and return the form to your child's school.

Please be aware that there may be times where we might share your information without your consent. This will only happen when we are legally required to do so, or the law allows us to, to protect your child or other people.

To be completed by the person with parental responsibility\*

Full Name:

Signed:

Relationship to patient:

Date:

\* You are entitled to agree to treatment on behalf of a child up to age 18 for whom you have what is called "parental responsibility". For further information and advice on parental responsibility please visit the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/parental-rights-responsibilities>.

Please only return this form if you wish to opt out of any of the above to your child's school.



## Time Out For Parents The Primary Years

Sessions for anyone parenting children aged 5 - 11

Wednesdays, 7.00 - 9.00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - 13th Nov (not in half-term)  
BH1 Elim Church, Curzon Rd, Bmth, BH1 4PP  
Course Cost: £10 (includes handbook)  
Contact: Nikki Sparrow  
nsparrow@stjames.academy  
School Office: 01202 426696  
Church Office: 01202 303036



## Time Out For Parents The Primary Years

*Positive Parenting Time Out for Parents* courses from Care for the Family provide common sense, jargon-free information and ideas to help you to engage with your children and boost your relationship.

If you have children aged 5 – 11, then *Time Out for Parents – The Primary Years* is for you. Over six sessions, you'll increase your skills and confidence as a parent and discover practical tools to make your relationship with your child even better.

### The sessions

- Session 1 What being a parent's really like
- Session 2 Children's needs
- Session 3 Feelings and listening
- Session 4 Boundaries and parenting styles
- Session 5 Keeping children safe
- Session 6 Building strong families



Care for the Family Garth House, Leon Avenue, Cardiff CF15 7RG  
Tel: (029) 2081 0800. [www.careforthefamily.org.uk](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk)

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## Parenting Course – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why should I go on a parenting course?**

You may have noticed our little ones don't come with a handbook and yet they are the most precious things in our lives, why wouldn't we want to invest a little time (just 6 evenings!) in meeting with other parents to learn from one another (as well as the expert research gathered by Care for the Family) about practical parenting tips that have been proven to really work?

### **But isn't that like admitting I think I am a bad parent?**

Absolutely not, it shows you care enough to want to build your relationship with your child, be even better in areas you may be struggling with and to share your great experiences with others from areas that are going well.

### **What kinds of topics do you cover?**

The session titles are shown on the flyer, but basically all kinds of things; from relationship building and meeting our children's emotional needs to parenting styles; communication and listening skills to family values; as well as behaviour management. We also have opportunities to ask questions and discuss as well as hopefully lots of practical tips for you to try.

### **Is there a cost for the course?**

Whilst the course is facilitated by volunteers, there is a charge of £10 to cover the cost of the course materials – a handbook for you to keep and refer back to. Refreshments will also be included. However if you would like to attend and the cost would make this prohibitively difficult for you, please contact us as we would not wish cost to be a barrier.

### **Do you offer a creche?**

Unfortunately we are not able to offer childcare during the sessions.

### **What have past participants said about the course?**

*"Great for reminding us of things we probably already know but slip in the midst of family life. Time for reflection. Always new ideas. Makes for much more positivity in whole of life."*

*"Its so nice to know you are not the only one, that other parents are having the same issues."*

*"Its nice the way the group support one another and have become friends."*

*"Its nice just to take time out and think about how you do things and whether you could do any better. Life is so busy you don't really think about how or why you do things as a parent you just do them and then realise maybe there was a better way."*

*"It was so relevant. The content was exactly what I needed to hear...simple and easy to understand. Some imagery used that I will always remember. A very caring environment. A really positive experience."*

*"Encouraging and non-judgemental space"... and these are just a few!*

### **What if I still have another question?**

Please feel free to email Nikki Sparrow: [nsparrow@stjames.academy](mailto:nsparrow@stjames.academy)



# St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### AUTUMN TERM

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

### SPRING TERM

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

### SUMMER TERM

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



# St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

## Term Dates 2025-2026

### **AUTUMN TERM**

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

### **SPRING TERM**

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

### **SUMMER TERM**

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