



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
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18th October 2024

Newsletter

...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40 v 31

Dear Parents and Carers

We have one more week left, in what seems like a long Term 1. Term 2 starts when the clocks go back an hour, and we will hit the ground running and prepare for the magic of Christmas. Time goes too quickly, especially when we are custodians of your little ones. We try to pack in as much fun and enjoyment for them, so that their education is almost secondary, as they learn to enquire and build on their previous knowledge. They are just brilliant little sponges and I know the teachers are rightly proud of them. There will be a chance in November to hear all about your child's progress in our Parent Consultations.

Worship

We have learned all about things that fly in our worship, and my reflective question was what would you do if you could fly? The children's responses are always wonderful and they are always so selfless. We learned about man's desire to fly (leading to the downfall of Icarus!), but what we can learn from God's creatures - especially the bee. The [bee](#) has as much right to fly as we do, in that its body is too heavy and its wings too small, but it manages to oscillate its wings to create a vortex, allowing lift. It is an incredible animal, and we know the riches they produce in delicious honey. God's creation is all around us and we should rejoice and be glad in it.

We also learned about the bravery of [Piper](#) and Paul, where St. Paul travelled to lots of countries building the Christian church and of course, had God on his side. It is easier to be brave when Mum holds our hand, or your big sister comforts you in the dark, or Dad sits next to us on a roller coaster. God is right there for us. Be bold, be brave, for the Lord your God is with you.

Open Morning

We will be opening up the school on the morning of Saturday 9th November, for anyone who is interested in joining the St. James' family. Obviously, this is aimed at parents who are looking for their child to start in September 2025, but it is also open to anyone else. I will be presenting in the hall at 10am and 11am, and we will have a variety of staff members stationed around the school to answer questions and show why St. James' CE Primary Academy is so special. I firmly believe we are a unique school that loves and cares for every one of our children, allowing them to reach their God-given potential.

PSA Quiz Night

On Friday 15th November, the second St. James' PSA quiz will take place. Teams should be no more than 6. I will be quiz master this time, so it's going to be tough (not really!) Can you get a team together to beat our office staff, who won the trophy last year? There will be food and drink included in the price of your ticket and prizes for winning and losing teams. It will start at 7pm in the school hall. Come and join in, its great fun. If you haven't got a team – don't worry, we can find a team for you to join (I know the office team are 1 down). Please watch out for PSA communication in the near future, or come to the office and secure your team's place for the quiz.



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Gold Token Tube Reward

Each child is given a golden token when they go above and beyond for their work or behaviour, this combined effort leads to a whole school reward, which every child has contributed to. In the past we have had an ice cream van on the playground and a pizza van on the playground. As this is a whole school treat - it has to be something BIG. Next Friday, we are expecting delivery of a large number of headsets, to allow each child to participate in the St. James' silent disco! Hopefully, we will have good weather, so we can make use of the playground. I am getting the playlist ready, for what I know will be a fun experience for our children. It is going to be quite a sight!

Phonics Phonics Workshops

Do you know your grapheme from your phoneme? Your split vowel digraph from your trigraph? If the answer is no, you might be interested in attending our phonics workshops in school - we'd love to see you. We will show you how we teach phonics and help you to support your children with strategies at home. Phonics is the key to reading and we can help you to help your child with blending and segmenting sounds and words.

The sessions all run from 9am – 9.45am in our Early Years classroom and are on Monday 25th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November. This is primarily focused on our Early Years parents.



Year 5/6 Girls County Cup Tournament Report

In their first outing as a team in a competitive environment the girls all displayed such remarkable determination and courage throughout the afternoon - the progression from the first match to the last was truly a delight to witness.

We saw some fantastic saves by Jess, incredible defending by Marika, Kaya and Lily, wonderful forward play by Tala, Gracie, Lyla and Freya, and goals coming from Dusty assisted by Ayla.

I couldn't be more proud of the way the girls carried themselves throughout the tournament and how they represented St James'.

Lastly it was great to see all our parent supporters on the day and a big thank you to Mrs Harrison for volunteering her time to help. We now look forward to developing our skills ahead of our next match!

A huge thank you to Mrs Pine, who wrote this report and who passionately runs and promotes our girl's football team.



Year 6 Boys Football Report

The St. James' Year 6 boys' football team had an impressive run in the football county qualifiers. In the group stages, they faced St. Peters, Kingsleigh and Christ the King. The team managed to win two out of three matches but suffered a loss in one game meaning we were placed second in the group.

After advancing into group two, St. James' played three more schools in the next round. The boys stepped up their performance, winning all three matches. With that came a fantastic free kick from close to the halfway line from Monty and a total of 12 goals for him, while Sahin contributed 10 goals and Lubuto added 3.

It was a true team effort that made the day successful from great saves to amazing tackles from the defence and midfield. Every player played their part, working well together and displaying great sportsmanship and determination throughout the tournament.



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Difference Programme

We are lucky enough to have been chosen as a pilot school for the Church of England's difference project. We are amongst a handful of schools from around the world. Next week sees the launch of our difference programme, where our children will teach us what they feel about difference and how we celebrate it at St. James'. Each class has a wonderful text to explore and our children are going to be curious, be present and reimagine.



"Reconciliation is not the ending of all difference, but the transformation of how we deal with difference."

Archbishop Justin Welby



Science Award Champion

Remember, you can still vote for Emily Jackson's prototype on the link below. Emily's is the last one, under Southampton University. Her 'seed drone' has been built by the engineers at Southampton University and has been nominated for the prestigious MacRobert award in Glasgow. Miss Martin and myself, will accompany Emily to Barony Hall in Glasgow on 19th November.

We are so proud of her and her wonderful achievements. You can vote for Emily on the link below:

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



Harvest Carnival Celebration

It was so lovely to see our community come together for our Harvest carnival with Bishop Geoff (AKA Supertato). It was a really special day and our 2 services were jam packed with parents and children. A big thank you to our families for going above and beyond with the costumes – they were great and we all had so much fun. Bishop Geoff came for a walk around school and commented what a fantastic place it was. Praise indeed. If you haven't seen them, some of the pictures are available on social media, including St. James' church and Winchester diocese.



500 Words

All of our children have had a go at some story writing this week but if you would like to do some extra writing over the half term holiday, why not give this a go?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zctk7v4#zbx4jfr>



[Information page: 500 Words 2024](#)

BBC 500 Words 2024/25 is open for entries from Tuesday 24 September - Friday 8 November. Check here for information on who our judges are, competition rules and more.

This year the 500 Words Story Writing Competition is back. It is the UK's largest story writing competition for children between the ages of 5 and 11. It is a very exciting opportunity for the children to express themselves through writing and share their - sometimes hidden - talents. All entrants must pen an original story, no more than 500 words in length, and submit it online. Stories are judged anonymously, without regard to grammar, punctuation or spelling. Please visit the website www.500words.me to find more information. **The deadline for the competition is Friday 8th November 2024.** Set pen to paper and write away! Good luck to our young writers.



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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



Key Dates

The calendar section on the website should give you major events throughout the academic year, but I will give concise reminders below:

Friday 25th October - Whole School Reward – Silent Disco. 1pm - 3pm

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

Monday 11th November - Year 6 remembrance worship, hall - 9am. Parent's warmly welcome

Friday 15th November - PSA Quiz night – school hall. 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Tuesday 19th November - Pavilion Carol Concert - Glee Club

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

Monday 25th November - School Open Evening/Book Look - 3.15pm - 4.15pm

Tuesday 26th November - Online Parent Consultation Evening - 4pm - 7pm

Wednesday 27th November - Online parent consultation evening – 3.30pm - 6pm

Friday 29th November - Winter Wonderland – 3.30 – 6.00pm

Monday 2nd December - Ducklings Christmas Crafts with Parents/Carers - 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Monday 9th December - Tadpoles Christmas Crafts with Parents/Carers - 1:30pm - 2:45pm

Monday 9th December - PSA Christmas wreath workshop. School hall - 7pm - 9.30pm

Monday 16th - Thursday 19th December – Christmas performances (hall, outside and church)

Friday 20th December - break up for Christmas holidays. 1.15pm (localised snow flurries expected)

Tuesday 7th January, 2025 - children return to school for the Spring Term.

Friday 20th June, 2025 - Sports Day, King's Park stadium

As always, 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'.

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.



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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)



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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)

The Light Party!!

**Thursday
31st October
5.15pm - 7.30pm**

**St. Saviours Church
32 Colemore Road
BH7 6RZ**

**A positive alternative
to Halloween event!
For children up to
age 11 and their
families.**

**Cost:
£3 per person
£10 a family ticket
(up to 4 people)
and £1 per extra
person**

www.stsaviours.net




The Light Party!!

**Bouncy Castle
Fabulous Crafts
Neon Light Puppets
Disco and DJ
Fun and Games
Sausage Sizzle
and Cafe
with cakes!**

**Enter our
Fancy Dress
Competition,
with a 'sailing'
or 'sea' theme!
(NO witches, ghosts etc.
please!)**

**Everything
included in
the ticket
price!**

**Advance tickets
available via
our website
or scan the QR code**




www.stsaviours.net * office@stsaviours.net * 01202 430078

