



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy  
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road  
BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6DW  
01202 426696  
Email office@stjames.academy  
**28th November 2024**

## Newsletter

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*  
Matthew 19 v 14

Dear Parents and Carers

This Sunday sees the beginning of advent, the opening of chocolate calendars, maybe some decorations out of storage and possibly a tree going up? This is certainly a special time in a Christian school with lots going on as we 'get ready' to celebrate Jesus' birthday. You will have noted the dates and times of the Christmas performances and we hope to see lots of you there. Our Winter Wonderland is in school tomorrow with lots of games, food and even Father Christmas, so hopefully we will get a chance to say hello. I really do love the Christmas period - yes it's busy, but there is always such a positive feeling around school.

### **Worship**

We had a quiz in our worship, following our reflective question of 'would you rather be an adult or a child?' with some notable answers of not wanting to be an adult so we don't have to cook or put the bins out! Some children wanted to be an adult so they could do whatever they want! But most children and adults agreed that being a child was best. Jesus agreed, and prioritised children, saying, "I tell you the truth. You must change and become like little children. If you don't do this, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

### **Winter Wonderland**

Our annual PSA Winter Wonderland is after school tomorrow (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November), 3:30pm - 6pm in school. There will be lots of fun and games, food and drink, elves, Father Christmas and lots more. We would love to see as many of you there as possible, it's always great fun. Please bring cash if you are able.

### **Parent Information Evenings**

We hope you enjoyed your chance to meet with your child's teacher to discuss how they are getting on at St. James'. I am always grateful for feedback about these meetings, so if you do have any (positive or negative) then please email the office or let me know. We have a virtual parent's evening in the Autumn term, an in person one in the Spring, and then a written report in the Summer.

### **Science Award Champion**

Emily Jackson won the MacRobert gold medal for her fantastic engineering design for a seed planting drone. This was recognised by a distinguished panel of British engineers. Out of 77,000 entrants, 22 designs were made into prototypes, of which 10 were selected for either a bronze, silver or gold medal. We are so proud of you, Emily. The pictures and excitement were captured on the school Facebook page, have a look.

## Support For Parents

We know that being a parent isn't always easy so why not check out our new 'Support for Parents' page on the website with some practical and useful information from parenting courses to practical help and managing anxiety.

<https://stjamescofeprimaryacademy.ovw4.juniperwebsites.co.uk/parents/support-for-parents>



## Safeguarding Updates

We have noticed that some of our pupils have smartwatches and would please remind you to note our uniform policy states that 'Smartwatches are not permitted if they have access to the internet'. Please also do not allow children to wear watches that have the capacity to take photographs so that we can keep all of our children safe.



## WhatsApp Warning

Although WhatsApp have an age restriction of 13, we know that some of our pupils access WhatsApp groups on their mobile phones. Please be particularly vigilant for large scale or viral Whatsapp groups where your child may be added by a friend to a group where they may not know all participants. These groups can be dangerous. In school, we will continue to warn children of the dangers of being in any online conversation with anyone you do not know personally and to always tell a trusted adult if there are ever any inappropriate or bullying conversations. Please check out our website Online Safety page for more information.

<https://stjamescofeprimaryacademy.ovw4.juniperwebsites.co.uk/parents/online-safety>



## Poppy Appeal

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - our collection raised a grand total of £573.51! Wow!!



## Plea For Rice and Jam Donations

Christmas can be an expensive time for everyone and Citygate Church are organising Christmas hampers for 200 families across Bournemouth. We would very much like to contribute to the hampers and have committed to providing **90 jars of jam and 80 packets of dried rice** to go to those in need. Donations of jam or rice can be brought to the school office between now and the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2024.



## St. James' Writing Blog

We're excited to announce the launch of the St. James' Writing Blog. This new blog will showcase the incredible writing talent within our school. Each term, we'll feature a variety of pieces of writing from each and every year group from EYFS all the way up to Year 6.

This blog will give the children a chance to consider audience in their writing and give them a platform to publish their work.

Our first blog post is already live on our website and ready to read. We hope you enjoy the writing from our little authors.

The St. James' [writing blog](#) can be found under the latest news section of the school website.



## PE Days

All children must wear their school PE kit all day on their PE day. Your child's PE days will be:

Mondays - Harbour

Tuesdays - Early Years

Wednesdays - 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 29<sup>th</sup> November** - Winter Wonderland - 3:30pm - 6pm

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

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

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** - PSA Christmas Wreath Workshop. School hall - 7pm - 9pm

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - Early Years 'pop up nativity' performances at 2pm and 5:30pm in the school hall.

Tickets will be available online this coming week. We are suggesting a maximum of 3 per family

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 1 Christmas Performance at 4:30pm on the bottom playground

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 3 Christmas Performance at 5:30pm on the bottom playground

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - Glee Carol Singing at the school gates from 2:45pm - 3:15pm

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 2 Christmas Performance at 4:30pm on the bottom playground

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 4 Christmas Performance at 5:30pm on the bottom playground

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight in the church, starting at 6:30pm

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas party morning. Break up for Christmas holidays at 1:15pm (localised snow flurries expected!)

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025** - children return to school for the Spring term

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

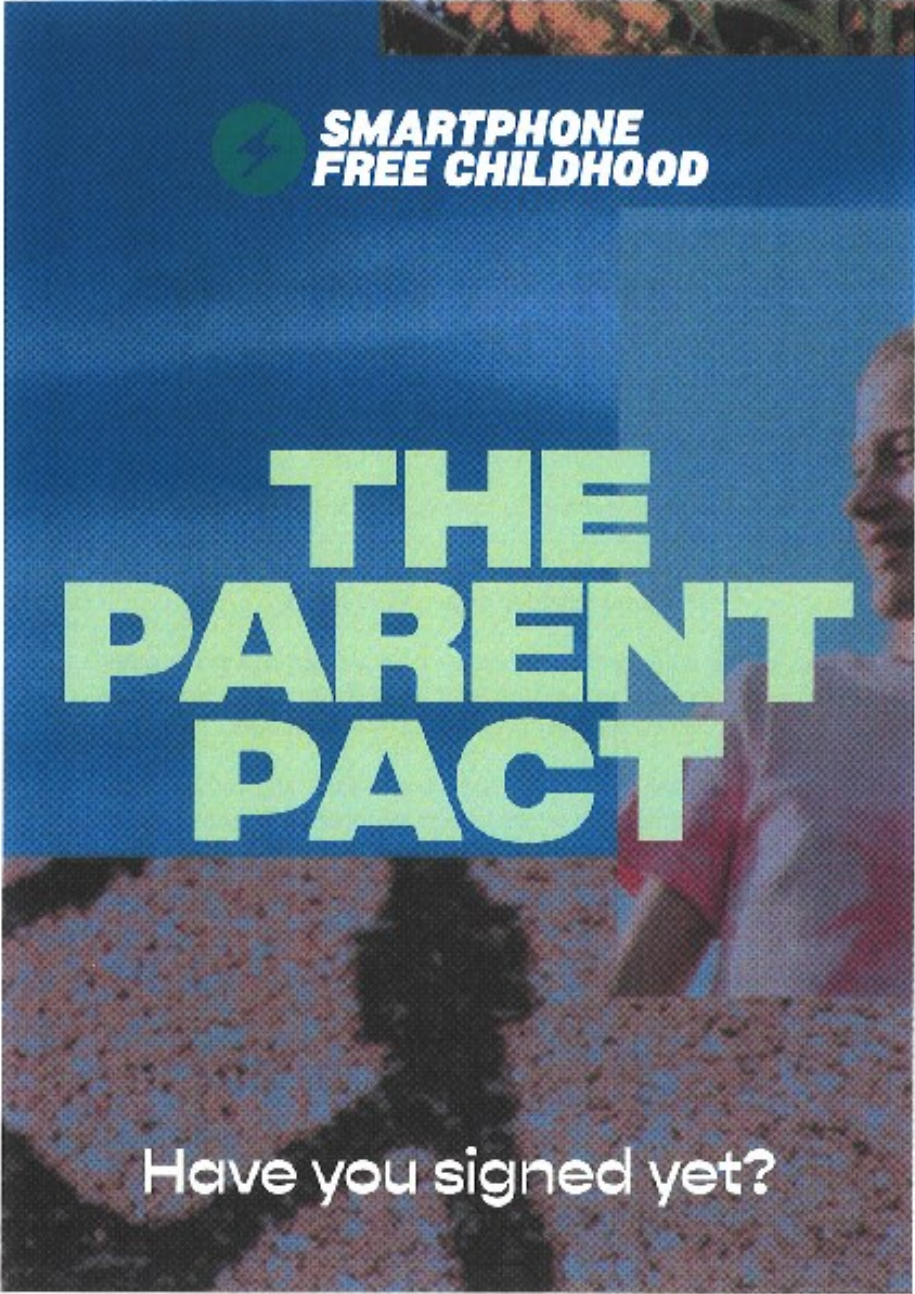


**A member of THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER ACADEMY TRUST**

The Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales No. 09201845

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







## Want to wait to give your child a smartphone but don't want them to be the odd one out?

**You're not alone! There's a growing movement of parents across Britain who are choosing to wait to give their children smartphones, and it's simple to get involved.**

The Parent Pact is a way to join together with other parents to agree to delay getting your child a smartphone until at least the end of year 9 (when they're a bit older and more able to deal with everything the online world brings).

It's all about strength in numbers – if your child knows that other kids in their class won't be getting a smartphone for a few years either, the peer pressure instantly dissolves.


It takes 30 seconds to sign the Parent Pact – and you can see how many others in your child's class, school and county have signed on the live leaderboards and connect with them via the Smartphone Free Childhood regional WhatsApp groups.



**THE PARENT PACT**  
Sign the Pact here or find out more on our website

[smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk](https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk)

@smartphonefreechildhood



ST JAMES  
ACADEMY PSA  
CHRISTMAS  
WREATH  
WORKSHOP

Join us for this festive workshop  
7-9pm, Monday 9 December, St James Main Hall  
£25 pp includes wreath accessories and drink!  
Contact Holly Shawyer 07879883088 to book.



# 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)