



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6DW
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6th September 2023

Newsletter

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! It is wonderful to be back as a family and to see the school bubbling with smiling faces!

Worship

Our staff met in church at the start of the year to meet together to worship. We listened to a bible reading from John chapter 10, where Jesus talked about living life to the full. The word flourish is often used in schools, where children and adults get the opportunity to live their life to the full.

The children all listened to the story 'I am special', by Max Lucado, where they all learned how unique and special they are to God, who knows every single hair on their heads!

P.E. days

We have had several queries regarding P.E. days, and when to send children in their P.E. kit. This week **will not** be a P.E. week, as it is a shorter week and there is no teacher planning time. From next week, the P.E. days are as follows:

EYFS – Wednesdays

Year 1 – Tuesdays

Year 2 – Thursdays

Year 3 – Fridays

Year 4 – Tuesdays

Year 5 – Thursdays

Year 6 – Fridays

Year group information meetings – meet the teacher!

Next Wednesday (13th September), there is an opportunity for you all to meet your child's new teacher in their new classroom. We have information evenings at 3.30pm and 4.30pm where the teachers will give you valuable information about the year ahead (timetables, curriculum visits and costs, home learning and much more). There is no need to book, just turn up.

What's new?

We have a waterfall! (Not a real one, but a giant picture on the stairwell to upper key stage 2). This adds to our theme of St. James' the fisherman, and the bodies of water class names and certainly received a number of 'Woahs' from the children as they ascended the stairs yesterday.

Mrs Dodd and I have moved rooms, to make room for a Year 1 break out space, this will be known as 'The Harbour'. We now have a smaller space at the back of the office, but the children will make full use of their new area. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Hopkins for giving up their weekend to paint and prepare The Harbour!

We have new fencing around the staff car park, to add extra security to the site.

The key stage 1 corridor and the upper key stage 2 corridor have been painted. This now looks fresher and brighter.



School Uniform

At the start of the academic year we want to make sure that we are proud of being part of the St. James' family and part of that is wearing the correct, smart uniform. If you are short of a jumper or correct kit, we do have a uniform exchange that you are very welcome to access. Long hair should be tied back, shirts tucked in and correct P.E. attire please.

Gardeners wanted

On Saturday 9th September, 11am – 3pm, we are rejuvenating our outside area (which used to house the chickens). If you are free and want to turn up with appropriate garden tools for cutting, digging, weeding etc. we would love to see you! This space will be used as an outside learning area, a potential forest school environment and a reflective area for all of our children to enjoy.

New Website

Our new website is very close to being launched. It has been built over the summer and will be much more user friendly for mobile phones. We understand there was a problem accessing the term dates, which is why we posted this years and next years on the website yesterday.

Upcoming Key dates

Tuesday 12th September – Year 5 Greek restaurant visit

Wednesday 13th September – New class information evenings. 3.30pm and 4.30pm

Monday 18th September – extra curricular clubs start

Thursday 28th September – Harvest Festival in church (parents welcome). KS1 – 9am, KS2 – 1.30pm

Tuesday 3rd October – Year 2 Brownsea Island visit

Monday 16th October – Individual photographs, Frazer portraits.

Friday 20th October – Break up for Half term. Normal end of school time.

Summer Reading Challenge

Please bring in your medals and certificates from the Summer Reading Challenge so that we can celebrate all our fantastic readers and share them in awards on Friday.

Also, if you are someone who could offer a small slot to hear some readers at the beginning of the day or in the afternoons, we would love to hear from you. Please let the office know.

It really is lovely to see everyone back and we hope that this year is going to be the best! Thank you all for your support - as always,

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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2023-24 Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Inset Day Friday 1st September 2023

Inset Day Monday 4th September 2023

First Day Tuesday 5th September 2023

Half Term Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October 2023

Last Day Tuesday 19th December 2023 (finish at 1.20pm)

SPRING TERM 2024

Inset Day Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Inset Day Wednesday 3rd January 2024

First Day Thursday 4th January 2024

Half Term Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024

Last Day Tuesday 26th 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)

OPEN MORNING



St. James' C of E Primary Academy

Saturday 4th November, 10am - 12pm

Presentation at 10am and 11am,

with an opportunity to explore the school and speak to staff



School tours during school time are also available on request,
by phoning the school office on 01202 426696

Come and see what the family of St. James' can offer your child

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