



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road
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6th December 2024

Newsletter

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9 v 6

Dear Parents and Carers

We are well into advent now and the school is a hive of business and excitement. The children are working hard on their curriculum subjects, with music and drama at the fore.



Worship

We talked about inclusion at Christmas and why we should be kind and make sure that everyone is involved, even if they don't fit in, or sometimes make wrong choices. We learnt from [Edgar](#) and Zacchaeus and I read the beautiful story of [Harvey Slumfenberger](#).

Mary's song in the gospel of Luke, sometimes known as the Magnificat, reminds us of the topsy-turviness of the kingdom of heaven. The marginalised are brought to the centre; the poor and the nameless are given the spotlight, while the rich and powerful are nudged out to the side lines to make space for a fairer society where all can flourish.

The baby at the centre of the Christmas story holds this all together in the tangible form of a real human being, one to love, cherish, protect, teach, listen to, surround with opportunity and send off into the world as the best version of them self that they can be.



Christmas Post Box

There is a Christmas post box at the bottom of the stairs in school, near the children's entrance and we would love it to be filled. If your child would like to send Christmas cards this year, we would be happy for our delivery boys and girls to distribute them to the correct classes. This encourages children writing for a purpose, and it's lovely to receive a Christmas greeting from a friend.

Make sure you clearly write on the envelope; your friend's name (and surname if possible) and their class name and year group for example; Mary Joseph, Bourne, Year 1. You don't need a stamp, but you could draw your own (I'm sure the King won't mind!)



Christmas Performances


These start on **Monday 16th December** with our Early Year's children performing 'Pop up Nativity'. This is a ticketed event for both performances, you should have had the details sent to you via email. We are encouraging no more than 3 tickets per family please.




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 On **Tuesday 17th** we start our outdoor performances, on the bottom playground with Year 1 at 4.30pm and Year 3 at 5.30pm, your child is expected at school no later than 15 minutes before the start of their performance. There will be lights and sound amplification in our shelter, so that the 1A bus on Christchurch Road won't stop us! Our PSA will be serving mulled wine and warm drinks, alongside snacks from our Year 5 Enterprise Team. It will be a lovely, cosy Christmas feeling with the children's angelic voices piercing the crisp night sky.

 Also, on **Tuesday 17th** we are holding Christmas crafts and performance at 2pm - 2:30pm for our Harbour children. Parents welcome.

 On **Wednesday 18th**, we have our Year 2 children at 4.30pm and our Year 4 children at 5.30pm on the bottom playground.

 **Thursday 19th December** evening sees our grand finale with our Year 5 and 6 Carols by Candlelight in the church, starting at 6.30pm. This is a non-ticket event, but due to the limited number of seats in the church, we kindly suggest that no more than 2 family members attend, and respectfully ask for no little children, as there will be moment of quiet and reflection.

Christmas Songs At The Gates

Our Glee Club have had a busy Christmas season with a couple of concerts to go but we will be singing Christmas songs at the school gates from 2:45pm to 3:15pm on **Wednesday 18th December**. We will be raising money towards our Glee trip to the 02 in London in January if you would like to put any money in our collection bucket!

PSA School Discos

On **Friday 13th December** our PSA will be facilitating our school discos.

The times are as follows:

Early Years - 1:30pm - 2:15pm. Children will be collected from school at the normal place and time.
£1 cash donation please to be brought in on the day. This cost includes a snack and drink.

Year 1 and 2 - 2:15pm - 3:00pm. Children will be collected from school at the normal place and time.
£1 cash donation please to be brought in on the day. This cost includes a snack and drink.

Year 3 and 4 - 3:10pm - 4:00pm. Children will stay at school and be collected from the school hall at 4:00pm. To secure your child's place please sign up/pay (£3.50) via Arbor (clubs) - PSA Disco Year 3 & 4 by noon on Wednesday 11th December. Please note you must top up your PSA balance first.

The above children may wear their disco clothes all day.

Year 5 and 6 will wear school uniform, as their disco is slightly later, and they can get changed and come back. Their disco starts at 4:15pm and children should be collected at 5:15pm from the school hall. They will not be able to use their walking home passes after this, due to safety reasons in the darkness. To secure your child's place please sign up/pay (£3.50) via Arbor (clubs) - PSA Disco Year 4 & 5 by noon on Wednesday 11th December. Please note you must top up your PSA balance first.

The PSA need **volunteers for these discos** - if you can help at any of them, please let the PSA or the office know.



Extra-Curricular Clubs For The Spring Term

Our new clubs timetable and details on sign up will be with you shortly. Clubs will start w/c 13 January 2025 - w/c 24 March 2025.



Plea For Rice And Jam Donations

We are still in need of **jam and 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 16th of December 2024.



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:

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

Monday 9th December - PSA Christmas Wreath Workshop. School hall - 7pm - 9pm

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

Tuesday 17th December - Year 1 Christmas Performance at 4:30pm on the bottom playground

Tuesday 17th December - Year 3 Christmas Performance at 5:30pm on the bottom playground

Wednesday 18th December - Glee Carol Singing at the school gates from 2:45pm - 3:15pm

Wednesday 18th December - Year 2 Christmas Performance at 4:30pm on the bottom playground

Wednesday 18th December - Year 4 Christmas Performance at 5:30pm on the bottom playground

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

Friday 20th December - Christmas party morning. Break up for Christmas holidays at 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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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 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)