



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

Newsletter

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:11

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, that's it...the end of school for 2024. We have really enjoyed all of our Christmas performances, and I hope you have too, as proud parents.

Christmas is magical with young people and the Christian Christmas message has been shared with all of our family. It was lovely to hear from our children, as I do at the start of every worship when I pose a reflective question, 'what present do you want to give this year?' and their answers were beautiful; 'a hug', 'some love', 'a smile', 'Jesus'... children are innocent and wonderfully made. They have no hatred or prejudice and they just want to share kindness and happiness. Thank you, for sharing your special children with us.

Worship

Love, Hope and Forgiveness are never more important than at Christmas, when God sent His only Son. I shared the story of [an Angel just like Me](#). I posed the question of what an angel might look like and how important it is that we recognise ourselves in the story of Christmas.

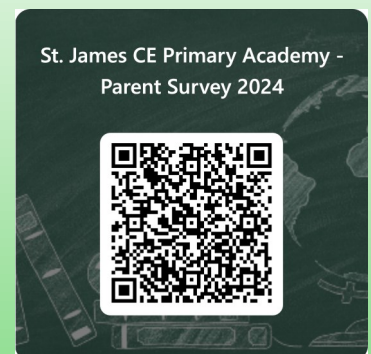
Tomorrow happens to be the shortest day, the winter solstice, when there is less than 8 hours of daylight. After this the light increases day by day by almost 3 minutes, until we get almost 16 hours of daylight in June. There is always something to look forward to in the darkness and as Christians, we know that Christmas is just round the corner, providing an abundance of light (just look at the houses on your road!)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8 v 12



Parent Survey

If you could spare 3 minutes, we would love you to complete our online parent survey by using the QCode. We would love to know what we are getting right and how we can improve for your children. We are always keen to enhance our extra-curricular clubs, so if there is anything we don't offer that you think we could – let us know. Thank you in advance.



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School Uniform

We will be having a big push from January on our school uniform. I spoke to our Year 6 children about pride in their uniform and I was delighted to see the response from them. Our uniform details are all on the [website](#) and children should be wearing their winter uniform, with a school tie. The summer uniform comes into effect in May.



School Meals

Our new school meal provider, Relish, will be starting to freshly prepare, cook and serve our new menu. I am really looking forward to the quality and nutritional value of our children's food being improved and having a purpose built kitchen at St. James' has been an answer to prayer.

All meals will be available for booking in advance online using the Relish Parent Portal. (Please see their welcome letter attached).

- Please register and link your account to your child (www.relishschoolfood.c.uk/parents) - St James C of E Primary Academy
- Once completed a message or email will be sent to activate your account
- From **Thursday 2nd January** you can log-in to view lunch menus for w/c 7th January 2025
- You can order your meal up to midnight on the previous day, each day
- If you child has any allergies or dietary requirements that we have logged on our Arbor system, menu choice will be restricted to items that suit them
- **Parents and Carers will need to top up their Meal Account, as previously, on Arbor (before ordering)**



Glee Club

Well done to Glee Club for all the Christmas performances - we have sang at a rest home, a nativity, a Christmas fayre, and the school gates, as well as making a brilliant recording! Bringing Christmas joy to all! Next is the trip to the O2!!



Extra-Curricular Clubs For The Spring Term

Our new clubs timetable and details on how to sign up has been sent via email this week. Clubs run w/c 13 January 2025 - w/c 24 March 2025. You can sign up via Arbor from 9am on Saturday 21st 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



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Key Dates

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

Tuesday 7th January - Children return to school for the Spring term

Wednesday 8th January - Swimming lessons start from Malawi Class - Bournemouth Collegiate School

Wednesday 8th January - Year 4 Parent's Hooke Court Meeting - 3:20pm in the year 4 classrooms

Wednesday 15th January - Year 3 Passover Workshop

Friday 17th January - Treasure Island, Treehouse Theatre Pantomime - church

Monday 20th January - Young Voices (Glee club) - O2 London

Tuesday 21st January - Year 1 Frog's Drama - hall

Monday 27th January - Ducklings Class Drama

Tuesday 28th January - Year 1 Parent's Phonics Workshop - 2pm

Friday 31st January - Tadpoles Class Drama

Thursday 6th February - Bourne and Stour Class Worship - 9am

Wednesday 12th February - Year 5 Winchester Science Trip

Thursday 13th February - Bengal Class Worship - 9am

Thursday 13th February - Early Years Parent's Outcome - hall

Friday 14th February - Break up for half term (normal finish time)

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'.

Finally, I hope you all find peace this Christmas. Smile, love, laugh and enjoy the most special family time of the year. God bless you...everyone.

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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Dear Parents and Carers

Relish are delighted to be working with St. James' CE Primary Academy.

We are committed to providing quality, fresh ingredients that we cook from scratch to produce our daily menus. Wherever possible, we use seasonal produce and the daily food offer allows our children to choose from a wide variety of freshly prepared main meals and desserts.

We take pupil and parent voices very seriously. Knowing what a positive impact good food can have on the developing minds and bodies of our children, we attend school council meetings to ensure we capture initial reactions to new dishes and food ideas, gaining an understanding about what works well.

We hold many special days within the school year and work with the school to make sure there is relevance to the event – it may be linked to the curriculum or a theme within school. We welcome the wider community to our events to showcase what we do best!

We are pleased to also announce that we have a special login area called the 'Parent Portal' on our website, where you can login to view and download our menus and recipes, meal confirmation and forthcoming events.

The link to view our Parent Portal is www.relishschoolfood.co.uk/parents

You can also look at allergen information and directly message the Chef/Kitchen Manager.

Once complete, we will send you a message or email so you can activate/verify your account, which will keep us in touch with you until the end of school! You will then be able to start ordering direct from the menu from the parent portal as of Thursday 2nd January 2025 ready for our first day on Tuesday 7th January.

We look forward to welcoming and providing the very best service for every child at St. James' CE Primary Academy.

Relish! support your school to provide food across the school day that is fresh, wholesome and enjoyable for children to eat. LUNCHTIME equates to 1/6 of your child's day so we give it the attention it deserves!



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)



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy

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)