



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy  
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**28th February 2025**

## Newsletter

*...and we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8 v 28*

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the second half of the academic year. What a wonderful first half we had, with achievement and enjoyment in abundance across the whole school. We have got lots planned until the summer, and I hope to see you all in school at some point, getting a glimpse into your child's world at St. James'.

We always try to include parents in St. James' life, so you can see with pride what they are achieving in school. Ours is an essential partnership and together we can help your children flourish in their formative years.

October 2001 - one month after the devastation of the collapsed Twin Towers, some workers were removing the still-smoking rubble. An incredible moment occurred. Poking through the crumbled grey concrete and ash some live, green leaves were visible. The workers carefully uncovered the tree: most of her limbs had been sheared off, and only a few roots remained, but the green leaves were a sign of hope that she could be saved.

For nine years the tree was tended and loved at a nursery, and the Callery Pear Tree was returned to a place of honour, near where it had lived, in the newly-named 9/11 Memorial Plaza.

Thinking about such things, and especially being practically involved, not only helps other people, the environment, the climate and creation, but also has a tangible impact on our own well-being and mental health.

There has been a great deal of research highlighting the benefit to child mental health of spending time in wild places. By exploring their natural environment, children and adults have opportunities to think and speak about their relationship with the world in which they live, how they feel about themselves, their relationships with others, the world and their faith. We see this ourselves when our school children experience Forest School or trips outdoors.

This year our diocesan project is called Tri Wonder. It encourages our children's spirituality and their relationship with the world around us. There are 'wonders of nature' everywhere we look. You don't need a vast garden or an ornate pond to see it. It's everywhere. So be curious and encourage your child to be curious. Lift up that rock, stare down at the grass, look up to the sky...and peacefully enjoy sharing in God's wonderful world.



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

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## Worship

I led worship on temptation this week, and how easy it is to make wrong choices. The lure of a wet paint sign or the unhealthy food option is usually all too tempting. I am old enough to remember the fruit pastille adverts, where they challenged you to put one in your mouth without chewing - some of the children tried this in worship and managed to resist. Can you?

Jesus was tempted 3 times in the desert and of course resisted and gave meaningful answers to all of the challenges. It isn't always easy, but with support from God, our family and our friends, we can resist and make good choices that will help us.



## Lockdown Drill

This week we practiced an emergency lockdown drill. I spoke to all the children and staff in an assembly on Tuesday to reassure the children that this was a practice, just like we do for fire drills. It is required of all schools to practice this, in the event of an extraordinary emergency. There are 3 short bells that signify the start of this. The children are then expected to be silent in their classrooms and the teacher either locks the classroom door or wedges it shut. After the drill, there is one sustained bell that signifies the end.

The children know that our first priority is to keep them safe and they must know what to do to help that. We have tried to do this in a way that the children will not feel scared or anxious (the same as they feel with our regular fire drills), and with practice, this will become routine. If you wish to discuss this, please ask and I will be happy to talk through what we have done. Thank you for your support.



## Goodbye to Mrs Samtani

We said farewell to Mrs Samtani who was supporting Year 1 as an HLTA this year. She has been wonderful and we wish her all the best in her future in alternative provision.

Mrs Allery will now teach full time in Year 1 (Monday - Thursday) with Mrs Hall teaching on a Friday. Mrs South, who will be embarking on her teacher training will also support in Year 1, alongside Mrs Uzzell and Mrs Pine. Mrs Stoodley continues to teach full time in Year 1, with a trainee teacher in Mrs Gray, for the next 3 weeks.



## Attendance and Fines

As a school, we are under increasing pressure to improve our attendance at St. James'. Pre 2020 we would be aiming for 97% whole school attendance with about 5% of children categorised as 'persistent absentees' (below 90% attendance). Today's attendance is 94.9% and 'persistent absentees' at 13%. Whilst these are better figures than national average, we have a duty to improve children's attendance. The school is held to account by the local authority and directed to issue letters and fines. Whilst I will always prioritise positive relationships with families, sometimes we have little or no option than to issue a fine based on term time absences, such as holidays and lateness.

As a parent, I completely understand the monetary saving in term time for a holiday, I also know the benefit of visiting other places and the wellbeing of family time, however there is a legal obligation to attend a place of education.

When your child is absent for the equivalent of 1 day every fortnight, they miss out on a significant amount of learning from school. Thank you for your support.



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## School Meals Information

I met with Relish this week, along with some of our children, to construct a new menu for the summer term. This will include food that supports curriculum learning and themed lunches, as well as popular choices that our children enjoy. I am still delighted by the food they are eating, it really is a marked improvement. Just a few reminders:

- All parents must pre order by midnight the day before
- The Relish and Arbor balances have now been synced. Please **top up your Arbor meal account**, to ensure you are not in debit balance



## Dogs on School Site

Although we are a dog loving school, could I politely remind you not to bring dogs up to school at drop off or pick up please.



## School Uniform

Thank you to those children who are always dressed so smartly in St. James' colours. We continue to look our smartest and we are taking pride in our appearance and our belonging to St. James'.

Please try to ensure your child is dressed appropriately, following our uniform policy. 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. Thank you for your support.



## 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 Year 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:

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 4 Hooke Court residential

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** - Galilee Class Worship - 9am

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** - World Book Day - Dress up as a book character and virtual books at bedtime 6pm - 7pm

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** - 14<sup>th</sup> March - Science Week

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March** - Ducklings and Tadpoles Class Worship - 9am

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March** - Biscay Class Worship - 9am

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March** - Parent's evenings - hall

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March** - Year 3 Roman Day

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March** - Glee Club to Bournemouth Music Festival

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - Mediterranean Class Worship - 9am

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** - Break up for Easter holidays (finish at 1:20pm)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025** - Sports Day, King's Park Stadium



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## World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March 2025, we are celebrating World Book Day. This will be a non-uniform day where your child can dress up as a character from a book.

- Dress Up and Reading Buddies

We invite all children to come dressed as a character, animal, or object from their favourite book. During the day, children will also have the opportunity to share a favourite book with their reading buddies, so please encourage them to bring in a book they love.

Reading is a vital part of education, and we aim to inspire a lifelong love of books in all our pupils. World Book Day is the perfect opportunity to immerse children in stories, spark their imagination, and develop their enthusiasm for reading.

- Books at Bedtime - A Virtual Event

Our much-loved Books at Bedtime event is back again this year and it's going virtual! Children are invited to join us online at 6:30 pm to listen to a bedtime story read by some of our wonderful Teachers. Details of how to watch will be sent early next week.

- World Book Day Token

Every child will receive a £1 book token to exchange for a free World Book Day book or to use towards an other book of their choice.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>.

- Extreme Reading Challenge

We are challenging pupils (and staff) to take part in our Extreme Reading Challenge! We would love to see photos of children reading in unusual, funny, or surprising places safely, of course! Whether it's reading in a treehouse, on a swing, or somewhere completely unexpected, let your creativity shine. To enter, print your photo and hand it in to the school office with your name and class written on the back by Monday 3rd March. The best photos will be displayed in our school library!

- Scholastic Book Fair is Coming Soon!

We are also pleased to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be visiting our school from Tuesday 24th June to Monday 30th June. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to explore and purchase a wide range of books. More details will be shared closer to the time.

We truly appreciate the support of our parents and carers in making World Book Day such a special event each year. Thank you for encouraging and celebrating reading with us and we look forward to a fantastic day! (Mrs Jacobs).



## SENDiass

SENDiass4BCP have workshops and drop-in sessions available for you to ask questions, and get free and impartial information and advice. Take a look at our latest What's On post by clicking this link: [What's on in March? - SENDiass4BCP](#)



## School Nurse Drop-In Session

Our School Nurse is running a parent drop-in session on **Tuesday 11th March from 8:45am** until 11am. She will support parents with common childhood concerns such as toileting, night time wetting, sleep, nutrition, growth concerns and signposting to other services.

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'.

Thank you for your continued support.

## 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.



# 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)