



St. James' Church of England Primary Academy  
Pokesdown Hill, Christchurch Road  
BOURNEMOUTH BH7 6DW  
01202 426696  
Email office@stjames.academy  
**14th March 2025**

## Newsletter

*A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God...* Ecclesiastes 2 v 24

Dear Parents and Carers

Spring has sprung...well almost. The sun is setting after 6pm and won't set before until the end of October.

This week we have had science week with all sorts of wonderful experiments, engineering, visits from boffins, medical experts, aviation experts, laboratory experts and so much more. I managed to teach a few sessions to KSI about space and the incredible miracles within it.

We exist on the most perfect planet. Not too hot, not too cold, with water to sustain life. If we were just a fraction closer or farther away from the sun we couldn't survive. The sun is 93 million miles away from us, but yet we still benefit from the light and the warmth it provides in abundance. 93 million miles sounds a lot – it is. If you counted to one million in seconds, it would take you 11 days to do so! The sun is approximately 3 billion miles away from Neptune, the furthest planet in our solar system. Want to know how long it would take you to count to one billion in seconds? Try 31 and a half years!!

### **Worship**

We were led by Galilee class last week, reminding us that we should never judge a book by its cover. At St. James' we celebrate difference and what a wonderful message. Thank you Year 5. This week we had Tim from Wessex Water, telling us all about the work they do and linking the water of life. Next week we will be treated to our youngest children leading our worship all about forgiveness.

### **Chickenpox**

We are letting you know that there are a number of cases of chickenpox in the school. If you are worried about anything please read the letter from the NHS for more information further on in this newsletter.

### **Sickness**

Please see leaflets at the end of this newsletter from the NHS for guidance. A polite reminder from the office - please phone, email or send an in-app message on Arbor **before 9am** on the morning of sickness.



## Swimming News

Our Year 4 Swimming Team put in an outstanding performance at our first swimming gala of the year, held this week at Bournemouth Collegiate School. We finished in second place overall! The day was full of incredible races with our team securing victories in four races. Their hard work truly paid off, and they should be proud of their achievements. (Mr Battams)



## Red Nose Day - Friday 21st March

Children may wear something red/mufti for a small donation to Comic Relief, next Friday.



## Attendance and Fines

Did you know that being registered late, also equates to absence? School starts at 8:30am, when learning begins in the classroom. The gates close at 8.40am.

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 a Persistent Absentees (below 90% attendance). This year's attendance is 94.9% and PA at 12.7%. 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.



## 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



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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:

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

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March** - Red Nose Day. Children may wear something red for a donation to comic relief

**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



## Parish Administrator Role

The church are hiring a new administrator – please pop into the school office for job details, if you are interested.

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.



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UK Health  
Security  
Agency

UK Health Security Agency  
South West

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 2 Rivergate  
Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EH

Follaton House, Plymouth Road,  
Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5NE

Dear Parent, Attendee or Staff member,

There have recently been cases of chickenpox amongst children in the setting. We are writing to you as a precautionary measure and to provide important information about chickenpox.

Infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and through shared contact with surfaces such as tabletops, taps, toys and handles. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infections, including chickenpox.

### Chickenpox

Chickenpox is usually a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters that crust over to form scabs.

To prevent spreading the infection within settings, children with chickenpox should stay away from the nursery, school or playgroups for at least 5 days from onset of the rash AND until all the spots have crusted over. Ibuprofen (Brufen, Nurofen, Calprofen) should NOT be given to children who have chickenpox unless advised to by a doctor as this can increase the risk of serious skin infections.

### Complications

Some people are at higher risk of more serious illness from chicken pox:

- If you/your child is immunosuppressed and you are certain that you/they have been in contact with chickenpox, please contact NHS 111 or your GP as soon as possible.
- If you are pregnant, have not had chickenpox in the past, and are certain you have been in contact with chickenpox, please contact NHS 111, your GP or your midwife as soon as possible.
- If you are caring for a newborn baby and you are certain they have had contact with chickenpox please also contact your midwife, NHS 111 or your GP as soon as possible.

Children who have chickenpox or influenza at the same time as scarlet fever are more likely to develop more serious infection so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and



UK Health  
Security  
Agency



A practical  
guide  
for staff

# Managing **infectious** cases of **diseases** in all education and childcare settings

The online guide offers information and resources for the following:

Introduction to infection control in all education and childcare settings

Prevention and control

Outbreak management

Immunisation

Staff health, pet and animal contact

Cleaning the environment

Managing specific infections

Exclusion table

Diarrhoea and vomiting outbreak action list



## Advice and guidance

To find out more, visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities) or [bit.ly/2xiJpPZ](https://bit.ly/2xiJpPZ).





# Should I keep my child off school?



## Yes

### Until...

<b>Chickenpox</b>	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
<b>Diarrhoea and Vomiting</b>	48 hours after their last episode
<b>Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)</b>	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
<b>Impetigo</b>	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
<b>Measles</b>	4 days after the rash first appeared
<b>Mumps</b>	5 days after the swelling started
<b>Scabies</b>	they've had their first treatment
<b>Scarlet Fever</b>	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
<b>Whooping Cough</b>	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

<b>Hand, foot and mouth</b>	<b>Glandular fever</b>
<b>Head lice</b>	<b>Tonsillitis</b>
<b>Threadworms</b>	<b>Slapped cheek</b>



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.



# 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)