

Headteacher: Mr D Lawford

St James' CE First School  
Gaunts Common  
Wimborne  
BH21 4JN



St. James'  
CE First School and Nursery

T: 01258 840669

E: [office@stjames.dsat.org.uk](mailto:office@stjames.dsat.org.uk)

W: [www.stjames.dsat.org.uk](http://www.stjames.dsat.org.uk)

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the year draws to a close, we have time to both reflect on the year just past and cast our thoughts and vision to the year ahead. It has been an incredible privilege to welcome the Nursery into the school and work alongside them to provide the best possible outcomes for your child. However, the year-end often brings a change in both structure and personnel, and I wanted to take some time to celebrate our team and set the scene for next year.

Firstly, I want to thank all the staff who have worked at the nursery this year – I don't say it enough, but we are truly grateful for the time and effort they have put in to making our Nursery a special place to be. Joining any new organisation is challenging and with so many years of rich history, the Cottage brought strength and depth in both experience and personnel. However, in July, a number of these wonderful practitioners and administrative team will move on to take a break from work or onto new adventures and challenges. So, a special thanks goes to the following staff leavers who have worked in the Nursery for many years.

- Briony Lewis has been working at the Nursery for 2 years, beginning as maternity cover and later taking a permanent position.
- Lisa Sheppard who began working at the school before moving onto the Nursery. She has successfully completed her Level 2 training and is moving to work in a local nursery in Wimborne.
- Hannah Bolton will be moving onto lead another nursery closer to home having successfully completed her Level 6 childcare accreditation in the last year. She has worked closely alongside Mrs Walker to support the Nursery during their first year of integration with the school.
- Susan Lambert has worked at both the School and Nursery for well over 30 years in a number of roles. She has shown an unwavering commitment to the Nursery and has been part of the many teams who have seen the Nursery grow.
- Wendy Reeves has worked both as a Trustee and Nursery Manager and leaves her post to join the inclusion team at Ferndown Upper School, to which she will be a tremendous asset.
- Claire Mallon will be moving away from Nursery administration (but not leaving our family) and will instead be taking a new post as a 1-2-1 Teaching Assistant in the Reception class which she is very much looking forward to.

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With several staff leaving us and the pupil roll currently lower than in previous years, we have made some adjustments to the Nursery setup to ensure the Nursery remains economically viable. We will continue to operate within the same age range but will lower our operating capacity to 13 in the first instance whilst we look at a future platform for growth.

We are very much looking forward to working with Mrs Healey, Mrs Smith and Miss Sartwech next year and will announce the new Nursery lead in the coming week. We are also looking to utilise the tremendous Early Years experience from our reception base more fully in the coming year to support the teaching and learning within the Nursery setup. This will lead to a great consistency of approach and integration as the year progresses.

With term almost at an end, I also want to thank you for your support. It is a privilege to be trusted with the educational development of your child at such a crucial age and we continue to strive to be the best we can. For those of you joining Reception, we are looking forward to officially welcoming you in September.

Yours faithfully



Daniel Lawford  
*Headteacher*

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