



St. James' CE First School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr D Lawford

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Thursday 25th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new half-term at St James'. Whilst it might only be a short sprint until Easter, we have a huge amount that we have planned in the 24 days of school. Please take a moment to read the next two pages which details all the key dates for both Nursery and School which have an impact beyond the normal classroom teaching and learning.

One date I want to flag for the whole community is our planned celebration service for Tilly. As many of you entered school this week, you would have noticed some incredible changes in the Peace Garden which took place over the half-term. Mr King (Tilly's dad) has been carefully planning and worked tirelessly to construct a beautiful addition to our Peace Garden which has made a significant improvement to the space as well as giving all of us a focal point for our remembering and celebration.

On the 17th April, at 2pm, we are planning a service of celebration for Tilly in the Peace Garden to celebrate her life and commission the space as a place of Remembering for years to come. This invite is not only for your child, but for the whole community and we are opening the service to anyone who wants to attend. For now, the Peace Garden will remain closed to allow the grass to recover and for us to put the finishing touches to the space.

The Peace Garden is one of two bigger projects we have planned. Last year, we had to sadly cut down a beautiful Cherry Blossom tree that stood just outside the main entrance to the hall. It seems appropriate at this moment to plant a new tree as a way of both celebrating and remembering Tilly. As part of this, we want to add some additional seating and create a new path up past the tyres to the school. If you would like to support these projects financially, we will shortly be setting up a Just Giving page and are hoping to raise £2500. The children will also be completing a one hour sponsored dance to play their part in raising money. Any surplus funds will be used to further enhance the outdoor space for generations to come.

We will share more details of the service closer to the time but want to ensure everyone has a chance to save the date.

Yours faithfully

Mr Lawford
Headteacher

Believe & Achieve "I will show you my faith by my deeds" James 2:18

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Key Upcoming Dates

Date	Event
23 rd February	INSET Training Day
24 th February	First Day of Spring Two
24 th February 13.45 – 14.45	St Michael's Sports Leaders (Year 2) Year 2 will be working with the St Michael's sports leaders. Please wear PE kit on this day.
28 th February 09.00 – 10.30	Breakfast Church
5 th March	World Book Day and Author Visit (Whole School) World Book Day is always an excellent day and this year we are joined by author Maudie Smith . For more information see Miss Robert's letter from last month. PFA Book Sale & Hot Chocolate Bar at 3pm
16 th March	Owls Art Day with Maria Vinney (Owls) We are excited to welcome Maria Vinney to St James' to run a series of 3 art days.
16 th March	Ducks Arrive at St James'
17 th March	Foxes Farm Visit (Foxes) All of Foxes will be taking part in their first school trip to Launceston Farm. Consent is live on Arbor and information letter can be found here . Deadline for consent is the 11 th March.
17 th March 14.00 – 15.00	Truth be Told (Nursery) Nursery parents and carers are invited to join their children at the Cottage for our next Truth be Told event. If your child doesn't attend on a Tuesday, you are so welcome to join us.
19 th March 13.00 – 15.00	Year 3 and 4 Easter Experience at Wimborne Minster (Year 3 and 4) All of year 3 and 4 will be travelling by coach to take part in the Easter Experience at Wimborne Minster. Consent is live on Arbor and the official letter can be found here . Deadline for consent is 13 th March.
20 th March	Hedgehog's Art Day with Maria Vinney We are excited to welcome Maria Vinney to St James' to run a series of 3 art days.
21 st March	PFA Barn Dance at Colehill Memorial Hall Join us for a night of fun...put on your dancing shoes and dance the evening away with live music from Murphy's Lore Ceilidh for our second annual St James' PFA Barn Dance. Enjoy hot food, a reasonably priced licensed bar, raffle and prize draw, all to raise money for our new classroom at our small village school in Gaunts Common. For more information, please visit the PFA Facebook page .

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Date	Event
23rd March 09.00 – 09.30	DSAT Online Easter Service (Year R – 4)
23rd March 14.30 – 15.00	Owls Parent Share Owls parents and carers are invited to come and see the Samba percussion that Owls have been learning this term.
24th March 09.00 – 09.30	Easter Service (Whole School) We would love you to join us for our Easter Service, taking place in the school hall.
24th March 14.30 – 15.00	Hedgehogs Parent Share (Hedgehogs)
24th March 11.30 – 15.00	Year 3 and 4 Priory Netball Tournament
24th March 15.00 – 15.30	Phonics Information Evening for Year 1 Parents (Year 1 Parents) At the end of Year 1, all children will complete a national phonics assessment. This short information event will help you support your child in our final preparations. We will supervise your children whilst you attend.
26th March 14.30 – 15.00	Foxes Parent Share (Foxes): Musical Extravaganza
27th March 09.00 – 10.30	Foxes Vision Screening
27th March 14.30 – 16.30	PFA Easter Celebration (Whole School) Easter Bonnet Parade in the Peace Garden with performance from the School Choir, Easter Crafts and refreshments
27th March	Last Day of Spring Two
13th April	INSET Training Day
14th April	First Day of Summer One

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