

St James' Church of England Junior School

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Newsletter



5 December 2025

Our Value for the year is **Respect** Our Value for this term is **Love**

Congratulations to our:

Values Cup Winners



Good Work Winners



Congratulations to 5B who won the weekly attendance award with 92.7%
6A who were runners-up. Well done!



Important Dates & Holidays – Please keep a copy of the term dates handy!

Take a look at the school calendar and term dates for 2025-26 and 2026-27 [here](#).

Thursday 11 December		Swimming for Year 5
Friday 12 December		Non-uniform Day (payment in bottles for Tombola) Year 4 Trip to Sherborne Cinema (Packed lunches) Swimming for Year 6
Tuesday 16 December	9.00 am	Christmas Carols at St James' (Parents welcome)
Wednesday 17 December		Christmas Jumper Day – Wear a jumper with uniform Christmas Lunch 3.00 pm - Christmas Fair
Thursday 18 December		Swimming for Year 5
Friday 19 December		No swimming for Year 6
	1.30 pm	End of Term 2 at 1.30 pm
Monday 29 December – Friday 2 January – Christmas Holidays		
Monday 5 January 2026		INSET Day (No children in school)
Tuesday 6 January		Start of Term 3

DGAT Advent Calendar – look at our amazing video!

https://www.canva.com/design/DAG1rdpHVPk/sdy0ARwyhkH8mqKQH7fIFg/view?utm_content=DAG1rdpHVPk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer (Opens in Youtube)

To view St James' video only – look [here](#).

Please find above the link to the DGAT Advent calendar. Children in school will be opening a new door each day. The children then see they are part of something bigger.

Winter FSM Voucher Scheme

This Winter Holiday, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding, and they are separate to that of term-time free school meals.

Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for the Winter holiday 2025 will be open from midday **25 November until midday on 9 December**. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing 15 December.

Check junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by **22 December**, submit a query via the Microsoft Form [HERE](#)

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (benefits-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students, nor children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children from reception to year 2) - they are not eligible for this scheme.**

Families who have signed up to the scheme or who are already registered will receive a total of **£15 per child for one week**.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, those wishing to find out more about eligibility and the scheme can do so by visiting our holiday free school meal voucher webpage here: [Holiday free school meal vouchers | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register for the Winter holiday vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact GCC with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases). Parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

School Hours

8.15 am	Gates Open/Breakfast Club
8.30 am	School playground is staffed – children can be left after 8.30 am
8.45 am	Pupils come into school
9.00 am	First session
3.20 pm	End of school day

Pupils should be in school by 8.45 am. All children who are late (when gates are shut) need to be brought into school by a parent to sign them in. If children arrive in school later than 10.30 am we may not be able to order them a hot lunch so they should bring in a packed lunch.

Breakfast Club is available from 8.15-8.45 am. **Children are expected to be punctual, but they should not arrive in school before 8.15 am when the gates open.**

Christmas Fair – Wednesday 17 December – We need your help!

Book/toy Tombola

Please bring into school, quality, used books and toys for our book/toy tombola. Please have a sort out at home this weekend and bring them in next week! Thanks!

Raffle

All the children took home an envelope containing a book of raffle tickets. Please send back into school, in the envelope provided (sealed) with all completed raffle ticket stubs (keep tickets yourself) and the cash asap. We have some great prizes to win – **Kindle, Hampers, Toy vouchers, Holiday Club Vouchers, Sherborne cinema tickets, Amazon Voucher, Roses Theatre cinema tickets, plus lots more.** Each ticket is 50p and the whole book of 5 tickets is £2.50. Extra tickets are available from the office and will be available at the Christmas Fair on Wednesday 17 December. If you cannot sell the tickets, please bring them back into school for us to sell. The raffle will be drawn at the end of the Christmas Fair.

Bottle Tombola/Book/Toy Tombola/Raffle

Thank you to those parents who have already donated bottles for our tombola, prizes for the raffle or items for our Toy/Book Tombola.

Please remember to bring lots of change on the day!

**PLEASE SELL AS MANY AS YOU CAN TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THE DAY OF THE
CHRISTMAS FAIR.**

**PRIZES: KINDLE, AMAZON VOUCHER, TOY VOUCHERS, HAMPERS,
HOLIDAY CLUB VOUCHERS, CHOCOLATES + MANY MORE**

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 17 December

Children can wear Christmas jumpers, Christmas t-shirts with their school uniform on 17 December.

If they have not chosen a Christmas lunch they need to bring in a packed lunch as there will be no other food choices on the day.





ST JAMES' C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER
NON-UNIFORM DAY
in aid of
Christmas Fair

INSTEAD OF PAYMENT FOR THE
NON-UNIFORM DAY PLEASE
BRING IN A BOTTLE FOR THE BOTTLE
TOMBOLA. ALCOHOL MUST BE
BROUGHT IN BY AN ADULT. IN DATE
BOTTLES OF WINE, FIZZ, SPIRITS,
SOFT DRINKS, BATH/SHOWER GEL
ETC.

*All money raised at the Fayre will go
towards St James' children activities/trips,
etc.*

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR

**CHRISTMAS
FAIR**

WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER
3.00 PM

RAFFLE BOTTLE TOMBOLA
TOY TOMBOLA
GAMES STALL CAKE STALL
REFRESHMENTS
GUESS THE WEIGHT OF CHRISTMAS CAKE
GUESS THE NUMBER OF SWEET IN A JAR
AND MUCH MORE!

BRING LOTS OF SMALL CHANGE

🎄 Small Business Saturday – Festive Fun on Westgate Street! 🎄

Join us this weekend at 49 Westgate Street from 11am–3pm for free kids' Christmas Create & Make crafts, entertainment, and the chance to win prizes on our 'Shine a Light on Local' wheel! 🎁 ✨

Come along, enjoy the festive fun, and support Gloucester's brilliant small and independent businesses.

FREE parking all day in council car parks on Westgate Street, Station Road & Hare Lane North.

Thank you, Gloucester City Council, 🚗

💖 Find out more - Small Business Saturday - Festive Fun on Westgate Street 💖

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
6TH DECEMBER

Festive Fun on Westgate Street

49 Westgate Street
11am to 3pm

Festive Create & Make

Facepainting & entertainment

WIN prizes!

Plus, hear the wonderful
Gloucester Excelsior Band

Join us for a day of festive community spirit!



GLOUCESTER BID



Just Camps

REGISTER 14 DAYS
BEFORE THE FIRST DAY
OF THE CAMP WEEK
AND GET OUR
EARLYBIRD PRICE

EVERY SCHOOL
HOLIDAY



VENUE: SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL
OAKLEAZE, LONGLEVENS, GL2 0LF
HALF DAY - FULL DAY - EXTENDED DAY OPTIONS

"EXCELLENT FUN- KIDS
HAVE A GREAT TIME AND
VERY WELL ENTERTAINED
- HIGHLY RECOMMEND!"
JO S., PARENT



12 - 16 YEARS?
ASK US ABOUT
BEING A
ROOKIE COACH



JUST BRING:

- PACKED LUNCH
- SNACK
- WATER/DRINK
- SUNCREAM
- APPROPRIATE CLOTHING
- ENERGY & ENTHUSIASM



REGISTER
HERE

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

AGES 4-16 YEARS
OFSTED REGISTERED
CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

JUSTCAMPS.CO.UK

01242 436753

MAIL@JUSTCAMPS.CO.UK



JustCamps have kindly donated a place at one of their Camps for our raffle
(to be taken up to February half-term)

Camp dates at Sir Thomas Rich's School are:

- 22nd/23rd December
- 2nd January

We offer half, full day (0900-15.30) and extended days (0800 – 1730) across all camp dates.

We are also offering a **20% discount on all places booked before 5pm FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER.**

We will be playing our usual mix of games and sports from Basketball to Football, Cricket to Rounders, Dodgeball to Nerf Wars and lot of fun Christmas themed activities, arts and crafts as well.

Here is the booking link: <https://www.justcamps.co.uk/register/>