



St James' Church of England Junior School

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Headteacher: Mrs E Gardiner



Newsletter



19 December 2025

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

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the close of the Autumn Term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the positive progress our school community has made and to extend my heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support throughout the term. It has been an incredibly long, busy, and fulfilling term. I am incredibly proud of the resilience, growth, hard work, and many moments of success, both big and small shown by all our pupils. This term, we have seen our students continue to thrive in a range of activities tailored to their individual needs. Whether through academic achievements, social progress, or personal development, every student has made significant positive strides forward. I am constantly impressed by the perseverance and determination shown by our pupils.



Our staff, as always, have been exceptional in their commitment to supporting each child's unique journey. Through careful planning and in parts, personalised learning, we have ensured that every child has the opportunity to succeed in a safe and nurturing environment. We've also seen fantastic participation in our extracurricular activities, such as sports clubs and tournaments, community art clubs, Lego workshops, and fund-raising events which have helped to enrich our students' experiences this term. I am sure that the residential to Wick Court Farm in October was a highlight of the term, and I am extremely grateful to Ms Savage, Mr Matthews, Mrs Chew and Mrs O'Derney for enable such a magical trip to be possible.

I would also like to take a moment to recognise the important role you play as parents and carers. Your partnership is invaluable, and the strong connection and communication between home and school ensures that we can continue to support your child's individual needs effectively. We are grateful for your involvement and your trust in us to provide the best care and education possible. The building work will be completed over the next few days, and we will not only have a lovely new classroom but our playground back; the children have been incredibly patient and understanding about the shortage of space.

We also say a fond farewell, goodbye and good luck to Mrs Savage who leaves us on January 8th after 9 years of working at St James'; we wish her the very best of luck in her new role/career.

Looking ahead to the Spring Term, we are excited about the opportunities and experiences that will continue to support your child's development

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I want to wish all our families a restful and joyful time. We hope that the holiday offers a well-deserved break for both pupils and families alike, and we look forward to welcoming your child back to school in the New Year, on Tuesday 6 January, ready for more achievements and growth.

Emma Gardiner
Headteacher

Christmas Fair

Thanks to all the parents, grandparents and friends who came to our Christmas Fair this week. We raised an amazing £543.80 which will go towards children's trips, activities, etc. We are very grateful for all the donations; we could not put on these events without your help! Thanks also to all our suppliers who kindly donated prizes for the raffle.

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](#).

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

Thursday 8 January

Swimming for Year 3

Friday 9 January

Swimming for Year 4

Non-uniform day for Sapphire House

Congratulations to 5B who won the termly attendance award with 93.5% and 4A who were runners-up with 92.7%.

3B won this week's attendance with 93.2% and runners-up were 4A with 92.1%.

Well done!

Sapphire won the House Award for this term – there will be a Non-uniform day for Sapphire on Friday 9 January.

Sapphire – 635, Ruby – 564, Emerald – 546, Amber – 460.

House Sports:

Ruby – 160, Sapphire – 127, Emerald – 115, Amber - 113

Year 6 Science Trip last week



Year 6 Ice Skating



THE VENTURE AND ST JAMES' CHURCH
ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS YEAR'S EVENT

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

Grab your blankets and cozy up for a magical evening of holiday cheer! Join us for a special Christmas Movie Night filled with fun, laughter, and festive vibes watching **Home Alone**.

 **Tuesday 23rd Dec**
Doors open at 5:00 PM

 **St James' Church**
Upton Street

OFFERING HOT DOGS, DRINKS, AND POPCORN
BEFORE 5:30pm SHOWING

Click [here](#) OR scan QR code to book

Funded by Together Gloucester





Read With Me: Pop Up Panto - HAF & HAP – Gloucester

28 December – St James' Church – 11.00 am-4.00 pm

SIGN UP BELOW!

Event Information

Age Range: Whole Family Type of Event: Everyone Welcome Event Type: Indoor
Food Provision: Meal and Snacks Provided SEND Friendly: Yes

Booking & Ticket Instructions One ticket = One Child Place

Activity Summary - The Read With Me Pop Up Panto is returning this December! 🎭 This FREE half-day event is suitable for children of all ages and everyone can get involved - whether it's making tickets, playing a starring role or shaking a tambourine. The day will end with a final performance of our very own panto !

***please note that parents are required to stay and children must not be left unattended.**

Food Provision - All food provided will meet School Food Standards, offering a balanced meal with starchy carbohydrates, fruit or vegetables, and a healthy drink. Meal provided: Self-serve breakfast available. Hot meal and cold meal options available for lunch. Dietary options available: Vegetarian, Vegan and Halal For more information, please contact us via the email link on the activity page.

Accessibility & SEND Support

We make reasonable adjustments to support children and young people with SEND. Venue accessibility: Wheelchair accessible and accessible toilets available

Support available: Quiet space available

Families are encouraged to complete the All About Me form (link in next section) to help us support their child. You can also contact us directly with any specific questions.

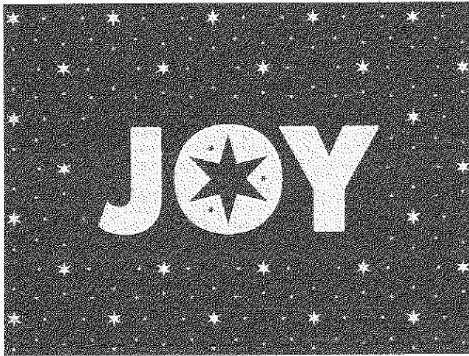
Supporting Your Child's Needs

We want every child to have a safe, fun, and inclusive experience at our HAF activities. Some children may have additional needs, diagnosed or not, and we know every child is unique.

To help us support your child in the best way possible, please complete the forms below:

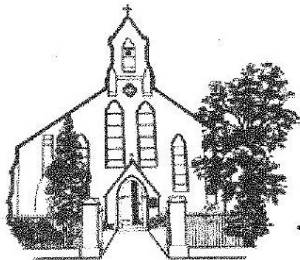
All About Me form: <https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/AllAboutMe>

St James Church wishes you



this Christmas

All events are FREE



Christmas for Children and Families

**Sunday 30th Nov, 7th, 14th, 21st December
11am**

Church Services in Advent!

Each week we light our Advent Candles and countdown to Christmas with special activities for children

Sunday 14th December 6pm

Carols by Candlelight

A very beautiful time to hear the Christmas story and sing favourite carols, all lit by hundreds of candles. A wonderful experience

Tuesday 16th December 9am

SJJS Christmas Carol Service

St James Junior School come to celebrate Christmas by singing much loved carols

Saturday 20th December 4pm

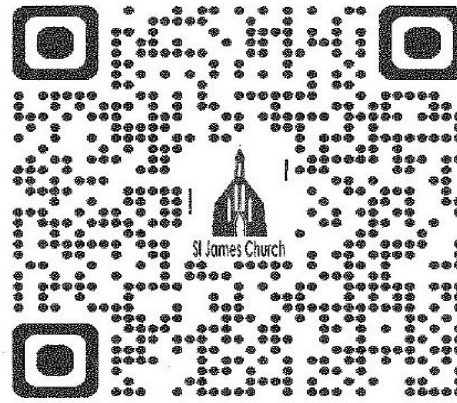
Farmyard Carols

Come and sing carols by candlelight with the Sheep, goats, pigs and other animals at *St James Farm*

Tuesday 23rd December 5pm

Christmas Family Film

Come and watch a classic Christmas film at St. James. Hot dogs and drinks from 5, the film at 5.30.
(Book for free on Gloucester HAF website)



For further information contact

office@stjamesandchristchurch.uk

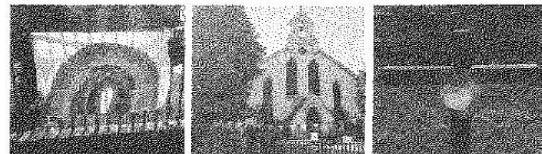
Or contact Rev Steve on 07503164309

Visit:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14154/>

Parish Safeguarding Lead: Sandie Reeves

sandie.reeves@stjamesandchristchurch.uk



THE PARISH OF
ST JAMES & ALL SAINTS & CHRIST CHURCH
KEEPING FAITH - JOURNEYING IN HOPE - SERVING WITH LOVE

office@stjamesandchristchurch.uk
www.stjamesandchristchurch.uk

01452 41544

Christmas Eve 4pm

Crib Service

Christmas begins in a magical candlelit celebration for all ages at the Crib with Joseph, Mary, and Jesus

Christmas Day 10.30am

Church Service to celebrate Christmas Day!

Come and celebrate the joy of Christmas morning at St. James Church. Coffee and cake before and after. The service will last about 45 minutes.

Sunday 28th December 10am - 4pm

Church Service 10am followed

Create and Star in a Pantomime 11am
Come and join the team from the Holiday Activities and Food programme to put on your own Pantomime!
(Book for free on Gloucester HAF website)

Sunday 4th January 11am

Church Service to Welcome the Wise Men

Come and celebrate the arrival of the wise men at the Crib.

Tuesday 13th January 9am

SJJS Christingle Service

St James Junior School come to celebrate the light in the world with a special Christingle Service

More Christmas events

As well as everything mentioned, these events are perhaps more for those between 11 and 100.

Wednesday 3rd December 1pm

Decorate the Church!

Come and have coffee and cake with a friendly bunch as we decorate the church and tree ready for all the Christmas Season

Wed 3rd, 10th, and 17th December

4.30-6.30pm

Soup 4.30 - 5pm

Followed by...

Advent Reflection Group 5-6pm

A chance to reflect on the themes of hope, joy, peace, and love through music and conversation as we anticipate and wait for the coming of Christ into the world

Followed by...

Advent Evening Prayer 6-6.30pm

A quiet end to the day with a simple, spoken service of evening prayer

Monday 15th December 7pm

Christmas Big Band Jazz at St. James

A festive musical feast of Big Band Jazz.

Donations on the door for charity.



St James' Church of England Junior School

School Term Dates & Holidays - 2025-26



SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER					
Monday	1	8	15	22	29	Monday	6	13	20	27	Monday	3	10	17	24
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30	Tuesday	7	14	21	28	Tuesday	4	11	18	25
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29	Wednesday	5	12	19	26
Thursday	4	11	18	25	Thursday	2	9	16	23	30	Thursday	6	13	20	27
Friday	5	12	19	26	Friday	3	10	17	24	31	Friday	7	14	21	28
Saturday	6	13	20	27	Saturday	4	11	18	25	Saturday	1	8	15	22	29
Sunday	7	14	21	28	Sunday	5	12	19	26	Sunday	2	9	16	23	30

DECEMBER					JANUARY					FEBRUARY					
Monday	1	8	15	22	29	Monday	5	12	19	26	Monday	2	9	16	23
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30	Tuesday	6	13	20	27	Tuesday	3	10	17	24
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	31	Wednesday	7	14	21	28	Wednesday	4	11	18	25
Thursday	4	11	18	25	Thursday	1	8	15	22	29	Thursday	5	12	19	26
Friday	5	12	19	26	Friday	2	9	16	23	30	Friday	6	13	20	27
Saturday	6	13	20	27	Saturday	3	10	17	24	31	Saturday	7	14	21	28
Sunday	7	14	21	28	Sunday	4	11	18	25	Sunday	1	8	15	22	

MARCH					APRIL					MAY						
Monday	2	9	16	23	30	Monday	6	13	20	27	Monday	4	11	18	25	
Tuesday	3	10	17	24	31	Tuesday	7	14	21	28	Tuesday	5	12	19	26	
Wednesday	4	11	18	25	Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29	Wednesday	6	13	20	27	
Thursday	5	12	19	26	Thursday	2	9	16	23	30	Thursday	7	14	21	28	
Friday	6	13	20	27	Friday	3	10	17	24	Friday	1	8	15	22	29	
Saturday	7	14	21	28	Saturday	4	11	18	25	Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	
Sunday	1	8	15	22	29	Sunday	5	12	19	26	Sunday	3	10	17	24	31

JUNE					JULY					AUGUST						
Monday	1	8	15	22	29	Monday	6	13	20	27	Monday	3	10	17	24	31
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30	Tuesday	7	14	21	28	Tuesday	4	11	18	25	
Wednesday	3	10	17	24	Wednesday	1	8	15	22	29	Wednesday	5	12	19	26	
Thursday	4	11	18	25	Thursday	2	9	16	23	30	Thursday	6	13	20	27	
Friday	5	12	19	26	Friday	3	10	17	24	31	Friday	7	14	21	28	
Saturday	6	13	20	27	Saturday	4	11	18	25	Saturday	1	8	15	22	29	
Sunday	7	14	21	28	Sunday	5	12	19	26	Sunday	2	9	16	23	30	

Term Time	School Holidays	Bank Holidays	INSET Days (No children in school)
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Term Dates 2025-26

- Term 1: Wednesday 3 September – Friday 24 October 2025
- Term 2: Monday 3 November – Fri 19 December 2025
- Term 3: Tuesday 6 January - Friday 13 February 2026
- Term 4: Tuesday 24 February – Friday 27 March 2026
- Term 5: Tuesday 14 April – Friday 22 May 2026
- Term 6: Monday 1 June – Friday 17 July 2026

Bank Holidays 2025-26:

- Christmas Bank Holidays: Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 December 2025
- New Year Bank Holiday: Thursday 1 January 2025
- Good Friday: Friday 3 April 2026
- Easter Monday: Monday 6 April 2026
- Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 4 May 2026
- Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 25 May 2026
- Summer Bank Holiday: Monday 31 August 2026

INSET Days: Monday 1 & Tuesday 2 September 2025, Monday 5 January 2026, Monday 23 February and Monday 20 July