

St James' Church of England Junior School



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Headteacher: Mrs E Gardiner



Newsletter

6 March 2026

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

Congratulations to our:

Values Cup Winners



Good Work Winners



Congratulations to 6A who were this week's attendance award winners with 98.7% and 5A who were runners-up with 97.7% Well done!

Ribston Hall Trip – Shaping Futures



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 12 March	Swimming for Year 3
Friday 13 March	Swimming for Year 4
Thursday 19 March	Swimming for Year 3
Friday 20 March	Comic Relief Non-uniform Day - £1 donation Swimming for Year 4
Tuesday 24 March	9.00 am Easter Service at St James' Church – Parents welcome
Wednesday 25 March	Parents' Evening – 2.30-7.00 pm
Thursday 26 March	Swimming for Year 3
Friday 27 March	End of Term 4 at 1.30 pm/No swimming for Year 4
Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April Easter Holidays	
Monday 13 April	Start of Term 5
Wednesday 6 May	Class Photos
Monday 11-Friday 15 May	Year 6 SATs Week
Tuesday 19 May	Pentecost Service at St James' Church – No Parents
Tuesday 19 May	School Disco (Tickets on sale after Easter)

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 8.15-8.30 am. **Children are expected to be punctual, but they should not arrive in school before 8.15 am when the gates open.**

Doctors, Opticians and Dentist Appointments

Routine doctors, opticians and dentist appointments **SHOULD NOT** be made during school time. Only emergency appointments and hospital appointments should be made during the school day. All other appointments should be made after school, at weekends or during the school holidays. If an appointment has already been made children should be in school before, if possible, and should be brought into school after the appointment, if time. A whole day is not required for a local appointment. Please email or text if your child is going to an appointment. If you have to make an appointment for your child at the beginning of the day, please inform the school.

Coughs & Colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. **Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly, at home and at school.**

Swimming for Year 3 and Year 4 – Please pay £2.50 every week unless it has been paid for in full. Swimming is a part of the curriculum.

House T-shirts, bags and ties are now available to purchase from the School Shop on the Parent Portal.

Got a question? Need to know something?

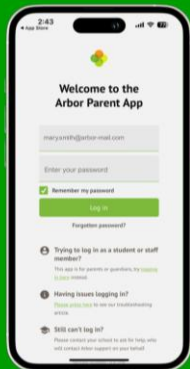
Term Dates ● PE Days ● School Calendar ● Parent Portal ● Communication

Please look at our website first before ringing us – www.st-james-junior.co.uk

We're using the Arbor Parent App!



See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app



Log in in seconds with Face ID

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone

Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings

See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more

Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

Scan the QR code to download the Arbor Parent App, and use your email address to log in



IMPORTANT – All parents need to sign up to receive notifications from school as T2P is no longer used! 49% have signed up so far. Please sign up over this weekend.

A letter was sent to parents/carers in February explaining the new Arbor Parent App and Parent Portal. If you have not received it, please look in your junk/spam folder or look on our website under Parents. An email was then sent on Monday 9 February enabling you to sign up. If you have any problems, look on our website or contact Mrs Hayward in the office.

All parental communications will now be through the Parent Portal/Parent App or via the school email system. All payments for swimming, trips and residentials will also eventually be through the Parent Portal as we become a cashless school.

Parentpay will still be used for paying for school lunches.

Disco Tickets will be available only from the school shop on the portal, after Easter!

If you are a parent/carer and have not received a log in request for Arbor's Parent Portal or are having problems logging in, please check here - [St James' Church of England Junior School - Parent Portal & Parent App](#)

St James' Church of England Junior School - Year 4 and 5 Visit to Ribston Hall - Shaping Futures – Take a look at the photos.

Easter Colouring Competition Easter Colouring Competition Easter Colouring Competition Children have been given an Easter Egg sheet to colour in. £1 to enter. Prizes for winners in year groups. Return completed sheets to school by **Monday 23 March**.



Free School Meal Vouchers issued for school holiday periods is changing

Free School Meal vouchers provided during school holidays which have been funded by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) through the Household Support Fund are coming to an end. This is because the Household Support Fund is ending, and Free School Meal Vouchers for the spring school holidays will be the last vouchers available under this scheme. A different fund, the Crisis and Resilience Fund is starting from Wednesday 1 April 2026. We know food vouchers during school holidays have been important for many families and that's why we're working hard to ensure those who need support the most can still access it through the new Crisis and Resilience Fund and other support that we are putting in place across Gloucestershire.

To find out more, please:

- Visit Gloucestershire's [Family Hubs website](#) to learn about the support available for families, including the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, which provides great activities and nutritious food for children and young people during the school holidays.
- Look out for information about the incoming Crisis and Resilience Grant Funding, which will offer support for children and young people who are eligible for Free School Meals. Details on what you can expect and how to apply will be shared soon on the Family Hubs website.

Spring holiday 2026

This Spring holiday, Gloucestershire County Council will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), who sign up to this offer, with vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays. The vouchers are funded through grant funding we have received, and they are separate to that of term time free school meals. Applications for holiday FSM vouchers for the spring holiday 2026 will be open from Tuesday 3 March until Friday 13 March. Voucher emails will be sent from week commencing Monday 23 March. We hope that you will be able to pass these messages on to families within your schools. Families need to check their junk/spam folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by Monday 30 March, please encourage them to submit a query by contacting childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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, eligibility and to apply, please visit 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 spring holiday vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances (e.g. if the number of children eligible increases or decreases).

To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents and carers who have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

Please note we check eligibility for the scheme by cross-referencing with the term-time free school meal register, so please make sure parents and carers are registered beforehand. They can register by visiting the [apply for free school meals](#) page. If your school does not currently use this method, we will require confirmation from the relevant school for the child's eligibility for Free School Meals. You can find more information on what schools these are on the link above.

Using vouchers – vouchers will only be awarded once the parent/carer has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued. Vouchers that were expected but were not received should be queried by contacting childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

For any parents/carers wishing to update details of an existing application, please ask them to submit an update existing details request by contacting childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk so we can update their account, as details are not automatically updated.

World Book Day Photos – More photos [here](#).



Wartime Poetry Competition!



Do you see yourself as the next Ivor Gurney or F.W. Harvey?

In recognition of **World Poetry Day**, the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum will be running a poetry competition.

We need you to send in your best Wartime Poetry! This can be on any topic related to the Wars, from a Frontline or Home Front perspective. The winning poetry will be displayed in our museum galleries, so please feel free to get creative and decorate your entries too!

The poetry will be judged under 2 categories, **Key Stage 1** and **Key Stage 2**.

The prize for the winning entries will be:

- **1st place:** poetry displayed in the museum during easter holidays with 12 months free admission for 1 Adult and 1 child.
- **2nd place:** poetry displayed in the museum during easter holidays with 6 months free admission for 1 Adult and 1 child.
- **3rd place:** poetry displayed in the museum during easter holidays with 3 months free admission for 1 Adult and 1 child.

The **deadline** for all entries is the **18th March 2026**.

These can be sent in by post, or emailed to:

jade.smith@sogm.co.uk

Good Luck!



NEWENT LIVE

COME AND SEE US IN ACTION

To book your appointment

From the 9th March 2026 onwards

Email: headspa@newent.gloucs.sch.uk

Two time slots available any weekday morning

Between 10.00-10.40 and 11.10-11.50



NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Hi there.

Come say hello!



My names Harriet, I'm the neighbourhood connector for Barton & Tredworth. I want to work with residents, groups and organisations to make our community an exciting, supportive place to live.

Fairshares is a community project that uses two-way volunteering to reward people for the time they put into their neighbourhood.

Do you want to connect with your neighbours?

Do you have an idea for a new group, activity or project?

Questions?

Get in touch!

Harriet Hughes
Harriet@fairshares.org.uk
M: 07883 781796
T: 01452415900

Fair Shares
community time banks



Fair Shares
community time banks

city farm coffee club

Come along for a hot drink and afterschool activities!

Every
Wednesday

St James City Farm,
23 Albany St,
Gloucester GL1 4NG

From 3PM-5PM

Free hot drinks and snacks provided
New people welcomed, no need to book!

Message Harriet for more information:
07883 781796

