



# St. James' CE First School and Nursery

Headteacher: Mr D Lawford

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

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)

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is always a privilege to stand on the gate each morning and be greeted by such wonderful, smiley faces. I hope you have all had a relaxing holiday and managed to enjoy the sun we did have, even if the next few days will be somewhat damp! A special welcome to all our new starters in Foxes and across the school, we are so excited you have joined our community and look forward to seeing you flourish as part of St James'.

The new year is always an exciting time and we are looking forward to making the most of every opportunity we have this year. One opportunity that made its way through the appropriate channels over the summer break is the merger of St James' First School and the Cottage Nursery into one legal entity. This has now been signed and sealed by the DfE which means St James' First School provides Early Years provision from age 2. For our nursery children, and those who utilise breakfast and after-school provision, there will be some administrative changes over the next weeks and months but we will endeavour to communicate these in good time. Our school became St James' First School on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 1974, some 50 years ago, and shortly after the Cottage was born. Today, we are one team serving the children of Gaunts Common, the surrounding villages and local towns. It is the leaderships, governors and Cottage Trustees collective belief that our continued and renewed partnership will protect and enhance the educational provision on this site.

As the wheels begin to turn on a new year, I imagine I will have lots to communicate but I have summarised some of the upcoming events that are already on our calendar below.

Kind regards,

Mr Lawford

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

Love | Hope | Truth

## Key Diary Dates

11 <sup>th</sup> September (15.00 – 19.00)	<p><b>Gaunts Sports and Social Club Community Briefing</b></p> <p>The Gaunts Estate is bringing forward proposals to revitalise the Gaunts Sports &amp; Social Club, currently used by the growing and well-supported Holt FC on Petersham Lane. This community initiative aims to support local sports activities, provide greater sports availability for St. James School, expand land for St. James Cottage Nursery, and resolve parking issues on Petersham Lane.</p> <p>We would like to invite you to attend a public drop-in session to find out more.</p> <p><a href="#">Find out more</a></p>
12 <sup>th</sup> September (08.30 – 12.00)	<p><b>Flu Immunisations</b></p> <p>Whole school flu immunisations take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> September. You need to complete the online consent in the letter below to receive the immunisation.</p> <p><a href="#">Read the letter here</a></p>
16 <sup>th</sup> September	<p><b>Clubs Launch</b></p> <p>We have so many fantastic clubs on offer, both at lunchtime and after-school. Most clubs are booked via Arbor with links to Art and Tennis included for booking with our external partners. The new year is a wonderful opportunity to try something new.</p> <p><a href="#">Clubs List</a></p>
25 <sup>th</sup> September (17.30 – 19.00)	<p><b>Open Evening for Prospective Parents</b></p> <p>If you know of any parents who have children who will start school in September 2025, we have our Open Evening later this month. Find out more on our <a href="#">Facebook</a> page.</p>
26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September	<p><b>Scholastic Book Fair</b></p> <p>The scholastic book fair is a travelling book shop which will be set up at school. This event helps raise hundreds of pounds for the school which we have reinvested in new books and whole class readers. More details to follow.</p>
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> October	<p><b>Meet the Teacher</b></p> <p>An informal opportunity to meet your class teacher and see how the first month at St James' has been.</p>
10 <sup>th</sup> October (08.30 – 12.00)	<p><b>Individual Student Photographs</b></p>
15 <sup>th</sup> October (09.30 – 10.15)	<p><b>Harvest Festival at Holtwood Methodist</b></p> <p>On the 15<sup>th</sup> October, the whole school will gather at Holtwood Methodist church for our harvest festival. 'Nick the Vic' will lead us in a time of collective worship, celebrating all that we have and how to demonstrate generosity. We would love you to join us for this service, which will begin at 09.30am.</p>
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	<p><b>Year 4 iSing Pop Concert at Salisbury Cathedral</b></p> <p>All of Year 4 will be travelling to Salisbury cathedral to join all the other Year 4 children from DSAT to perform an exciting concert. Tickets will be available closer to the time.</p>
25 <sup>th</sup> October	<p><b>Last Day of Autumn One</b></p>

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

Love | Hope | Truth