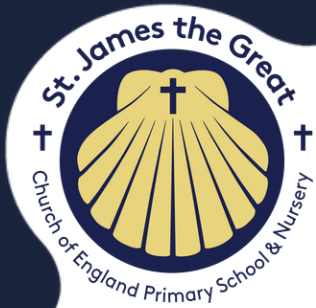




St James the great Church of England Primary School and Nursery

April Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of April, it has been lovely to see the signs of spring appearing around school. The brighter mornings and lighter evenings always bring a renewed sense of energy for both children and staff.

I am very pleased to share that the building of our new nursery is finally underway, and we are starting to see some encouraging progress on site. The next stage of the build will involve 'pile driving,' which, as you may be aware, can be quite noisy at times. We are working closely with the contractors to minimise any disruption and do not anticipate this impacting the children in any way during the school day.

As always, the summer term is a busy one, and we are doing our very best to keep all the dates in our heads! There are many exciting and enriching events planned over the coming weeks which I know the children will thoroughly enjoy, and we thank you in advance for your continued support during what is always a full and rewarding term.

I would also like to let you know that Mr Herron has been asked by the Vine Trust to complete a special mission, supporting another school for two days per week for the remainder of this term. This is one of the great benefits of being part of a trust, allowing staff to share their skills and expertise more widely.

Please don't worry - I have secured a fabulous teacher to work alongside Mr Herron and Yellow Class on the days that he is not with us. Mrs Rout will be joining the team on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starting next week, and I know she will be a wonderful addition to the class.

You may also notice over the coming weeks that we are missing one of our very valued members of staff. Mrs Herring, our Pastoral Support LSA, is scheduled to undergo surgery and will require some time to recover. If your child is supported by Mrs Herring, please help to prepare them for her absence and reassure them that she will be back, although we do not yet know exactly when. We know the crucial role Mrs Herring plays within our school, and we will do everything we can to ensure that her absence does not impact the children in any way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to sharing a busy, positive, and successful term with you all.

Hope you have a lovely, sunny weekend

Mrs L Turner

Friends of St James Easy Fundraising



Friends of St James PTA is now set up on easy fundraising. Easy fundraising is a simple tool that you can add to your internet browser and will donate money for free to your cause every time you shop. Attached is the QR code to download. Easyfundraising is a simple and effective way for parents, carers, friends, and family to support our PTA. Over 8,000 popular retailers – including supermarkets, clothing stores, travel sites, and online marketplaces – donate a percentage of your purchase to our school when you shop through Easyfundraising.

How Easyfundraising Works

- Sign up for free at easyfundraising.org.uk and select our school as your chosen cause.
- Shop online as usual by clicking through Easyfundraising before visiting your retailer.
- Retailers donate a percentage of what you spend to our PTA automatically.

Uniform Reminder

We'd like to share a gentle reminder about our school uniform expectations. Recently, we've noticed that some children are not consistently following the policy, and your support in this makes a real difference to helping our school community feel smart, safe, and ready to learn.

Our standard uniform is:

- Grey trousers, skirts or shorts (please note leggings are not part of the uniform)
- A white polo shirt
- A Navy school jumper or fleece (this does not need to have the school logo)
- Blue and white summer dresses (optional)
- Navy or black tracksuit/shorts for PE
- White T-shirt for PE

For footwear, children should wear plain black school shoes or trainers. Most importantly, all shoes must be safe and appropriate for school activities.

We understand that there can sometimes be individual circumstances, such as sensory needs or injuries that affect clothing or footwear choices. If this applies to your child, please do get in touch—we are always happy to work with families to find suitable solutions. Also get in touch if you need support to provide uniform for your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

School Council Cake Sale

Our School Council have been busy planning a cake sale to raise extra money for OPAL play. Please support them by providing cakes for the to sell. Thank you in advance for supporting them to make this a successful event.

Wednesday 6th May - Straight after school

Cakes will be sold outside each classroom but please feel free to wander around to other classes to buy cakes.



St James the Great Church

East Hill

Colchester

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Easter Holidays Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April

Summer Term 2026

Monday 4th May	Non-Pupil Day – May Bank Holiday
Monday 11th May- Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Monday 18th May	Year 6 Putt in the Park
Tuesday 19th May	Year 6 Putt in the Park
Wednesday 20th May	Year 6 Residential Information meeting
Friday 22nd May	Sponsored walk/run/jog (in school)
Half Term Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	
Monday 1st June- Wednesday 3rd June	Year 6 Residential
Monday 1st June- Friday 12th June	Year 4 Times Table Check
Thursday 4th June	Parent drop in morning for RSE
Monday 8th June- Monday 15th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Test
Wednesday 10th June	Sports Day (EYFS and KS1 AM/KS2 PM)
Wednesday 17th June	Reserve sports day
Thursday 25th June	2026 New Intake information meeting 4:00
Friday 26th June	MULTI CULTURAL DAY
Tuesday 30th June	Non uniform day – Donation for the Summer Fair
Friday 3rd July	Summer Fair
Monday 6th July	Transition morning
Tuesday 7th July	Year 6 Performance to parents (AM)
Wednesday 8th July	Year 6 Performance to parents (PM)
Thursday 9th July	Red and Rouge trip to the farm
Friday 10th July	Reports to parents
Wednesday 15th July	St James Has Got Talent!
Friday 17th July	Last Day of Summer Term