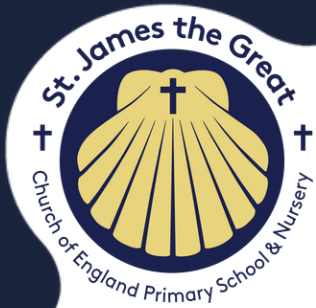




St James the great Church of England Primary School and Nursery

May Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe how quickly this half term has flown by! It has been a busy and exciting few weeks, filled with memorable experiences, achievements and opportunities for our children. As we come to the end of term, we are incredibly proud of everything that has been accomplished. We hope all of our families enjoy a well-deserved half term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the final part of the school year.

OPAL Outdoor Classroom Event

We were thrilled to welcome so many parents to our OPAL Outdoor Classroom event this week.

The turnout was fantastic, and it was wonderful to see families experiencing first-hand what a typical lunchtime looks like at our school. The OPAL programme plays a vital role in supporting children's creativity, collaboration and wellbeing through outdoor play.

A big thank you to all parents who attended—your engagement and support mean so much to us and to the children.



School Games Mark Achievement

We are incredibly proud to announce that our school has achieved the School Games Mark!

This award recognises schools for their commitment to developing competitive sport, physical activity and inclusive opportunities for all pupils. It reflects the wide range of sporting opportunities we provide, both within lessons and through extracurricular activities.

A special and heartfelt thank you to Miss Passfield, whose dedication and hard work have been instrumental in achieving this recognition.

Attendance Success - LEGO Rewards

A massive congratulations to Aro Class, who are the first class to earn their LEGO activity reward this term!

They have achieved over 96% attendance every single week, which is an incredible accomplishment. Their consistency and commitment to being in school every day is truly commendable.

Even more exciting, several other classes are very close to reaching this milestone—keep up the fantastic effort, everyone!

Sponsored Run / Walk / Jog Fundraiser

A huge well done to all of our pupils for taking part in our sponsored run, walk or jog fundraiser today!

The event was an outstanding success, with fantastic participation and enthusiasm from children across the school. Not only did the pupils show determination and resilience, but we were also blown away by the support from families.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored and encouraged our children—your generosity is greatly appreciated and will make a real difference.

Multicultural Day - Friday 26th June

We are excited to be celebrating our Multicultural Day on Friday 26th June.

This special day is an opportunity to recognise, celebrate and learn about the rich diversity within our school community and the wider world. Throughout the day, children will take part in a range of activities designed to explore different cultures, traditions, languages and countries. More information to follow!

Prayer Space at St James the Great Church

This half term, we were delighted to take part in a very special Prayer Space experience at St James the Great Church, in partnership with CYM (Children's Youth Ministries).



*"I liked the forgiveness activity.
It helped me say sorry for things."*
Tommy (Year 5)

Children from Reception through to Year 5 visited the church and took part in a range of creative, interactive and reflective activities designed to help them explore their thoughts, feelings and questions about life and faith. Prayer Spaces are carefully designed environments where children are given time and space to pause, reflect and, if they wish, pray in a way that is meaningful to them.



"It made me calm like water flowing."
Jayden (Year 5)

The space was set up with a number of different prayer stations, each focusing on a particular theme. These included opportunities for children to think about:

- Themselves - their identity, feelings and worries
- Others - relationships, kindness and forgiveness
- The world - hopes for peace, fairness and care for others
- Big questions - giving them the chance to reflect on life and spirituality



*"I liked the calm area with the sparkly bottles.
It made me think of clouds floating."*
Halima (year 1)

The sessions provided a calm and peaceful space away from the busyness of school life, where children could slow down and express themselves. Many children commented on how relaxed and thoughtful the experience made them feel, showing just how valuable this time for reflection can be.

We were incredibly proud of how respectfully and thoughtfully our pupils engaged with the experience. A huge thank you to the CYM team and Fr James and everyone at St James the Great Church for creating such a meaningful and memorable opportunity for our children.



"I enjoyed the Labyrinth activity where you had to get to God. It made me calm."
Ashley (year 2):

"It made me feel calm and peaceful at Church."
Tahliah (year 5)

Baptism Day.

I am delighted to share some personal news with our school community. On Friday 5th June, I will be baptised here at school as a whole school celebration. This is a very special moment for me, as it marks a personal commitment to my faith and the values that guide my life—kindness, compassion, service to others, and hope.

As a school, we place great importance on respect, reflection, and understanding different beliefs and journeys. My decision to be baptised is the result of thoughtful reflection and a deepening sense of purpose, and I wanted to share this with the children of St James the Great.

I hope that this occasion will also provide an opportunity for pupils to learn more about the meaning of baptism within the Christian faith, and to reflect on the importance of values, belonging, and commitment in their own lives.

I am very grateful to Fr James for his kindness, guidance, and support during this special time.

To help us celebrate this special occasion together, children are warmly invited to wear their best clothes to school on Friday 5th June.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Thank You!

As we head into the half term break, we would like to thank all of our families for your ongoing support. It has been a fantastic half term filled with memorable experiences and achievements.

Mrs L J Turner

Headteacher



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
Friday 5th June	Baptism Day (wear your best clothes)
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
Friday 19th June	Nursery Sports Day
Tuesday 23rd 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 - Leavers Service

