



St James C of E Academy - Newsletter Summer 1 Week 3 2026

www.southamstjames.covmat.org

This half term we are focusing on the Christian value of Compassion.

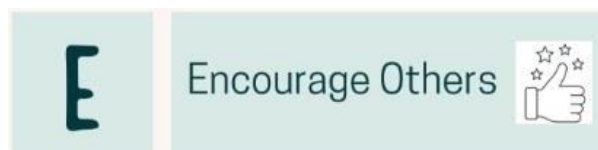
We've had another busy week in school, with lots of great focused learning taking place. I have popped into all classrooms this week and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children as engaged and enthusiastic learners. It has been great to see pupils responding so well to *cold-calling* (if you ask them, they'll be happy to explain what this means!), using mathematical vocabulary confidently, and pushing themselves to always try their best. We've also continued to enjoy time on the field this week, with pupils especially enjoying having a go on the new trim trail. Thank you once again to our PTFA for purchasing this for us – it has already been a fantastic addition. Looking ahead to next week, we are all looking forward to an extra day to spend with families on Bank Holiday Monday, and Year 2 also have a library visit to look forward to on Thursday. Also, don't forget to make the most of the Early Bird Deal on the PTFA disco and get your tickets booked for this. Finally, it was lovely to see so many children joining in with our *Sky Blue Friday* today as we celebrated Coventry City's Championship success. Thank you again to Austin for the brilliant idea – we've all

really enjoyed celebrating together. Have a great Bank Holiday weekend everyone - fingers crossed the sunshine sticks around for it!

Laura Richards

Headteacher

Shine Value - Encourage Others



This half term, we are concentrating on our fifth SHINE value - Encourage others. We will be learning about this in Collective worship after Easter and pupils will be thinking about the ways in which they can encourage others in school. We hope that these skills will support children to support and encourage each other in school and at home.

For more information, our Shine Values posters are on the school website [here](#)



Attendance

Reception- 95.45%

Year 1- 94.12%

Year 2- 99.58%

Year 3- 97.37 %

Year 4- 97.60%

Year 5- 97.78%

Year 6- 95%

Well Done to Year 2 on getting the highest attendance this week!

Sports stars!

Reception- Hunter for his effort, speed and good listening in PE

Year 1 - Joseph for encouraging and helping others at playtime, showing good sportsmanship.

Year 2- Clara for persevering when she had an injury.

Year 3- Louie for excellent focus and skills in sports day practice.

Year 4 - Skyla and Daisy for fantastic teamwork in tennis- 51 Passes

Year 5- Esmee for being an excellent role model and responding to feedback from swim instructors.

Year 6 - Austin for his pupil voice suggestion for a sky blud celebration.

Points certificates

Bronze

Year 5

Harrison

Silver

Year 2

Leo, Flo, Lucy, Summer, Aoife.

Gold

Year 1

Daisy, Vinnie, Georgia

Year 4

Albie, Amelia

Year 6

Kayden

WELL DONE!!!

Lunchtime Stars

Reception- Bella for playing nicely on the playground.

Year 1- Grace for brilliant use of cutlery independently.

Year 2- Evie for being a kind and supportive friend.

Year 3- Eliza for having lovely manners.

Year 4 - Skyla for her lovely manners and playing nicely on the school field.

Year 5- Aicha for fantastic helping on the playground.





Year 6 - Josie for listening to the midday supervisors and making the right choices.

Menu

ADVANCED NOTICE:- 21st May is census day and will be a special menu of hot dogs or veggie hot dogs!

SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026 [caterlink](#)

Feeding the Imagination

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MENU
WEEK ONE 13/04/26 04/05/26 01/06/26 22/06/26 13/07/26	Option One	Macaroni cheese	Pork sausage roll & potato wedges	Roast Chicken, stuffing, roast potatoes and gravy	Pasta Bolognese	Fishfingers and chips	 Whole grain  Plant based  Added plant protein  Chef's Special
	Option Two	Chickpea Curry with rice.	Mild Mexican chilli with rice	Roast quorn, roast potatoes and gravy	Quorn burger with wedges	Cheese and bean pasty with chips	
	Sides	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	
Dessert	Banana Mousse	Orange drizzle cake	Fruit platter	Jelly with mandarins	Apple flapjack		
WEEK TWO 20/04/26 11/04/26 08/06/26 29/06/26	Option One	Cheese and tomato pizza with mixed salad	Beef chilli with rice	Roast Pork sausage, roast potatoes, gravy	Greek chicken pitta with herby rice, tzatziki and salad	Bread fish and chips	
	Option Two	Lentil and sweet potato curry with rice	Pasta and veggie meatballs in tomato sauce	Vegan sausage, roast potatoes and gravy.	Cheese whirl with herby rice and salad	Cheesy broccoli frittata with chips.	
	Sides	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	
Dessert	Iced vanilla sponge	Peaches and ice cream	Fruit salad	Jam and coconut sponge with custard	Oaty cookie		
WEEK THREE 27/04/26 18/04/26 15/06/26 06/07/26	Option One	Tomato pasta	Beef burger with potato wedges and slaw.	Roast chicken, Mashed Potatoes and gravy	Chicken Korma and rice	Fishfingers and chips	
	Option Two	Chinese vegetable noodles	Mexican bean roll with wedges and slaw.	Vegetable loaf with stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy.	All day vegetarian breakfast	Cowboy sausage and bean hotpot	
	Sides	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	
Dessert	Pineapple upside down cake	Cheese and crackers	Fruit Medley	Blackberry and apple crumble and custard.	Vanilla shortbread		
AVAILABLE DAILY:		Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings, Salad Bar, Freshly Baked Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt					

If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods, please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchen it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.

Team Points



This weeks winning team for this weeks team points is Topaz - Congratulations!

Useful Dates

11/05/26 SATs week

13/05/26 AGC meeting for Governors

14/05/26 PTFA School discos

15/05/26 Y5 visit to The national space centre

18/05/26 Assessment week

25/05/26 May half term holiday

1/06/26 Children return to school

3/6/26 KSW athletics competition at Southam College.

8/6/26 Phonics screening check

19/06/26 Sports day and family picnic

26/06/26 Y3/4 visit to the Think Tank Birmingham

08/07/2026 Y6 transition and moving up morning.

09/07/2026 Y6 transition

10/07/2026 PTFA Ice cream break

16/07/2026 Leavers Celebration PM

17/07/26 Leavers assembly

17/07/26 Break up

Free school meals update from September 2026

[Expanding free school meals: what parents need to know – The Education Hub](#)

Useful information for parents.

A green poster with yellow sun-like graphics in the corners. The text is white and yellow. It provides details for a 'SEND Help!' session at The Gap Community Centre, including dates for 2026, a description of the support group, and contact information for Warwickshire County Council.

SEND Help!
© The Gap Community Centre, 10:00-12:00

Once a month on the following dates in 2026:
11th March, 15th April, 13th May, 10th June, 15th July, 12th August, 9th September, 14th October, 11th November, 9th December.

An adult led SEND support group for parent's/carers, whose child(ren) may or may not have a diagnosis.

Facilitated by Family Support Workers.

A chance to meet people who may be going through the same things as you.

Guest speakers from services such as SENDIAS, FIS and more.

Signposting to helpful services & professionals.

Have open and honest conversations, in a safe space.

 Warwickshire County Council

Please contact the duty line on 01926 41 41 44, select option number 1, followed option 2 for more info/to book.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

Chorister Open Evening

19th May 2026

Venue: Coventry Cathedral
Who can attend? Open to Boys & Girls in current school Years 2-6
Date: Tuesday 19th May, 16:30-18:30

- Open to all children considering auditioning for the cathedral choir
- Meet and sing with the cathedral choristers in a cathedral liturgy
- Have a tour of the cathedral, and experience the cathedral organ close up
- Parents will hear their children singing in the Cathedral choir, meet with other parents & meet the Director of Music

Sign Up!
 Scan the QR code to sign up for this event or click the link: tinyurl.com/choristeropenevening

SCAN ME

Chorister Recruitment brochure

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY:

For a child or young person who loves to sing, being a chorister has to be one of the greatest possible experiences. Having grown up singing and continuing to sing in a cathedral choir to this day, I can only commend this opportunity which could be life changing for your child. By singing in a cathedral choir, they not only receive world class musical training, they also learn important life skills such as working together with others and taking responsibility as well as growing their leadership potential from the youngest possible age. We do our very best to make sure our choristers are nurtured to flourish every step of the way.

If your child loves to sing, please do consider the opportunity that becoming a chorister at Coventry Cathedral represents. It may be the thing that brings them joy not just for today but for their life ahead.

In case you are concerned about whether you have to be 'religious' or support this aspect of cathedral life, we do want to ensure you that this opportunity is open to all, whatever background, as long as you are committed to the values of the cathedral.

**With every blessing,
+Sophie Coventry**

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SCAN ME

BOYS SCHEDULE

- Mondays: 16:20 - 17:20
- Wednesday: 16:20 - 18:05
- Sundays: 09:00 - 12:30 or 14:15 - 17:00 (alternate between AM and PM)

GIRLS SCHEDULE

- Mondays: 17:30 - 18:30
- Thursdays: 16:20 - 18:05
- Sundays: 09:00 - 12:30 or 14:15 - 17:00 (alternate between AM and PM)

We welcome applications from children of all backgrounds, schools, and faiths.

BENEFITS OF BEING A CHORISTER

- The boys and girls receive musical tuition several times a week from specialist cathedral music staff
- There are no costs payable to the cathedral for this tremendous musical training
- Choristers also receive vocal coaching lessons from the cathedral's specialist vocal coach free of charge
- Make friends for life!

TESTIMONIALS

"It's been transformative for our Son."
Parent of Year 9 Chorister

"Joining the choir has given our daughter confidence we never expected. She now stands tall, sings proudly. The musical training has been outstanding, and she's made friends for life." - Parent of Year 5 Chorister

"Our son loves every minute of it—and so do we. Being in the Choir Parents Association is very rewarding— we have great fun fundraising and knowing it supports the choristers makes it even better." - Parent of Year 4 Chorister

"Before I joined, I didn't know how to read music. Now I can sing harmony, and I'm even more confident at school." - Year 6 Chorister

Going on choir tours and singing in different places is the best part. And we always get biscuits after rehearsals!" - Year 10 Chorister

TRIPS & CONCERTS PAST AND PRESENT

- Malta October Half term 2026
- Derby Cathedral January 2026
- Christmas Concert 2025
- BBC CWR Carol Concert (broad cast on the radio)
- Germany 2025
- London 2025

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk

www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

CoventryCathedralMusic

BECOME A CHORISTER!

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to **each parent of each absent child**, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means **each** parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).

- **First Leave of Absence offence:** The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.

- **Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice):** The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.

- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.

- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (**from the date of issue of the first penalty notice**): A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

Princethorpe College – Admissions Events Summer 2026

Summer Open Evening

Wednesday 3 June 2026 - 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Our Summer Open Evening is an informal opportunity to explore the College at your leisure and for children to participate in a variety of fun subject-related activities. All the academic and co-curricular departments will be open for you to visit and to meet teachers and current pupils. Grove du Toit, the Headmaster, will address visitors during the evening in the Chapel and refreshments will be served.

To book a place please click [here](#). NB. If parents have already reserved a place at the Open Evening, there is no need to book again - we will confirm the booking by email.

Years 4 and 5 – *Connect With Cricket*

Friday 8 May 2026 – 4.15pm to 6.00pm

For pupils currently in Years 4 and 5, *Connect With Cricket* is a great way to enjoy an informal training session on our College astro pitches. Aimed at both boys and girls, with all levels of cricket experience (and none), there will be a skills workshop at the beginning followed by a mini tournament at the end. If parents have not already booked, they can reserve a place [here](#).

Year 5 Taster Days in May and June

For pupils currently in Year 5 who would also like to attend a taster day with us, experiencing a day in the life of a senior school pupil, we are offering Taster Days in May and June. To reserve a place, parents can click [here](#) to complete the booking form and select their preferred date. Again, if parents have already booked a taster day for their child, we will confirm this by email, so there is no need to book again.

We also have three other forthcoming events, to which all families are also warmly invited:

National Schools' and Riding Clubs Two-Day Equestrian Event

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 May 2026 – 8.30am to 6.30pm

Taking place for the eleventh year running on the magnificent Princethorpe estate, this is the only event of its kind in the UK attracting up to 250 riders a year. Dressage and showjumping take place on day one, and roads and tracks, steeplechase and cross-country on day two. Entry for spectators is free and there is no need to book in advance. They are lovely days out for all the family - why not bring a picnic?!

Summer Art, Photography and Design Show 2026

Sunday 21 June 2026 - 2.00pm to 4.30pm

A celebration of our students' GCSE and A-level Art, Photography and Design work, which will be on display in the Sixth Form Centre.

Summer Fest 2026

Sunday 21 June 2026 12.00am – 5.00pm

A fun-filled day for all the family, with live music, a classic car show, art exhibition, activities, games and crafts and lots more, as well as lots of food, drink and artisan products for all to purchase and enjoy. Entry is £5 per car to be paid on the day.

Entrance Examinations Day

Saturday 7 November 2026 9.00am to 3.30pm

Entrance examinations for September 2027 entry will take place on Saturday 7 November 2026, with a deadline for registrations of Friday 25 September. You can find out more about

the format of the day, along with scholarship and bursary information in our 2027 Admissions and Entrance Examinations booklet [here](#).

If you need any further information or advice, please do get in touch with either Catherine Rogers (Registrar) or Georgia Newborough (Assistant Registrar) on 01926 634200 or 634297 or email admissions@princethorpe.co.uk