



# St James C of E Academy - Newsletter Summer 1 Week 4 2026

[www.southamstjames.covmat.org](http://www.southamstjames.covmat.org)

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done to everyone for cramming so much into our four-day week - it has certainly felt non-stop! Classrooms across the school have been true hubs of learning and activity. Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed another visit to the library, while Year 4 have been building wonderful connections with Year 1 through some paired reading sessions. I've also had the pleasure of spending time in many classrooms again this week and have been delighted to see such positive learning attitudes and enthusiasm from all of our children. In our collective worship yesterday, we celebrated the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough and spent some time learning a little more about his incredible life and work. We hope this has inspired many of the children to find out even more about him and to think about how they can help care for our amazing planet.

As the warmer weather arrives and more of our older children begin to 'play out' after school, we would really appreciate your support in reinforcing some basic safety rules. Please do remind children to ensure an adult knows where they are, that they know how to seek help if they need it, and that they take care when crossing roads by doing so safely. We regularly revisit these important messages in school, but we know that working together as a team is the best way to keep all of our children safe.

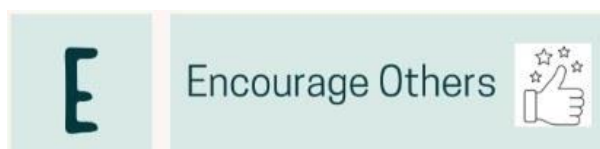
Finally, a special message for our Year 6 children: we wish you all the very best of luck for your SATs next week. You have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of everything you have achieved. Make sure you get plenty of rest this weekend and remember that SATs only measure a very small part of who you are - your kindness, creativity and character are just as important. As always, you continue to embody our school vision through your resilience, positivity and determination, and we are all very proud of you.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

**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- 93.59%**

**Year 1- 97.48%**

**Year 2- 98.20%**

**Year 3- 86.67%**

**Year 4- 93.75%**

**Year 5- 92.93%**

**Year 6- 93.21%**

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

## **Sports stars!**

Reception- Beau for listening and effort in PE

Year 1 - Vinnie and Arlo for their team work and effort in Multi-sports Club.

Year 2- Lucy for following instructions really well in PE.

Year 3- Iris for her brilliant skipping skills and carefully following instructions.

Year 4 - Amelia for her racket skills.

Year 6 - Kiki for working well with others in PE.

## **Points certificates**

### **Silver**

**Phoebe Y2**

**WELL DONE!!!**

## **Lunchtime Stars**

Reception- Porsha for using her manners.

Year 1- Alice for amazing manners and use of cutlery.

Year 2- Daisy for eating all her vegetables.

Year 3- Tayte for trying his vegetables.

Year 4 - Ava-May for making the right choice at lunchtime and looking after her friends.

Year 5- Harrison for his good manners and fantastic behaviour in the hall.

Year 6 - James for following the rules in the hall.

## Menu

ADVANCED NOTICE:-

12th May- Instead of Veggie meatballs the vegetarian option will be tomato pasta due to a supplier issue.

15th May Cheese Frittata has now been changed to a cheese omelette on week two Fridays menu. (permanent change)

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

[SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026](#)    [caterlink](#)

[updated menu summer 2026](#)

## Team Points



This weeks winning team for this weeks team points is Ruby - 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.



# SEND Help!

@ The Gap Community Centre, 10:00-12:00

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



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](https://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](http://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.

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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.

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

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**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](mailto:admissions@princethorpe.co.uk)