



## St James C of E Academy - Newsletter Summer 1 Week 5 2026

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

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

It has been another wonderfully busy week in school, and I would like to begin by praising our fantastic Year 6 pupils. They have approached their SATs with remarkable maturity, resilience and positivity. We have been incredibly proud of the calm and focused atmosphere they created during each test. A special mention must also go to their enthusiastic approach to our SATs breakfasts - what a brilliant way to start each morning together! Thank you, too, to the rest of the school for being so considerate and keeping corridors especially quiet, and to our dedicated staff team who gave so much extra time and care to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Well done to our Year 3 children, who had a great visit to the library this week. They represented the school beautifully, showing curiosity, respect and a genuine love of reading.

A huge thank you to our PTFA for organising the school discos last night. From impressive dance moves to enthusiastic singalongs, it was clear that everyone had a fantastic time! The hall was full of energy, laughter and a real sense of community, with pupils of all ages enjoying the chance to celebrate together. Events like these really help our children to flourish socially, creating happy memories that last well beyond the school day.

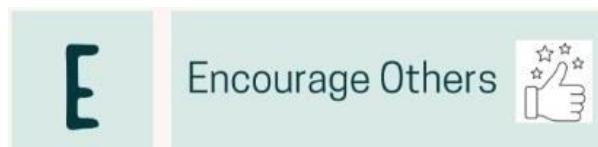
Looking ahead to next week, it will be assessment week for the majority of our classes. This provides children with their final opportunity this year to demonstrate their learning in a more formal test setting and truly *let their light shine*. As always, teachers will approach these in a light-hearted and age-appropriate way, and we often find that children enjoy the chance to show what they know. Please be aware that the timetable may look slightly different, with some adjustments and additional practical DT activities planned. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher via Dojo.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and we wish you all a happy and restful 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- 99.07%**

**Year 1- 100%**

**Year 2- 98.61%**

**Year 3- 95.93%**

**Year 4- 95.13%**

**Year 5- 92.06%**

**Year 6- 92.34%**

**Well Done to Year 1 on getting the highest attendance this week!**

### **Sports stars!**



Reception- Jaxson for his perseverance and enthusiasm in PE.

Year 1 - Georgia for her sportsmanship on the playground.

Year 2- Evie for trying really hard, following instructions carefully and being really enthusiastic in PE.

Year 3- Willow for her perseverance in PE and being willing to have a go.

Year 4 - Grace for her excellent football footwork

Year 5- Ted for his all round athletic skill and dedication to improving his technique.

Year 6 - James and Will for their effort in Onside sessions.

## Points Certificates



### **Bronze**

#### **Reception**

Archie, Beau, Harry

#### **Silver**

Neriah Y1

#### **Year 6**

Josie, Reuben, Max

### **Gold**

#### **Year 1**

Arlo

#### **Year 4**

Amelia, Daisy

#### **Year 6**

James, Maeve, Charlie, Zarin

***WELL DONE!!!***

## Lunchtime Stars



Reception- AO for trying new foods.

Year 1- Arlo for cutting his food independently.

Year 2- Phoebe for being really kind and helpful.

Year 3- Harriet for always being polite and kind.

Year 4 - Millie for always playing nicely at lunchtime.

Year 5- Jack Roe for eating his vegetables.

Year 6 - Ollie for always using his manners.

## MENU



ADVANCED NOTICE:-

Cheese Frittata on week 2 has now been changed to a cheese omelette on week two Fridays menu.


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





Updated menu summer 26

SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026 caterlink

updated menu summer 2026

**SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026**



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MENU
<b>WEEK ONE</b> 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 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		
<b>WEEK TWO</b> 20/04/26 11/04/26 18/06/26 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	Tomato pasta	Vegan sausage, roast potatoes gravy	Cheese whirl with herby rice and salad	Cheese Omelette 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		
<b>WEEK THREE</b> 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		
<b>AVAILABLE DAILY:</b>	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings, Salad Bar, Freshly Baked Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt					

Team Points



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

## Useful Dates



18/05/26 Assessment week

**25/05/26 May half term holiday**

**28/5/26 - Craft afternoon t St James Church 2-4pm**

1/06/26 Children return to school

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

8/6/26 Phonics screening check

16/06/2026 Year R and 1 trip to Stratford Upon Avon (Reception- Butterfly farm/ Year 1 Mad museum)

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

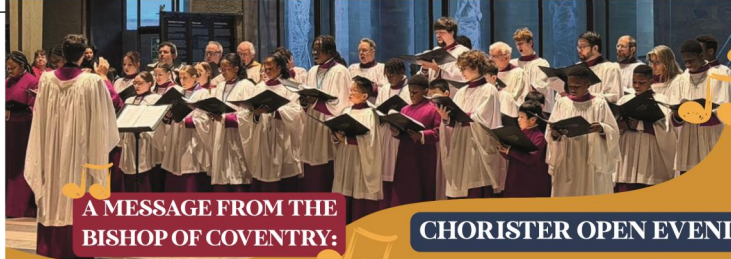
[Expanding free school meals: what parents need to know – The Education Hub](#)

[Free school meals: guidance for local authorities, local -authority-maintained schools, academies and free schools - GOV.UK](#)

Useful information for parents.



# 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

## CHORISTER OPEN EVENING

**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 service
- 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 current 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](http://tinyurl.com/choristeropenevening)



## 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.

---

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

# 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.



## 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

