

St James' Catholic Primary

"Great News"

Friday 3rd July 2026

SUCCESS AT ST JAMES'

As we approach the end of another successful year, we are delighted to celebrate some outstanding achievements across our school.

EARLY YEARS SUCCESS

The number of pupils achieving a **Good Level of Development (GLD)** at the end of Reception has increased once again this year. An impressive **69.5%** of children reached the expected standard, bringing us much closer to the national average. This continues our strong upward trend, with the percentage of pupils achieving GLD rising significantly from 39.1% in 2023.

FANTASTIC PHONICS RESULTS

We are incredibly proud of our Year 1 pupils, who achieved our **best-ever Phonics Screening Check results**. This year, **89.5%** of pupils met the expected standard, significantly exceeding last year's national figure of 80%.

MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK SUCCESS

Our Year 4 pupils have also excelled in the **Multiplication Tables Check**. An outstanding **56% of pupils achieved full marks (25/25)**, which is expected to place us above the national average for the first time. In addition, our average score of just over 22 marks is also likely to be above the national average.

These achievements reflect the hard work, determination and commitment shown by everyone in our school community. We would like to thank all of our staff for their dedication and unwavering commitment to providing the very best education for our children. Sacha Humphries, CEO of the Academy Trust, and the Governors have been highly impressed by the continued improvement in standards at St James' and have asked us to pass on their sincere appreciation to all staff.

We would also like to thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support with their children's learning. Most importantly, we would like to congratulate our wonderful pupils for their enthusiasm, resilience and excellent attitude towards learning. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

PARENT SURVEY

We would be grateful if all parents and carers could complete the Academy Trust Board's parent survey. The Trust Board would like to hear your views about St James' and the education we provide. While we are proud of the progress our school continues to make, we are always looking for ways to improve further. Your feedback plays an important role in helping us shape our future priorities. A link to the survey has been sent via text message and is also available on the school website. **Please complete the survey by Wednesday 8th July**. Thank you in advance for your support.

SUMMER FAIR

We are all looking forward to our **Summer Fair on Wednesday 8th July**.

There will be a wide range of stalls, games and activities for children and families to enjoy, making it a fantastic afternoon for our whole school community. The fair will run from **3:30pm until 5:30pm**. We hope to see as many families there as possible and thank you in advance for your support.

SCHOOL DINNERS

We are pleased to announce that, following a recent tender process, **Mellors** has been selected to provide school meals across all schools within the Trust from September. This means there will be no disruption to our catering provision, and we are delighted that our pupils will continue to enjoy the high-quality meals that Mellors provides. We are also pleased to confirm that **there are currently no plans to increase the cost of school dinners** at the start of the new academic year.

It has been wonderful to see so many children recently choosing school dinners instead of packed lunches. Our themed menu days continue to be extremely popular, and we are already working with Mellors to plan some exciting events and special menus for next year.

If your child has any dietary requirements, food intolerances or allergies, please contact the school office so that we can ensure the appropriate arrangements are in place.

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS...AND ARRIVING ON TIME MATTERS TOO

Every day in school makes a difference to progress and attainment. Please try to arrange appointments outside the school day. Holidays during term time cannot be authorised and may result in a penalty notice fine. If you need any support with attendance, please contact the school office – we're here to help.

As you know, we are having a very busy final half term here at St James'. Please ensure your child has excellent attendance over the next few weeks so they do not miss out on all the wonderful activities we have planned and to ensure they are fully prepared for their transition into their next class.

Please also remember that arriving on time is really important too. The school gates and doors open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am. Any time after this will be recorded as late. Registers are taken promptly at 9am. The first 15 minutes before register is time well spent, with pupils reading, or completing a maths task such as practising times tables. There are quite a few pupils arriving after 9:30am - please be aware, pupils arriving after this time do not get an attendance mark for the morning session.

If your child has an appointment early in the morning, please do still bring them into school for registration and then sign them out again before the appointment time - this means that they still get an attendance mark. Likewise, if an appointment is in the afternoon, please do not collect your child, where possible until all registers have been taken at 1:20pm.

BREAKFAST CLUB - START THE DAY THE RIGHT WAY!

Our popular Breakfast Club runs daily with two convenient sessions: from 7:30 am until 8:45am - £2.50 or from 8:15 am until 8:45am - £1. Children can enjoy a choice of toast, bagels, or cereal, plus a drink. More than just breakfast, it's a chance for them to spend time with friends and enjoy fun activities

before the school day begins. Breakfast Club is the perfect way to kick-start the day positively, leaving children happy, energised, and ready to learn!

We are finding an increasing number of parents not booking onto breakfast club. Please use the app to pre-book any clubs in advance to reduce demands on staff.

SEPTEMBER 2026 - FREE BREAKFAST FOR ALL

Great news! We have signed up to the **free breakfast club programme** which is a government initiative aimed at ensuring every child in state-funded primary schools in England starts the day ready to learn. We will have more details nearer the time, but from 8:15am - 8:45am each morning all pupils will be able to receive a free breakfast. There will be no charge for this session. If parents wish to still take advantage of our earlier session from 7:30am, they will only pay £1.50.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

All activities cost £1 per day. On the app you will have four options (for each of the activities on offer). The fifth option is for extended wraparound after 4:30pm. Many of our clubs are now at full capacity so please book early to avoid disappointment. **Please also note, that on Monday, Wednesday and Friday we only have a choice of three clubs** (due to less staff available on these days).

Children attending after school clubs must stay until 4:30pm. Early pick-ups are disruptive and place additional demands on staff. Thanks for your cooperation.

After School Club Activities Summer 2 (June-July 2026)

Day	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Activity 4
MONDAY	Activity 1 Infants (EYFS/Y1/Y2) Mini Scientists	Activity 2 Juniors (Year 3-6) Running & Team Games	Activity 3 Year 4/5/6 Crochet & Knitting	N/A
TUESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Stay & Play	Activity 2 Years 2/3 Cheerleading	Activity 3 Juniors Sports	Activity 4 Juniors Lego
WEDNESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Parachute Games	Activity 2 Years 2/3/4/5 Computers	Activity 3 Juniors Stay & Play	N/A
THURSDAY	Activity 1 Infants Outdoor Games	Activity 2 Infants Movie Club	Activity 3 Juniors Movie Club	Activity 4 Juniors Brass
FRIDAY	Activity 1 EYFS/Year 1 PE/Games	Activity 2 Years 2/3/4 Cooking Club	Activity 3 Years 5/6 STEM/Coding Club	N/A

ADVANCE NOTICE - AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PRICE INCREASE

From September 2026, there will be a small price increase in line with rising costs. All activities will cost £1.50 per day. I am sure you agree, this is still excellent value for the amazing activities we have on offer.

WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care is from 4:30pm-6pm. This costs £6 per session (which includes the £1 for after school club). Children will receive a choice of snacks and drinks each day e.g. wraps, sandwiches, bagels, crumpets, pizza, crackers, fruit and salad.

TOP-UP PAYMENTS

In an emergency (e.g. an urgent appointment), you can book onto breakfast, after-school or wraparound clubs on the actual day. Simply pay the correct top-up on the app and inform the office.

NEW ADMINISTRATION FEE FOR LATE BOOKINGS

In line with other schools, we are now charging an administration fee of £1 for any late bookings onto Breakfast or After School Clubs. To avoid this fee, please remember to book all sessions in advance, at least the day before, using the app. If you do require the office to book your child on to a club the £1 fee will apply.

DID YOU KNOW?

Parents can get money back/support for Breakfast Clubs, After-School Clubs and Wraparound through Tax-Free Childcare. The Government adds £2 for every £8 you pay (up to £2000 per year per child). This is effectively a **20% subsidy**, not a full refund. If you are eligible for Universal Credit, you can claim back up to 85% of childcare costs. This is paid after you report and provide receipts. Speak to Mrs Boyce if you would like to apply for this.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Event	Date/Times
Year 6 London Trip	Monday 6 th July 2026
Year 4 Class Trip: Manchester Treasure Hunt	Tuesday 7 th July 2026
Summer Fair (own clothes day: cakes and bakes)	Wednesday 8 th July 2026 from 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Year 2 Class Trip: Manchester Airport	Thursday 9 th July 2026
Year 5 Robinwood Residential	Monday 13 th – Wednesday 15 th July
Year 1 Class Trip: Science Museum	Monday 13 th July
Year 6 Leavers Mass	Friday 17 th July 2026 at 9:15am.
KS2 School Production	Monday 20 th July 2026 from 6:30pm – 8:45pm Tuesday 21 st July 2026 from 2pm – 3:30pm (matinee) Tuesday 21 st July 2026 from 6:30pm – 8:45pm
Year 6 Shell Fest	Wednesday 22 nd July 2026 from 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Year 6 Leavers Assembly St James' the Great Picnic Lunch Last Day of Term	Thursday 23 rd July 2026 at 9am