



ST. JAMES C of E ACADEMY

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Friday 31st January
2025



Afterschool Sports Events

St James has had some queries recently surrounding the choice of players for sports fixtures/competitions outside of school. Below, we aim to address these queries.

Firstly, there are several things to note:

- Year 3 & 4 participate in far less fixtures than Year 5 & 6 over the year
- Some fixtures are 'development' fixtures whereby players can not play for an academy or a team outside of school
- Some fixtures are tournaments or league fixtures where players can play for a team outside of school, but not an academy
- Some fixtures have no stipulations on who can play or not
- For many fixtures, as few as only 4 pupils can participate
- In 'mixed' boys/girls fixtures, there is often a ratio to follow. For example 3:2 in a team of 5
- With St James being a junior school, there are several events over the year where St James is not able to participate

As we have 211 pupils at St James, this makes it difficult for all children to represent the school every academic year (and also difficult for children to regularly represent the school too)

In Year 5 & 6, there are more opportunities to represent the school. Other issues that can arise include issues with staff being able to attend and supervise, venue cancellation, the weather, players not being able to attend due to choice, plan changes or illness etc.

Based on the factors above, we don't have a 'Year 6 boys football team' for example.

I hope that this information is helpful and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

On the next page is a list of all the sports events St James will attend this term (This is subject to change)

Kind Regards

Mr Slack

PE Coordinator

Event	Location + Date	Spectator allowed?
Y5/6 Dodgeball	St. Michael's Academy Thurs 6 th February 4-5.00pm	NO
Y3/4 X -Country	St. Michael's Academy Tues 11 th February 4-4.45pm	YES
Y5/6 X -Country	St. Michael's Academy Weds 12 th February 4-4.45pm	YES
Y5/6 Hockey	Will be in February, but date is to be confirmed. Either at Queen Elizabeth's or Etone	YES
Y3/4 X -Country	St. Michael's Academy Tues 25 th February 4-4.45pm	YES
Y5/6 X -Country	St. Michael's Academy Weds 27 th February 4-4.45pm	YES
Y3/4 Dance	St. Michael's Academy Tuesday 4 th March 4-5pm	NO
Y5/6 Dance	St. Michael's Academy Thursday 6 th March 4-5pm	NO
Football League Catch Up GIRLS	St. Michael's Academy Thursday 13 th March 4 – 5:15pm	YES
Football League Catch Up BOYS	St. Michael's Academy Thursday 20 th March 4 – 5:15pm	YES



Dates for the Diary:

10th February 2025 - Year 6 Heights and Weights

17th—21st February 2025 - Half Term

24th February 2025 - Teacher Training Day

6th March 2025 - World Book Day

18th March 2025 - Year 3 Trip to Kingsbury Water Park

21st March 2025 - Red Nose Day

2nd April 2025 - Parents Evening 3.30-7.00pm

3rd April 2025 - Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm

14th - 25th April 2025 - Easter Holiday

5th May 2025 - Mayday

12th - 15th May 2025 - Year 6 SATs Week

20th May 2025 - Year 5 Trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town

21st May 2025 - Image Musical Theatre (Jungle Book)

26th - 30th May 2025 - Half Term

11th June 2025 - Year 4 Trip to Thinktank Birmingham

16th - 19th June 2025—Year 5 Bikeability

2nd July 2025 - Transition Day

14th July 2025 - Year 6 overnight camp

18th July 2025 - Last Day of Term

Attendance - Target 97%

The whole school attendance from 13th to 24th January was **93.5%** which is below target. The highest attendance was achieved by Beech class with **97%**



Fundraising

If you shop at Sainsburys or Argos, please sign up to My School Fund.

You will receive 2% back of your spending on an e-gift card, and the school will receive 1%

Please see the attached leaflet below for more information. Thank you



In association with

Sainsbury's



ESPO



Step 1

Visit myschoolfund.org to sign up for free and link to your child's school



Step 2

Register your credit/debit card to your account



Step 3

Spend at participating retailers



Step 4

Start receiving your eGift Cards!

We're part of the My School Fund initiative.

Together we can boost our school's budget, plus your own!

It's completely free to sign up and both you and your child's school will receive eGift Cards to be used at participating retailers based on a percentage of your spend.

Visit myschoolfund.org today!

SCAN FOR INFO



TEAM ELITE MERCHANDISE

VISIT: WWW.TEAMELITE.UK
ONLINE STORE

ORDER YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM & PE KIT

PLEASE ORDER ONLINE & COLLECT AT YOUR
CHILD'S SCHOOL OFFICE



Team Elite supply your school's
uniform.

Please order online, (don't click
postage) and collect the order
at your school.

Call us to answer any queries
you may have. You can try for
size at your school



CONTACT:
INFO@TEAMELITE.UK
07852317990

Workplace Community Groups

Do you work for a company that has a community group, or is happy to donate items that they no longer have use for (i.e furniture/stationery)? As you know school budgets are growing ever smaller so we are always grateful for businesses donating time/money/goods to us! Whilst we may not be able to take up all offers we would love to hear from you if you think you know of a scheme that we could apply to.

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.

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.

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

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.

End of Month Prayer

Dear God,

As we come to the close of another month, we thank you that you have been with us through the days of this past month. Thank You for giving me joy all through this month. Thank You for surrounding me with Your peace and thank you for another month to start over again.

Amen.