



# NEWSLETTER

Email: [www.stjohnsprimary.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsprimary.co.uk)

Twitter:

*Learn, Love and Live with the Love of God*



**Joyful Readers**



**Opportunities to Build Upon Knowledge and Skills**



**Understanding of British and Christian Values**



**Resilience and Perseverance**



**Nurture Curiosity**



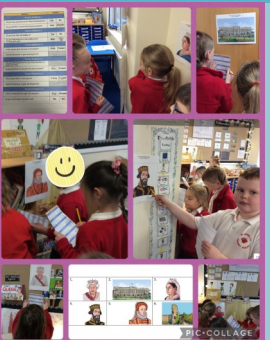
**Encourage Articulate Learners**



**Your Wellbeing and Health**

**2023-2024 Issue Number 11 Friday 1st Decemembr 2023**

**OUR VALUE THIS  
HALF TERM IS:  
TRUST**



A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy week across school this week as children have been completing their Autumn Assessments. This assessment period will continue next week also. At the end of this term, we will be sending home an Autumn Report which will share with you your child's attainment, amongst other information, at this stage of the year. There will be a chance to arrange a follow up phone call or TEAMS meeting after the reports have gone home should you wish to discuss anything further. In Spring, we will be holding Parents' Evenings as always.



an-

Our Kindness Calendars have been sent home now and we cannot wait to see how children get on with these! Please remember to share on our Twitter (X) page all of the lovely, kindness filled activities your children get up to!

We are really excited about the Christmas Bingo next week and thank you in advance for your support. All money raised this year through events will be used towards purchasing much needed new iPads, classroom furniture and go towards repairing our outdoor play equipment (we know we can't do all of this this year but we will work towards this over coming years!).

Next Thursday we will be supporting Save the Children's 'Christmas Jumper Day' and we ask that if able, you send your child in with a Christmas Jumper in place of their school jumper (all other uniform items stay as normal) in exchange for a £1 donation which will all be sent to the charity.

Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic Golden Shell experience to the Shakespeare North Theatre in Prescot this week. They had a truly fantastic day - what a magnificent opportunity for them all!

I can hardly believe it is December already! Enjoy this first festive weekend ... I hope there aren't are too many naughty elves around and about!

With love,

Mrs Young



# AWARD WINNERS

## Journey Driver Focus:

### Opportunity to Build New Knowledge and Skills

RECEPTION	Frankie Brown
YEAR 1	Myla Hart
YEAR 2	Emmanuel Ejimofor
YEAR 3	Mason
YEAR 4	Ruben Forshaw
YEAR 5	Joey Roscoe
YEAR 6	Galilie Wan

# School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## Attendance

Whole School	92.8%
Reception	92.5%
Year 1	89.1%
Year 2	98.3%
Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	92.1%
Year 5	98.0%
Year 6	83.9%



## Attendance Matters



## Attendance Update

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our **97% target**—this will help us to succeed!

**Our attendance this week is:**

**95.6%**



**Be In SCHOOL  
Be On TIME**



**145**

**pupils**

**with perfect attendance this week.**

**Can we beat this next week?**







## 12 Days of Christmas Attendance Challenge

At St James we place huge importance on regular school attendance—the research speaks for itself and proves that those with the highest levels of attendance achieve great things!

We therefore now invite you to take part in our 12 Days of Christmas Attendance Challenge.

### What do you need to do?

Come to school, on time, everyday for the last twelve days of the half term.

Wednesday 6th December-Thursday 21st December

### How can you win?

Those that complete the 12 days of Christmas challenge will have their name put in a prize draw to be carried out on the afternoon of Thursday 21st December (the last full day of the half term).

### What can you win?

A Super Secret Santa Surprise

12 to be won!

# Do I need to keep my child off school?



### Chicken Pox

At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over

### Conjunctivitis

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Diarrhea & /or Vomiting

48 hours from last episode

### Respiratory Illness

(e.g colds & flu) Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough

### Glandular Fever

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Hand, foot & mouth

No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed

### Impetigo

Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

### Head Lice

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Measles

4 days from onset of rash

### Mumps

5 days from onset of swelling

### German Measles (Rubella)

5 days from onset of rash

### Scarlet Fever

24 hours after commencing antibiotics

### Scabies

Until after first treatment

### Slapped Cheek

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Threadworms

No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed

### Tonsillitis

Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed

### Whooping Cough

48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### PE Days Autumn 2

Children are to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days.

**Monday** Y2, Y3 and Y4

**Tuesday** Y4

**Wednesday** YR, Y1 and Y6  
(Swimming),

**Thursday** Y1 and Y5

**Friday** Y2, Y5 and Y6

### Punctuality



Please ensure that your child arrives at school between **8:40am and 8:50am**. Our lessons start straight away in the morning with retrieval time; therefore, your child will be missing valuable learning time if they arrive after this time.

Please be advised that the school gates will shut promptly at 8:50am. Please do not be offended if a member of SLT, or Mr Price, ask you to go to the office if you arrive after the this time.

Any child arriving after this time, will be recorded as late and in some cases they will receive an 'unauthorised absence'.



EVERY MINUTE  
COUNTS!

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES PER DAY =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES PER DAY =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES PER DAY =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES PER DAY =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES PER DAY =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### Uniform

Please make every effort to ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform and that it is clearly labelled. Children should wear completely black shoes – not trainers.

**A reminder that our school PE kit consists of a black tracksuit/red shorts and white t shirt.**

Children should not wear any form of jewellery (only stud earrings are allowed and should not be worn on PE days) . I

f you are struggling, please let a member of SLT know as we do have some spare uniform in school

### Snack



Children in Years 1-6 can bring in their own **healthy snack** to eat at breaktime.

**This must not be chocolate, crisps or a sugary cereal bar.**

Water bottles are permitted but these **must only be filled with water.**

### Nativity 2023

#### Reception, Year 1 and Y2



The Nativity, this year, will take place on Thursday 14th December at 9:30am and 2:00 pm and on Friday 15th December at 9:30am. Tickets are now on sale and will be allocated on a first come first served basis with an availability of 2 tickets per family. Please return the letter received to school with payment to secure your tickets.



# Christmas at St James'

Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 7th December—Please come in dressed in a Christmas Jumper for a £1 donation to 'Save the Children' (via School Money),

Christmas Bingo

Thursday 7th December 5pm–7pm.

Further information to follow.

Nativity—Opsie Daisy Angel

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December—3 performances of the Nativity for parents/carers to watch. Tickets will be on sale soon.

YR, Y1 and Y2

Christmas Fair

Tuesday 19th December—3.30pm start.

Christmas Dinner

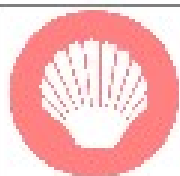
Wednesday 20th December—If your child is in KS2 and normally has a packed lunch they can choose to have a Christmas Dinner. The cost of this is £2.50. Further information will be sent via the school app.

Christmas Service

Thursday 21st December—Christmas service in church 9.30am

Christmas Party Day

Friday 22nd December will be our Christmas Party Day! Crafts, dancing and games! Children are invited to wear their party clothes on this day.



# St James' PTFA Christmas Bingo

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 5-7pm

Doors open 4.30pm

School Hall



- Tickets are £1 adults, 50p children and available to buy from the office (cash).
- Bingo £1 per book.
- Please bring cash on the evening
- Refreshments will be available on the evening for a small cost.

Come along, join in the fun, and help support our school!





**Save the  
Children**

# CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

**IS COMING, PEOPLE!**

**AND IT'S GOING TO BE EPIC!**

**Where:** St James' CE Primary School

**When:** 7th December 2023

**Other details:** Wear with school uniform





### St Helens Young Carers

ST. HELENS YOUNG CARERS



We have been developing our support for children who may be Young Carers. If you think you know a young person who fits this category, you can see Mrs Conant, Miss Barratt or Miss Evans for more information.

See pages 16 and 17 for more information about St Helens Young Carers

### Admissions



#### **APPLYING FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**

If your child turns 4 between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024, he or she will transfer to primary school in September 2024. From Wednesday 27th September the website [www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions) is open for parents who wish to apply online. You will be notified on 16 April 2024 confirming your child's school place.

**The closing date for you to submit your application is 15 January 2024.**



### Food Bank Vouchers

We have recently registered with St Helens Foodbank and are now able to issue Food Bank Vouchers (subject to conditions). If you feel like you are struggling to put food on the table, please contact Mrs Maloney, in the School Office, for more information. We can also provide long term support through Early Help which Mrs Briers and Mrs Conant organise.



## Whole School events Autumn 2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
6/11/23	School re-opens for Autumn Term 2
8/11/23	Swimming - Year 6 (first lesson)
13/11/23	Anti-Bullying week
14/11/23	St James' open day 10.00am
16/11/23	St James' open day 4.30pm
17/11/23	Year 3 Assembly 9.00am
22/11/23	Academy photography (siblings, individuals, and groups)
23/11/23	Height and Weight Reception and Year 6
23/11/23	Money Mentors Year 5 and Year 6
24/11/23	Non-uniform day (selection box)
24/11/23	World Science Day
28/11/23	Shakespeare North Playhouse - Year 6 school trip
7/12/23	Christmas jumper day
7/12/23	Christmas bingo 5pm - 7pm
12/12/23	Swimming - Year 6 (last lesson)
13/12/23	Nativity dress rehearsal
14/12/23	Nativity KSI 9.30am
14/12/23	Nativity KSI 2.00pm
15/12/23	Nativity KSI 9.30am
19/12/23	Christmas Fair 3.30pm
20/12/23	Christmas Dinner Day
21/12/23	Christmas Service, Eucharist - St James's Church 9.30am
21/12/23	Christingle Service, (children only)
22/12/23	Christmas Party Day
22/12/23	School Closes for Christmas 2pm





# Haydock Christmas Lights Switch On

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

6:00 – 6:30



Childrens craft activities in the library

Valley Brass



Fr Michael Vyse to give Christmas Blessing

St James' Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be  
switching on the lights this year!



## Kindness Calendar

As we enter the festive period of advent, it is important to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world during Advent. Attached is our annual 'Kindness Calendar' with a variety of different daily kindness activity that your child can choose to complete.

The calendar explains what the activity is and why it has been chosen with all of the tasks free to complete. Once completed, please share your acts of compassion on Twitter (@StJamesCE) using #StJamescompassion or bring completed activities into school for display.

Across the month, certificates will be sent home to celebrate those children who complete a range of kindness activities during that week. I cannot wait to see the range of activities that children can complete alongside the kindness and compassion that is spread throughout the St James School Community.





If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



## Our Kindness Calendar for Advent:

*"Learn, laugh and live with the Love of God."*



	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>
<b>Hope</b> 				<b>1</b> With an adult, call/video call a friend or a relative to have a chat. Make them smile and give someone hope in this festive period.	<b>2</b> Safely with an adult, find a source of light (such as a torch). Together say/write a prayer for "Who needs light in their darkness?"	<b>3</b> With an adult, research 'Teardrops' (a local St Helens charity). Produce a poster all about how they give people hope.	<b>4</b> Make a small donation to our foodbank collection in school for Teardrops. Give real hope to someone this Christmas.
<b>Peace</b> 	<b>5</b> Design a Christmas decoration that symbolises 'peace' and add this to your Christmas tree.	<b>6</b> Have a day without using any digital devices. Have a peaceful day talking to your family.	<b>7</b> Listen to a piece of your favourite music. Stop, reflect and think about how this makes you feel.	<b>8</b> Do something to help look after our beautiful planet Earth— recycling is a great example.	<b>9</b> Explore the Christian value of 'Peace' means to you. Write an acrostic of what 'peace' means.	<b>10</b> Research Christmas traditions in different countries – having an interest in the lives of others brings peace.	<b>11</b> Write things that bring you peace within a 'dove' and hang it in your window at home as a Christian symbol of peace.
<b>Joy</b> 	<b>12</b> Our greatest gift can be to say thank you. What would you like to say thank you for? Write or explain this to a member of your family.	<b>13</b> Write a joke at home that you could bring into school and share with your class.	<b>14</b> Leave a positive message for someone in school or at home to find. Spread some joy this Christmas!	<b>15</b> Gospel means 'good news.' Share some good news in your life with your class.	<b>16</b> Make a Christmas card for someone you care about to bring them some joy. Give them the card.	<b>17</b> With an adult, go on a winter walk into God's world and appreciate the joy this brings. Take a photo of this.	<b>18</b> Listen and sing Christmas Songs - spread festive joy! ☺
<b>Love</b> 	<b>19</b> Pray for someone less fortunate than you this Christmas and show them your love.	<b>20</b> Our School vision is 'Learn, laugh and live with the Love of God.' Design a poster to share our school vision.	<b>21</b> Draw a heart and write the names of all the people who give you love in your life at this festive time.	<b>22</b> As we finish school for the Christmas holidays, watch a Christmas film with someone you love.	<b>23</b> With an adult, bake something festive. Spend time with the people you love.	<b>24</b> Be kind to yourself – do something that you love on Christmas Eve.	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas!

How many acts on our Kindness Calendar can you complete over the period of Advent? Remember to share them on Twitter (@StJamesCE) or bring them into school!

## **Safeguarding Tip of the Week**

### **Emotional Abuse**

This week our safeguarding focus is emotional abuse. Emotional abuse is any type of abuse that involves the continual emotional mistreatment of a child. It is sometimes called psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare, humiliate, isolate or ignore a child. Other examples are: constantly criticising a child; blaming or scapegoating a child or exposing a child to upsetting events or situations. Because of the nature of emotional abuse, a child might not realise what is happening to them or might even blame themselves. For more information visit:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse>



## **Online Safety -Tip of the Week**

### **Among Us**

Created in 2018 by a small indie studio that (at the time) had only four employees, Among Us has become one of the gaming world's biggest breakout hits of recent years. In 2020, for example, it was the world's most-downloaded mobile game. Its simplicity helped Among Us to resonate with younger players in particular: the game's second largest audience slice is the 13–18 age bracket.

While the 7+ age rating, emphasis on teamwork and cartoonish, colourful graphics all suit a young fan-base, however, the game does carry more serious risks than betrayal by a team-mate or an untimely on-screen demise – with in-game purchases and possible contact from strangers this week's guide has a list of hazards that trusted adults should bear in mind.



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

#### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

#### CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

#### GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them, privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

#### IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

#### CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

#### DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

#### AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

#### STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.10.2023



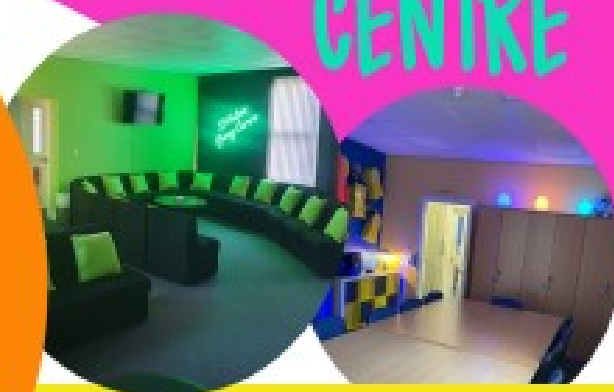
ST HELENS YOUNG CARERS



# ST HELENS YOUNG CARERS CENTRE

## WHO ARE WE?

We are a local charity;  
We offer a wide range of support to help  
Young Carers aged 6 - 20 years.  
Our aim is to reduce the caring role for the  
Young Carer and help them to better cope  
with their caring responsibilities.  
We want to create opportunities so that Young  
Carers can maintain a healthy social life, feel  
supported whilst in school/college  
and have the chance to pursue  
their own aspirations!



## CONTACT/FOLLOW US

Call us: 01744 677279  
Email us: [info@sthelenscarers.org.uk](mailto:info@sthelenscarers.org.uk)  
Facebook: St Helens Carers Centre  
Twitter: @StHelYoungCarers  
Instagram: @sth.yc

"I LOVE IT AT YOUNG CARERS, IT'S ONE OF THE PLACES I REALLY  
ENJOY GOING TO AND TALKING, I HAVE LOVED MEETING NEW  
PEOPLE AND HAVE LINKED IN WITH THEM OUTSIDE OF THE  
SESSIONS TOO!"

- A quote from one of our  
Young Carers

## YADS

Young Adult Carers Group (16+)  
For those Young Carers who will be going into adult  
services, we run a group that helps them to meet new  
friends, learn new skills and help them in areas, such as, CV  
writing, employability skills, confidence building, budgeting  
etc and can apply for grants on their behalf too!

## WHO IS A YOUNG CARER?

A Young Carer is someone aged 6 - 20 years.  
They provide regular or ongoing care and  
emotional support to a family member, who is ill,  
disabled, has a mental health condition or  
misuses drugs or alcohol.

They often take on practical and/or emotional  
caring responsibilities that would normally be  
expected of an adult.

A Young Carer may complete tasks, such as,  
cooking, cleaning, personal care, administering  
medication etc.

## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising We are an independent charity,  
we rely heavily on raising money to support  
our Young Carers.

If your school/organisation/Company would  
like to get behind us and support our fund  
raising efforts, please get in touch on  
01744 677279 and we will do whatever we  
can to support your initiative.

# WHAT SERVICES DO WE OFFER?

## Family support & 1:1 support

We offer Young Carer 1:1 sessions, providing the Young Carer with emotional or practical support. They may just need someone to listen to them while they off-load their worries, ask questions or simply talk about the impact caring has on them.

We identify what support is needed for both the Young Carers and their family, we then put in to place the appropriate support & also make the necessary referrals into other agencies i.e. Occupational Health, Counselling etc.

We work with families to look at what they would need to do in the event of an emergency, for example, should the person they care for need to go into hospital.

## Personal Budget Awards

We offer awards to some of our Young Carers. The amount awarded depends on the individual circumstances of the Young Carer. It is provided to enable the Young Carer to take a break from their caring responsibilities i.e. attend a club or pursue a hobby that they are interested in.



## Respite Programme

For those Young Carers who do not have any social opportunities and are not able to meet up with their friends as a result of their caring role, we offer regular activity sessions both at the Centre and in the community, they are age specific groups. Young Carers are able to get involved in a range of activities, such as, art & craft sessions, visits to the cinema, meals out, games nights and many more!

## Advocacy Support

We speak to professionals and agencies on behalf of the Young Carer and their family on issues relating to their caring role.

For example, we can speak to school/colleges or other agencies to make them fully aware of the impact of caring



## Residential Breaks

Young Carers, who have limited social opportunities, will be invited to our residential breaks. The aim of these breaks is to ensure the Young Carer has a break from their caring role but to also enable them to make new friends helping them to build a network of support which extends beyond the Centre i.e. facebook etc. They take part in activities that they would usually not have the chance to do, such as, canoeing, raft building, zipwire, problem solving etc.

## Young Carers Committee - Known as Chattin 4 Action (11 years +)

Young Carers who would like to get involved in shaping services in St Helens are invited to the committee; they meet on a regular basis and work on projects that will improve the lives of Young Carers. They work on projects that make difference to Young Carers eg. working with schools, CP surgeries and other agencies.

Our service fully understands that circumstances can change, for those who have a caring role, all our Young Carers can come back to us and access our Centre for support. We will put in the appropriate support needed to ensure the Young Carer is better able to cope with their caring responsibilities.