

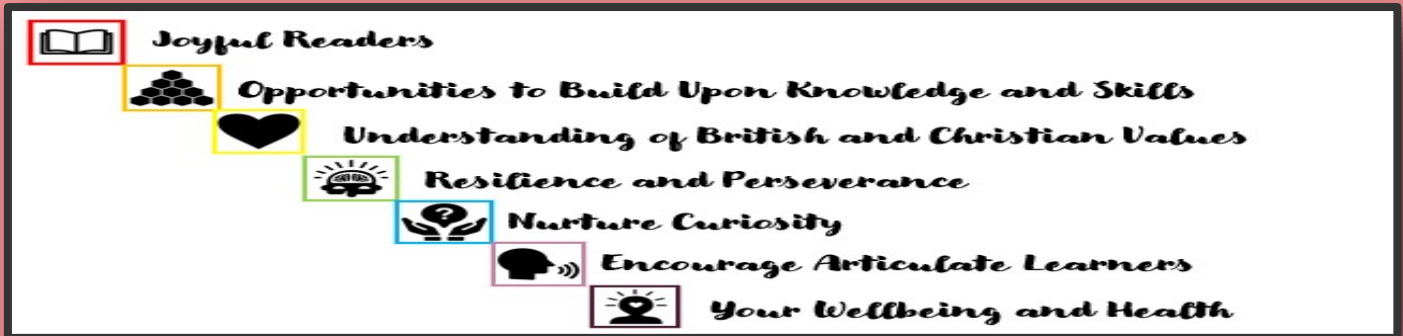


# NEWSLETTER

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

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



**2023-2024 Issue Number 22 Friday 8th March 2024**

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another busy week here at St James!



Thank you to Mrs Atherton for organising our World Book Day celebrations this year. We were delighted to be joined by children's author Natalie Denny - the children were really inspired by her story! Hot chocolate was also enjoyed by all too as we snuggled with books and shared them together.

Y3 also enjoyed a their Golden Shell visit this week wherein they experienced a live orchestra at the Royal Philharmonic in Liverpool and explored the breathtaking Anglican Cathedral. What a super day out and wonderful memories made!

We shall soon start preparing for Easter celebrations and as part of this we hope you can join us for our Easter bingo on 21<sup>st</sup> March!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Young



# School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## Attendance

Whole School	95.8%
Reception	97.8%
Year 1	97.3%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	92.4%
Year 4	93.7%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	92%



## 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:**

**94.9%**



**Be In SCHOOL**  
**Be On TIME**



**139**

**pupils**

**with perfect attendance this week.**

**Can we beat this next week?**





# Spring Attendance Competition

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 Spring Attendance Challenge.

## What do you need to do?

Come to school on time, everyday, this half term!

## How can you win?

Those children that come to school every day, and on time, will have their name put in a prize draw to be carried out on the morning of Thursday 28th March (the final day of this half term).

## What can you win?

An Easter Eggstravaganza!



# 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

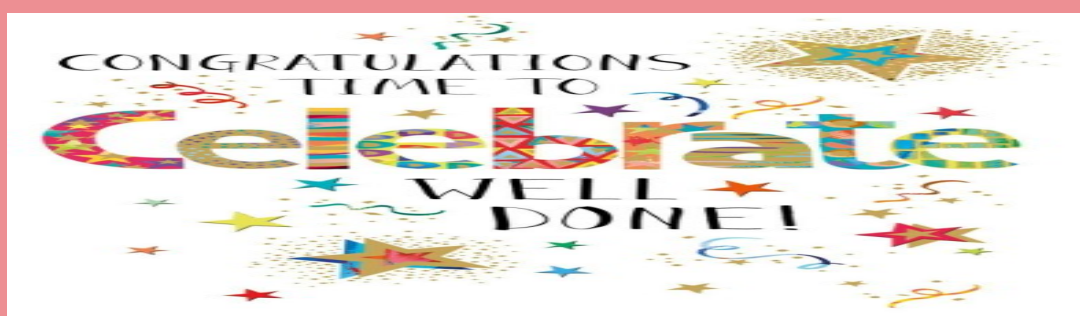


# AWARD WINNERS

## Journey Driver Focus:

**Resilience  
and  
Perseverance**

<b>RECEPTION</b>	Risin Ekanayake
<b>YEAR 1</b>	Sophia Illes
<b>YEAR 2</b>	Jersie Adamson- Roberts
<b>YEAR 3</b>	James Hunter
<b>YEAR 4</b>	Michael Inglis
<b>YEAR 5</b>	Jake Mason
<b>YEAR 6</b>	Skylar Hilditch



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT



## Whole School events Spring 2

Date	Event
11/03/24	Oral Health Survey (5 year olds)
12/03/24	Grandad Wheels Author Visit
12/03/24	School Nurse Drop in Session 2pm
12/03/24	Year 4 Football Competition
15/03/24	Non Uniform Day - in exchange for an Easter Egg
13/03/24	Year 3 Which Way Now
19/03/24	Year 1 Phonics Information Session for Parents 3.30pm
20/03/24	Year 3 Which Way Now
21/03/24	Year 3 Football Competition
21/03/24	St James' Easter Bingo 5pm
25/03/24	Parents Evening (part 1) 3.30pm
27/03/24	Parents Evening (part 2) 3.30pm
27/03/24	Year 3 Which Way Now
28/03/24	Easter Service and Eucharist, Year 3 Reading, Prayers, and Songs, (St James' Church). 1.15pm
28/03/24	School Closes for Easter 2pm

# Schools Catering Service

2023/24



28th September 2023  
**VEG POWER!**  
**SIMPLY VEG SHOWCASE**  
Celebrating and encouraging us all to eat more veg. A campaign by 'Veg Power'



6th - 10th November 2023  
**LACA - NATIONAL SCHOOL MEALS WEEK**  
An annual celebration by LACA



12th November 2023  
**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**  
Honouring those who have served. (Actual day 11th November)



Across December  
**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
A traditional Christmas lunch



25th January 2024  
**BURNS NIGHT**  
A Scottish staple celebrating the poet Robert Burns



7th March 2024  
**WORLD BOOK DAY**  
Bringing iconic stories to the table



8th - 17th March 2024  
**BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK**  
Celebrating science within the UK and our fantastic achievements



28th April 2024  
**NATIONAL SUPERHERO DAY**  
Fuel to save the world



10th May 2024  
**WOMEN'S FA CUP FINAL**  
Football themed menu as 11 vs 11 play at Wembley (Actual day 12th May)



17th July 2024  
**PARIS SUMMER OLYMPICS 2024**  
Starting 26th July, a huge sporting event bringing together nations from across the globe





### PE Days Spring 2

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

<b>Monday</b>	Year 2, Year 1 and Year 4
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 3 and Year 6
<b>Wednesday</b>	Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5
<b>Thursday</b>	Year 4
<b>Friday</b>	Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6

### Punctuality



Please ensure that your child arrives at school between **8:40 to 8:50** ready for learning. After 9:00, children will be recorded as late and if they arrive after 9.20am they will receive an 'unauthorised absence'.

Please note that lessons start straight away in the morning with retrieval time and therefore your child will be missing valuable learning time if they arrive after the time stated.



### Clubs

We are running the following after school clubs this half term:

Booking is available on the app

- **Monday**-Fun Fusion Club for KS2 with the Sports Coach
- **Tuesday**-FAB Club for KS1 with Miss Barratt
- **Friday**-Book Club for Reception with Mrs Briers

In addition to these clubs , Y1 children are also invited to attend Mrs Lister's Phonics on Thursdays after school and there are Confirmation lessons for some children with Father Michael.



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT



**AUTHOR BRIAN  
'GRANDAD WHEELS'  
ABRAM VISITS PARISH  
12TH MARCH 2024!**

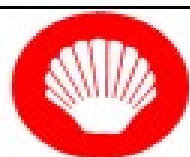
**WE ARE THRILLED TO INFORM YOU THAT CELEBRATED AUTHOR, BRIAN ABRAM WILL BE VISITING ST JAMES ON TUESDAY 12TH MARCH TO READ STORIES FROM HIS 'GRANDAD WHEELS' SERIES TO ALL CLASSES.**

**BRIAN IS A FULLTIME WHEELCHAIR USER AND IN HIS BOOKS HE TELLS HILARIOUS STORIES OF HIS SILLY ADVENTURES WITH HIS GRANDSON. HIS BOOKS AIM TO SHOW THAT ANYONE IN A WHEELCHAIR CAN HAVE FUN AND BE FUN TO BE WITH. QUENTIN BLAKE (ILLUSTRATOR OF THE ROALD DAHL'S BOOKS) SAID OF BRIAN'S FIRST BOOK, "IT'S AN IMPRESSIVE PIECE OF WORK!"**

**BRIAN WILL BE SIGNING COPIES OF HIS BOOKS AND CAN INCLUDE A DEDICATION TO YOUR CHILD. YOU CAN BUY THE BOOKS AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE OF JUST £6.00 EACH AND BRIAN WILL DONATE ALL PROCEEDS FROM THESE SALES TO TWO IMPORTANT CHARITIES THAT SUPPORT PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED A SPINAL INJURY - THE SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION AND BACK UP.**

**RETURN THE ORDER FORM SENT HOME THIS WEEK TO SECURE YOUR SIGNED COPY!**





## St James' PTFA Easter Bingo

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 5-7pm

Doors open 4.30pm

School Hall



- Tickets are £1 anyone playing Bingo;
- Children Film Night 50p per child
- Tickets are available to buy from the office (cash). Limited Numbers
- Bingo £6 for a full book (6 games)
- 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!



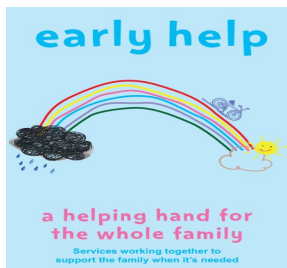
## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

### What is Early Help?

Early Help is: Services working together for children, young people and their families, who would benefit from extra support: Keeping children, young people and their families safe from harm; helping children, young people and their families to overcome difficulties; supporting children, young people and their families to and be happy ; making sure families can support themselves .



The diagram above shows the four levels of need. As you can see, Early Help is the second level where families can get extra support. Early Help doesn't usually involve children's social care. You may ask for Early Help as you are worried about your child's health, development or behaviour. You may be caring for a child with a disability and need extra support. Or if you are a young person, you can ask for help to manage situations that affect your life such as having caring responsibilities, concerns for either your own or someone else's drug or alcohol use, emotional wellbeing or any other health or social difficulty. Whatever the concern, it's ok to ask for help.



## Online Safety Tip of the Week

### Group Chats

This week's online safety guide focuses on group chats. It highlights a number of risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

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## YEAR 6 TRANSITION FREE ONLINE PARENT / CARER SESSIONS

If your child has an SEN or significant worries and is due to transition to secondary school in September 2024, we would love you to join us on our online sessions to share preparation tips and advice.

By 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 you will have submitted a secondary school application to name your 3 preferred schools.

We are delighted to offer you some advice and support to be able to effectively plan the next steps of your child's journey.

Many of the strategies will work for most children who require that little bit of additional support.

Sessions will be delivered online through TEAMS directed to parents/carers (not to children); if you can attend all four it would be more beneficial.

For further information please email us on [LASCstransitions@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:LASCstransitions@sthelens.gov.uk) so we can send you a TEAMS link to the sessions

Session One - The Year Ahead	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differences between Primary &amp; Secondary</li> <li>Independence &amp; Preparation</li> <li>Travel to school</li> <li>Next Steps</li> </ul>
Session Two - Building Blocks	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is a transition?</li> <li>Managing change</li> <li>Developing independence</li> </ul>
Session Three - A Helping Hand	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing worries &amp; nerves</li> <li>Emotions Scales</li> <li>Looking for the positives</li> </ul>
Session Four - The Finish Line is in Sight!	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being Prepared</li> <li>One Page Profiles</li> <li>Communication</li> <li>Preparation &amp; Practice</li> </ul>

## Mental Health Support Team WELLBEING WEBINARS



Your MHST is running a series of webinars one Friday a month on a number of topics relating to mental health and wellbeing.

### TOPICS AND DATES

- Worry Management - 19 January
- Parenting for Anxiety - 23 February
- Low Mood - 22 March
- Neurodiversity - 26 April
- Parent Skills for Behaviour - 17 May
- LGBTQ+ - 21 June
- Emotional Regulation - 19 July



**WHEN**  
4pm to 4:45pm



**WHERE**  
Zoom  
(link will be emailed)



To register please email which webinar you want to attend to [events@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:events@merseycare.nhs.uk)

Webinars will be recorded.  
No chat function will be available for safety purposes.





## Food Bank Vouchers

A reminder that school is registered with St Helens Foodbank and are 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.



## Family Hub

# MAKING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACCESSIBLE



Scan for everything you need to support children aged 0-19 (and up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in St Helens, including registration services, school & education advice, childcare, health and wellbeing and more.  
Visit: [sthelensfamilyhub.sthelens.gov.uk](https://sthelensfamilyhub.sthelens.gov.uk)





# Haydock Royals



Every Tuesday from 5pm at  
Haydock Cricket Club  
Ages 2 and upwards

New & experienced dancers always welcome

Keep fit and make new friends

