

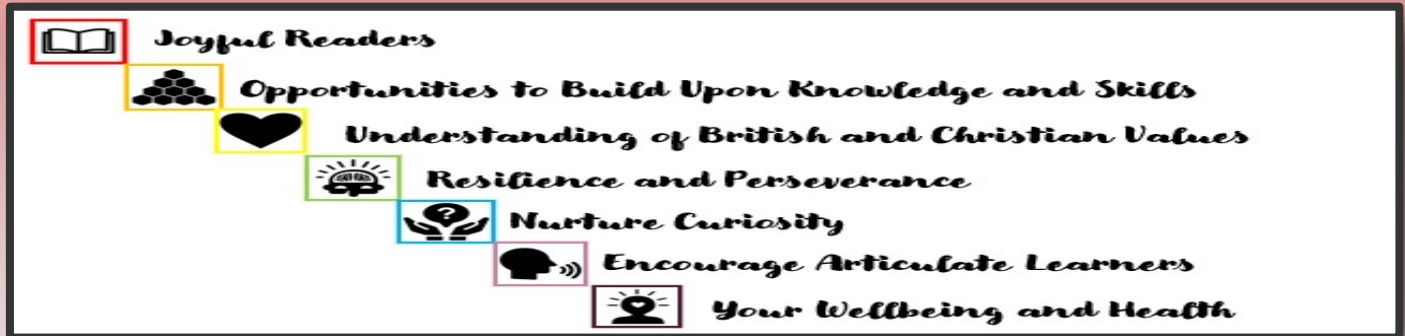


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

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Learn, Laugh and Live with the Love of God



2023-2024 Issue Number 15th September 2023

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write to you and tell you about all of the wonderful things that have been happening in school this week.

As I have walked around school, it has been brilliant to see our children actively engaged in their learning and being: 'Ready, Respectful and Responsible.' A special mention must be given to our Reception class and new children who've joined us - all are settling in to St James' life beautifully!

This half term our weekly Headteacher's Award Winners are based on the Journey Driver-Joyful Readers and this is something I have seen in action all week. Reception found a mysterious hole in the woodland so they all peered inside and wondered what animal could be in the hole before they start their new story, 'The Something.' Year 1 have been reading 'Old Bear' which is favourite of mine and one that I used to read to my daughter when she was younger.

Today some of our Year 6 children delivered Head Boy and Head Girl speeches and to say I am beyond proud of each and every one of them is an understatement. They were so articulate and confident. Our new Vision Ambassadors and Journey Leader Teams were also voted on. I can't wait to find out the results on Monday.

Attendance will be a continued focus this year as we have a 97% target to achieve. Whilst our attendance has improved and the number of children below 90% attendance has decreased, there is still work to be done. Our teachers are providing an excellent education in every classroom, everyday - every day missed is a missed learning opportunity! Attendance has been off to a flying start with a wonderful **97.4% for the week**. Keep-up the great work and ensure that children are not missing out on learning opportunities.

Next week we have our Meet the Teacher Meetings. More information can be found on page 5. Please do try to attend this meeting as it is the perfect opportunity to find out about what your child will be learning and what is expected of them in their new classes. On Thursday we have a team from the Liverpool Heart and Chest hospital visiting school to carry out health checks on parents and carers. I also look forward to seeing lots of you on Friday 23rd September at 9am for our first Coffee Morning of the year.

Have a lovely weekend

Love Mrs Briers x



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance

Whole School	98.1%
Reception	98.6%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	97.3%
Year 3	96.8%
Year 4	98.6%
Year 5	98.0%
Year 6	97.8%



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME



162

pupils

with perfect attendance this week.

Can we beat this next week?



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:

97.8%

Weekly Headteacher's Award

Winners

Journey Driver Focus:

Joyful Readers

YEAR 1	Bobby Fairhurst
YEAR 2	Joseph Webb
YEAR 3	David Varga
YEAR 4	Olive-Christina Adabie
YEAR 5	Logan Chick
YEAR 6	Lilly-Mae McKenzie

Reading at St James

“Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. Infact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.” Pearson 2021)

At St James, we place high importance on daily reading. Each child is provided with a reading record and books to take home. It might seem like everything has gone digital, but books still play a very important part in school life. As well as giving your child a head start, developing a love of reading can be really enjoyable.

Make books and stories part of everyday life:

- Build a reading story into a routine - a story at bedtime.
- Stick your feet up and let your child see you reading a book.
- Go to the library with your child.
- Read in fun places.
- Give books as birthday presents - this will show you value them.
- Keep books in your bag or the car.



Liverpool Healthy Families Heart and Lung Programme

with

Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital



Come and get your free

Health Check

**on Thursday 21st September
between 10am and 4.00pm.**

Drop in session

**in school during the day and under the shelter
on the playground at the end of the school day**

(adults only- parents / carers and staff)



Whole School events Autumn 1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
5/9/23	School Re-opens for Autumn 1
13/9/23	Y4 Clarinet Lessons Start
15/9/23	Democracy Day
18/9/23	Y1, Y3, Y5 Meet the Teacher 3.30pm
19/9/23	Y2, Y4, Y6 Meet the Teacher 3.30pm
21/9/23	Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital Health Day
21/9/23	Y6 DWP - Employability Skills Workshop
22/9/23	Behaviour and St James' Way Coffee Morning 9.00am
26/9/23	European Day of Languages 2023
26/9/23	Y6 Football Competition
26/9/23	Reception Welcome Assembly 9.30am
02/10/23	Y5 Football Competition
4/10/23	Joe Heyes Assembly
5/10/23	Harvest Prayer Space Event
5/10/23	Y4 Harvest Eucharist 2.15pm (St James' Church)
10/10/23	World Homeless Day
13/10/23	Reading Coffee Morning 9.00am
16/10/23	Black History Focus Week
17/10/23	Reception - Y6 Flu Vaccinations
19/10/23	Y4 Football Competition
20/10/23	Y6 Class Assembly
20/10/23	School Closes

MEET THE TEACHER

Please join us to meet your child's new class teacher and to find out more about the year ahead.

- Monday 18th September—
years 1, 3 and 5
- Tuesday 19th September—
years 2, 4 and 6.

Please enter school via the main entrance for safeguarding purposes.

Sessions start at 3:30pm.

Creche facility available in the hall so that parents only can attend sessions.

Please only use if needed.

CLUBS



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

- **Monday**-Arts and Crafts for Year 1 and Year 2 with Miss Hunter
- **Monday**-Multi-skills for Year 4 and Year 5 with our Sports Coach Miss Dodson
- **Thursday**-Football for Year 5 and Year 6 with Mr Moon.

DEMOCRACY DAY



All classes from Y1 -Y6 have discussed the importance of our British Values 'Democracy' and 'Individual Liberty' today. Head Girl and Head Boy speeches were written and given in front of the whole school and then voting began for their preferred candidate. Children in years 2-6 who wanted to represent their class as a Vision Ambassador gave speeches to their class and then voting began again. Each child from Years 1-6 also voted for which Journey Leader Team they would like to join. Teams will meet half termly and children will see their ideas and thoughts being lived out around school! All results will be announced on Monday.



Attendance

Just before the holiday, all schools in England received a message from the Secretary of State for Education, outlining the concerns linked to attendance nationwide. Whilst our attendance has improved and the number of children below 90% attendance has decreased, there is still work to be done.

Parents are required under the Education Act (1996) to ensure children attend school regularly. The headteacher of a school has a discretionary power to authorise absence only in exceptional circumstances. A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance.

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. It is important that the P.E kit is seen as an extension of our school uniform, therefore our high standards should be kept. P.E kits should only be worn on specified P.E days, which will change each half-term. Please note that children should not wear any form of jewellery (only stud earrings are allowed and should not be worn on PE days) and hairstyles and accessories must conform with school policy. No 'extremes' of hairstyles are allowed.

School Bags and Home School Diaries

We ask that your child only bring the schoolbook bag to school each day. Due to space restrictions in our classrooms, no large rucksacks will be permitted in school. Please ensure that your child also packs their Home/School Diary in their bag each day. These are an essential form of communication and also key to our approach to learning and independent study.

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.

Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Advice for parents at the start of the school year

It is common for children to feel nervous about going back to school after summer holidays. To help calm their nerves and make sure they're prepared for the school term make sure:

- Bedtimes are adjusted to get back into a healthy routine
- Children are not taking any devices like mobile phones or tablets to bed with them that will stop them from sleeping
- They eat breakfast every morning.

Talk to your children about their day at school. It is important that they can talk to you if they are worried about anything.



Online Safety

Tip of the Week

Setting Boundaries around Gaming

Almost half (46%) of 8- to 11-year-olds in the UK play online video games with people that they don't necessarily know. While 55% of parents of young gamers worry that their child might be pressured into making expensive in-game purchases.

Most children find gaming immensely enjoyable, but its volume of potential risks – and capacity to influence behaviour – often make it problematic for parents. See the attached #WakeUpWednesday guide that suggests some sensible ground rules for promoting safer, healthier gaming habits.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

18
CENSORED

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 16 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



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@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

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Open Days

Reception 2024

St James CE Primary School



**Are you a parent or a carer with children starting school in
September 2024 and beyond?**

If so, come and see St James Church of England Primary School in Haydock, St Helens. We are a distinctly Christian one form entry school offering an excellent curriculum, a nurturing approach and wide ranging activities and opportunities for all of our children. We were judged to be **'GOOD'** in 2023 by Ofsted.

You will have the chance to see the school and the classrooms in action, and speak to the children and staff. Please telephone the school office on 01744 678545 or email stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk

Dates

Tuesday 14th November— 10am

**Thursday 16th November—
4:30pm**

