





NEWSLETTER


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Learn, Laugh 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 7 20th October 2023

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,



I cannot believe that we are at the end of the first half term already and what a half term it has been!

We have enjoyed church services, class assemblies, European Day of Languages, Black History Month, Democracy Day, Sporting Events and so, so much more!

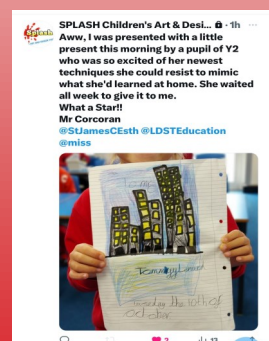
We have so much to look forward next half term too starting off with Anti Bullying Week celebrations and ending of course (I hope it's not too early to mention this word!!) with our Christmas Events!

I would like to thank you as always for your support this half term - I do class myself very lucky to lead such a great school with such amazingly supportive parents.

I wish you a restful half term break - I hope the rain makes way for some crisp, sunny Autumnal days where we can all enjoy some family walks and much needed time in nature.

See you on Monday 6th November,

Mrs Young



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	93.5%
Reception	92.9%
Year 1	99.1%
Year 2	93.7%
Year 3	91.8%
Year 4	90.3%
Year 5	95.0%
Year 6	92.9%




144


pupils
with perfect attendance this week.

Can we beat this next week?



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:

96.2%

Attendance Steps to Success:



LDST
Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust

- ★ Ring the school office as soon as possible to explain any absence.
- ★ Be on time! Remember that gates close at 8:50am. Any absence after 9:20am is unauthorised.
- ★ Provide evidence for any medical appointments.
- ★ Speak to a member of the attendance team if you need support with your child's attendance - we are here to help!
- ★ Read any information and letters (including the newsletter) carefully.



Well done to all of those children who attended school everyday on time for the last ten days of this half term! Your names all went into the prize draw for the family ticket to Martin Mere. We are pleased to announce that the winner was **Shaun Johnson**

The winner of the half termly class challenge is **Year 1**. They will enjoy a popcorn and movie afternoon during the first week back after half term. Well done!

Next half term, as an extra incentive, the class with the best attendance each week get an extra break time the following Monday.

AWARD WINNERS

Journey Driver Focus:

Joyful Readers



RECEPTIONS	Poppy Siddall
YEAR 1	Noah Welsby
YEAR 2	Freddie O'Brien
YEAR 3	Alex Richardson
YEAR 4	Donnie Bridge
YEAR 5	Amelia Pickering
YEAR 6	Taylen Baker-Wilson

Journey Driver Focus:

Thankfulness

Each half term, one child from each class is nominated by their class teacher for 'living out' our value of the half term. The value for this half term is 'Thankfulness'

RECEPTION	Bethel Ejimofor
YEAR 1	Harry Major
YEAR 2	George Twist
YEAR 3	Mason Cliffe
YEAR 4	Lily Hind
YEAR 5	
YEAR 6	Thomas Abbott



5 ways for families to have fun reading at home

1

Be curious



Asking questions and talking about the book is a great way to form connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and what it suggests the book could be about. Then share ideas about what you've been reading. You could talk about the characters, something that has surprised you, what something reminds you of or how it made you feel.

You might ask questions like, "how did it make you feel when....", "why do you think this happened?", or "what do you think will happen next?" then give children plenty of time to think and respond.

Make sure you give your child the chance to ask questions too. Children, (and adults!), often enjoy reading the same book again and again – this provides an important opportunity for children to get to know the story well, develop confidence and increase comprehension and vocabulary.

2

Be playful



Start by making a calm and comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently or together. You might be reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time or getting your children to read together. This can be relaxing and fun for you all and just a few minutes each day can have a big impact on children of all ages. Be guided by your child and when you feel is the best time to read together – what matters most is that they enjoy it.

Why not try acting out your favourite parts of the story together, using different voices and dramatic actions. Have fun letting go!

Helping your child to see reading as play time rather than work time is one of the most powerful ways to help your child engage in books and become a lifelong reader.

3

Be creative



Bring reading to life by getting involved in some crafty activities related to the book. It provides the perfect opportunity to talk about the story you've been reading too.

Why not try drawing some of the characters or creating a picture to show a different setting. You could then use these to retell the story or make up your own version.

4

Be imaginative



Help engage your child in a way that suits them. This could mean creating treasure hunts that include finding similar objects that were in the book you shared, making a recipe that you read together or play a game where you pretend to be the characters in the book. Try using different voices, sound effects or actions as you read. If that all sounds too much, how about making a book tent with a blanket and some pegs – it could be a cave, a den or a castle depending on the story you are sharing.

Gift books as presents. Encourage book swaps between friends and family and encourage your child to always carry a book with them, so they are never bored! on the bus, while waiting for a sibling to do an activity, or when they need a bit of quiet in a busy household.

5

Be ready to read anywhere, anytime!

Reading isn't limited to storybooks! We are immersed in a world of print, which can be shared anywhere and at any time. Read yourself and help your child to join in, this could be anything, including...**magazines, postcards, comic books, travel brochures, sports programmes, toy boxes, or labels on clothing and food.** Local libraries are perfect for finding a rich and diverse mix of story and factual texts, as well as poetry and audiobooks.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

PE Days Autumn 2

Monday Y2, Y3 and Y4

Tuesday Y4

Wednesday YR, Y1 and Y6
(Swimming),

Thursday Y1 and Y5

Friday Y2, Y5 and Y6

Remember:

- Full PE kit on these days.
- Black tracksuit/shorts and plain white T.Shirt (logo optional)
- NO SLOGAN/BRANDED T SHIRTS OR BRIGHT COLOURS.

THIS IS PART OF SCHOOL UNIFORM AND EXPECTATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED.

SWIMMING

Y6 will have Swimming Lessons this half term. Their lessons will be on Wednesday afternoons. Letters have been sent out.

CLUBS



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

Booking is still available on the school app

- **Tuesday**-Arts and Crafts for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 with Miss Hunter
- **Wednesday**-Lego Club for Y3 and Y4 with Mrs Boardman
- **Thursday**-FAB Club for Year 1 and Year 2 with Miss Barratt
- **Thursday**-Art Club for Year 5 and Year 6 with Mrs Atherton

Please note that there is an increase in the price of our clubs.



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



Dear Parents/Carers,

WOOHOO... MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER IS ODD SOCKS DAY!



WHAT IS ODD SOCKS DAY?

Odd Socks Day is part of Anti-Bullying Week! To celebrate that we are all unique, we ask that children wear odd socks to school on Monday 13th November. Last year over 13,000 schools took part in Odd Socks Day. Andy Day (CBeebies/CBBC) and his band Andy and the Odd Socks are supporting the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help bring Odd Socks Day to life again this year. Have a listen to the brilliant song they have recorded especially for Anti-Bullying Week, Make a Noise.

WHY IS ODD SOCKS DAY IMPORTANT?

The day sends an important message to pupils that they should be allowed to be themselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.



WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

It's so easy ☺ Here's what you do:

- 1. Make sure your child wears odd socks to school**
- 2. Donate £1 to help the Anti-Bullying Alliance carry on important work**
- 3. If you want to, you can share a photo online using #OddSocksDay #AntiBullyingWeek and tag @abaonline and @AndyOddSock on Twitter. Or @antibullyingalliance and @andyandtheoddssocks on Instagram.**

Monday
13TH
November

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Every penny goes to the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help continue all their work. We can't wait to see all the Odd Socks on Monday 13th November ...

If you have any questions please ask:



ORGANISER



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK



PARTNER

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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 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.

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

If your child turns 11 between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024, he or she will transfer to secondary school in September 2024. From Wednesday 27th September the website www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions is open for parents who wish to apply online. You will be notified on 1 March 2024 confirming your child's school place.

The closing date for you to submit your application is 31 October 2023.

Clarify any issues you are not sure about with staff in the school admissions team on 01744 671030 or email schooladmissions@sthelens.gov.uk.



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



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Mental Health

This week's safeguarding focus is mental health. Mental health is about our moods, feelings and emotions. Recognising the signs that a child may be struggling with their mental health can be really hard and it is important that we talk about mental health with our children. Below are some tips to support you with these conversations:

- Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life
- Give it your full attention - be an active listener
- Take it seriously and explore the feelings together
- Offer empathy rather than solutions

For more information see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents>



Online Safety

Tip of the Week

For 20 years, FIFA dominated the football video gaming arena, attracting legions of devoted fans and scooping up accolades like a digital Real Madrid. After parting ways with the sport's governing body, however, renowned developers Electronic Arts (EA) have now launched their own individual bid for the title. It's called EA Sports FC 24, and it's effectively FIFA 2.0.

Familiar action delivered by the same team, of course, points to a comparable level of popularity – especially among those young gamers raised on the FIFA franchise. This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide highlights, however, EA Sports FC 24 also carries many similar risks to its predecessor, including addictive gameplay, abusive voice chats and expensive in-game purchases.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 24

After two decades of holding the official FIFA licence, EA Sports' phenomenally successful football video game series has embarked on a solo run at goal. This season's iteration marks the debut appearance of a new name and branding, but don't let those fool you – EA Sports FC 24 is still a very similar proposition to last year's FIFA 23. Popular features such as Ultimate Team remain a big focus, meaning that potentially costly in-game spending is still among the line-up of risks that parents and carers should be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

RECURRING RELEASES

EA Sports FC 24 effectively picks up the FIFA template – meaning that after a year, we can expect EA Sports FC 25 to hit the shelves. Updates between versions of the FIFA franchise tended to be minor, but young fans of the game are almost certain to want the new edition in around 12 months' time, so they can keep playing with updated team kits, players and squad lists.

OFFENSIVE VOICE CHAT

FIFA 23 introduced cross-platform play, and EA Sports FC 24 goes a step further with Clubs, Seasons and Ultimate Team cooperative modes across PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X and S, and PC. That's exciting news for youngsters who love to play with friends online – but connecting a much wider audience does potentially open lines of communication between children and far older online gamers.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In FIFA, Ultimate Team proved to be a profitable innovation for developers Electronic Arts (EA), and is now found in many of their other titles. Players spend in-game currency to recruit better footballers for their team, but this process can take a frustratingly long time – so young fans may be tempted to skip the grind by paying real-world cash to unlock that coveted star midfielder.

ULTIMATE TEAM SCAMMERS

Since the mode was introduced, Ultimate Team has been a target of scammers who attempt to coax players into buying or selling outside the terms of service from EA and console manufacturers. This shady practice can lead to accounts being banned and in-game items being lost. In some cases, young gamers have also been hoodwinked into handing over their payment details to the fraudsters.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

Just like real-life football, EA Sports FC 24 offers a thrilling, dynamic blend of tactical awareness and skill that fans find absolutely engrossing. Among younger players in particular, this could lead to identifiers of a gaming disorder as they plead for "just one more game" before bedtime or spend practically all weekend playing more matches to earn additional Ultimate Team packs.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONTROL SPENDING

If your child enjoys Ultimate Team mode, check that your payment details aren't linked to their account. Bundles of FC Points (the game's currency) start at just £1, so multiple payments can easily slip under the radar. You could consider setting your child an in-game allowance, perhaps through a prepaid card, which will help them to realise that online spending has a real-world effect.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS

EA does contact players via email (although not to ask for usernames or passwords, so watch out for that scam tactic), but never through the game itself – so be wary of incoming messages and consider blocking and reporting suspected spam. Your child should avoid buying coins (the in-game currency) from external sites; it could end with them losing their money and being banned from the game.

AVOID EXTRA TIME

Many parents of young football-oriented gamers worry about their child playing too much EA Sports FC. There's now also a companion mobile app, which can also often provide another indicator that a child is struggling to disengage from the game. You could initiate discussions around set hours of play – or take stronger action by utilising the parental controls on their console or phone.

SHOW TOXIC CHAT THE RED CARD

Playing EA Sports FC 24 with friends is highly enjoyable, but if competitive types start to turn toxic online, it can ruin everyone's fun. You could occasionally listen in on the voice chat of your child's game for any warning signs that things may be about to boil over. This goes double when playing online with strangers: voice contact with unknown players can be turned off in the game's settings.

CELEBRATE THE VARIETY

Ultimate Team may be the game's 'star player', but there's plenty more to do in EA Sports FC 24 – including modes which allow access to all of football's big names without needing to spend money on packs to unlock them. This new version of the game includes even more women's teams, marking another step forward in representation: an important subject to discuss and celebrate with children.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site CGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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Source: <https://www.windowcentral.com/youngster-spends-over-£1000-fifa-cbox-highlighting-predatory-game-design-co/> <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/obssive-behaviours-gaming-disorder> <https://www.eurogamer.net/18-european-countries-call-for-better-regulation-of-foot-boxes-following-new-report>

@natonlinesafety

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NSPCC 'Learning'

Dear Parent/Carer

NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* Programme** this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for our children in Y5 and Y6 next week. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Additional NSPCC resources for families to help keep children safe

The NSPCC have shared some important information below on wider NSPCC resources and support to help keep children safe. |

Parent/Carer support

Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers.

www.nspcc.org.uk/parents

Activities to extend learning at home

Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe.

www.nspcc.org.uk/activities

Online Safety Hub

For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more.

www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

Childline – under 12's

Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content.

www.childline.org.uk/buddy (5-7)

www.childline.org.uk/kids (7-11)

Talk PANTS with your children

Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages.

Download the free resources at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.

I hope you find this information about the NSPCC and the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme helpful. Please do contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Briers

Deputy Headteacher/DSL



Letter to parents and guardians from Merseyside Police re. Halloween and Bonfire Night

We are writing to all parents and guardians to ask for your help over the upcoming Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

We want everyone to have fun and we'll be working hard to keep you safe, but we need your help:

Know where your children are

- Encourage kids to go to local events that are being organised, or try a spooky film together
- If your children are going out (particularly on the 30th and 31st of October), make sure you know where they're going. If possible, drop them off and pick them up
- Don't let your children hang around the street
- If they're going somewhere local – walk there with them
- Have an agreed time when they need to be home
- Don't buy fireworks or eggs and flour for them, and don't let them take it out of the house

Know the risks

- Throwing things at cars, buses, shops and houses can hurt people – drivers might swerve if they get distracted and cause a crash, or someone might get hurt by broken glass (and scratched paintwork can be very expensive to fix)
- Getting into trouble with the police can lead to a criminal record, which means not being able to go on holiday to countries like the USA, and not being able to do certain jobs
- Messing around with fireworks is dangerous – some burn as hot as 1,200 degrees - hot enough to melt glass and cause serious or fatal injuries

Know the law

If a young person under the age of 16 commits any of the offences below, the parent/guardian will have to pay the fine.

- A person under the age of 16 can be arrested and fined if found with an unlit firework
- A person under the age of 16 can also be arrested and fined if they throw or light a firework or make a bonfire
- A person under the age of 16 can be arrested and fined for throwing things like eggs, flour, paint or other objects at people, vehicles or property

Thank you for your help and support. By working together, we can keep your children safe this Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Merseyside Police

free digital arts family day

A FREE Family Arts Day for families in St Helens.

date

Saturday
21/10/2023

time

10:00 am -
12:30 pm

location

St Helens Library,
WA10 1BX



sign up now:

INFO@DIGITALARTSBOX.ORG

0151 433 2223

WWW.DIGITALARTSBOX.ORG

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ST HELENS
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ST HELENS





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