

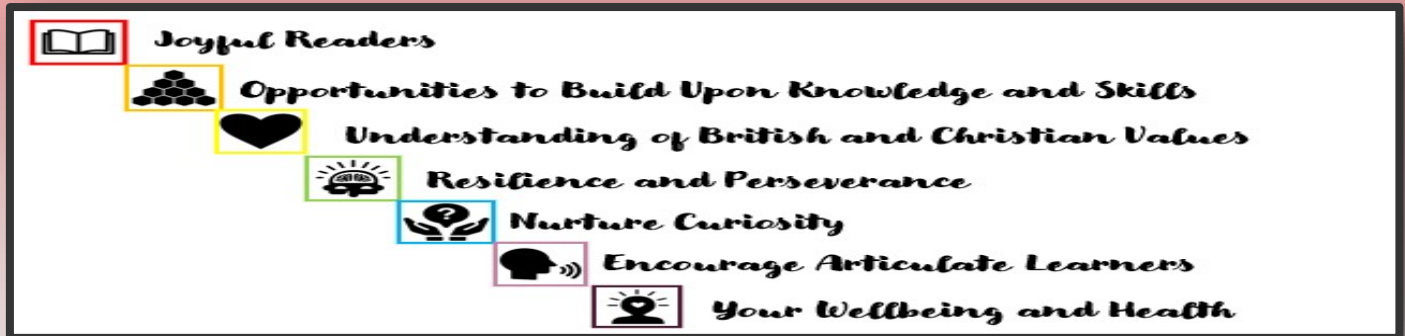


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

Learn, Laugh and Live with the Love of God



2023-2024 Issue Number 8 10th November 2023

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful start to the half term and we are all excited about the many special events coming up over the next 6 weeks.



We are currently in the process of completing our first 'cookery' DT units across school and it's been great to see children enjoying the sessions and developing their skills.

Today we held a remembrance service in school - this was a poignant and reflective service and I'm always so proud of how the children conduct themselves at these events.

Thank you for your support in purchasing poppies and other items for the Royal British Legion - we will continue selling items next week and will then send money raised to the charity themselves.

Next week we will be recognising Anti Bullying Week and this will all start on Monday with 'Odd Sock Day' - this is always such an important week where we take time to remember the negative impact bullying can cause, different types of bullying and the importance of celebrating differences and being kind!

I am looking forward to Year 3's class assembly next week and hope you can join us for this. Our class assemblies are always such a fantastic showcase of learning and progress across curriculum subjects!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Young

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance

Whole School	96.0%
Reception	94.3%
Year 1	95.9%
Year 2	98.3%
Year 3	99.1%
Year 4	91.7%
Year 5	98.5%
Year 6	95.7%



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME



154

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:

96.4%

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.



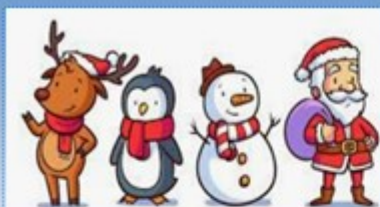
Provide evidence for any medical appointments.



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.



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!

AWARD WINNERS

Journey Driver Focus:

Opportunity to Build New Knowledge and Skills

RECEPTION	Marcus Dixon
YEAR 1	Elliot Seddon
YEAR 2	Daniel Udeh
YEAR 3	Elliot Lee
YEAR 4	Joshua Nelson
YEAR 5	Elli-Mai Long
YEAR 6	Ben Jackson

St Helens Music Service

If your child has just started learning a musical instrument, come and join our FREE Wider Opportunities Band. This has started up again this week at St Helens Town Hall from 4-5pm. The group is aimed at students who play any instrument and have just started out on their musical journey. The ensemble will run on Wednesdays during in term time and have the opportunity to perform in concerts and events across the year.

To join simply complete the consent form using the link below -

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/musicconsent>

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

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

CLUBS

We are running the following after
school clubs this 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

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



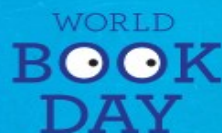
12th November 2023
**REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY**
Honouring those who
have served. (Actual day
11th November)



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



Schools Catering Service



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.



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

Physical Abuse

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 categorises four main types of abuse: these are physical, emotional, sexual and neglect.

Physical abuse is when someone hurts or harms child or young person on purpose. It can include hitting, shaking, throwing. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent fabricates or induces symptoms of illness in a child. Chastisement can also be classed as physical abuse when excessive force is used. Physical abuse can have long term effects on physical and mental health.

For more information see:

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



Online Safety

Tip of the Week

Micro Transactions

Seventy-six billion dollars . That's the value some experts have assigned to this year's global online microtransaction market – those additional in-app and in-game purchases which offer young players a temptingly quick way to enhance their digital experience for real-world money.

With concerns over the impact of allowing these paid-for upgrades to be available to children, some countries have already either banned microtransactions or subjected them to stringent legislation. This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** guide outlines the most significant risks.



UPCOMING PTFA EVENTS!

Friday 20th October –Own clothes day in exchange for a bottle (alcohol permitted as will be taken from children and stored away for the Christmas Fair!) or an unwanted gift e.g., toiletry set, candle, household decoration* ***£1 donations accepted instead of items listed above***

Tuesday 14th November 2:45pm – Meet and greet for all new PTA members with Mrs Boardman. Everyone welcome!

Friday 24th November – Own clothes day in exchange for a Selection Box.

Thursday 7th December - PTFA Christmas Bingo. 5pm-7pm.

Further information to follow.

Tuesday 19th December 3:30pm start – St James



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of TechTablet The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



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

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 31st 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 so we can send you a TEAMS link to the sessions

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