

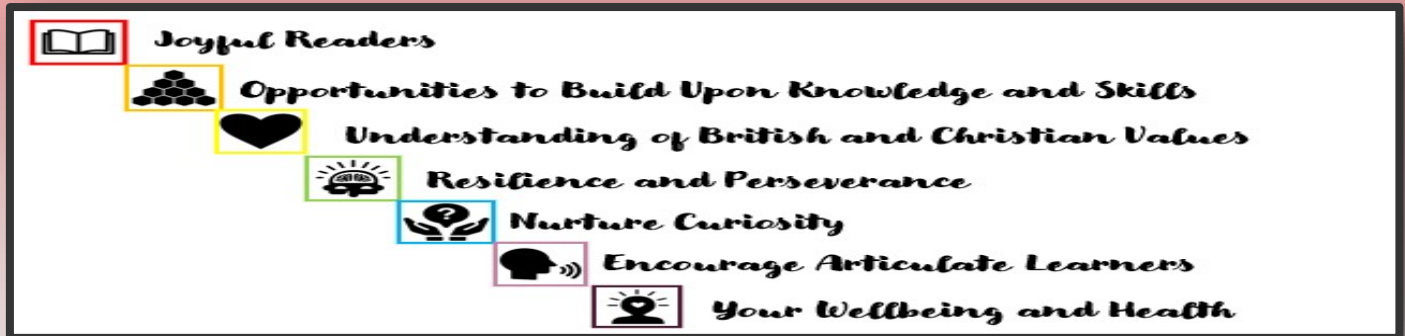


# NEWSLETTER

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 10 24th November 2023

## OUR VALUE THIS HALF TERM IS: TRUST

### A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy week this week and we are ready for our whole school assessment week next week that's for sure!

I wanted this week to clarify senior leadership roles and responsibilities across school with you.



I am school's Executive Headteacher - this means my role is slightly different than a headteacher. Firstly, I am based at St James 50% of the time as the other time I am at Parish in the Town Centre. I am the strategic lead for both schools, meaning that all key decisions which impact how we live as a school community, advancements in our educational offer and overall management of the school sits with me. Although, I may not physically be in school every day, I speak to leaders at St James EVERY DAY and monitor all events occurring in school across the day through our record system called CPOMS.

Mrs Briers is one of our Deputy Headteachers. She is based 100% of the time at St James and so is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school. She also leads on behaviour, safeguarding, attendance and early reading.

Mr Hardy is Partnership Deputy Headteacher, meaning that like me, he spends some of his week at St James and some of the week at Parish. Mr Hardy leads on curriculum, assessment and teaching and learning.

Mrs Conant is our Inclusion Leader and as such makes sure that school is a place where everybody is welcome, included and able to flourish! She leads on Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium, English as an Additional Language and all other inclusive items.

Mrs Winstanley is our School Business Manager and is responsible for the financial management of school, HR related issues and all aspects of health and safety.

At St James, we have a 'distributed leadership' approach meaning that should you have a concern or issue, any member of the school's senior leadership team can support.

As Executive Headteacher, I may not always be on site when issues arise but parents can always book to meet with me and, as I have said, I ALWAYS am involved in decision making at every level and am ALWAYS aware each and every day of all issues occurring across school. As such, should you meet with a member of the senior leadership team, they will always share my thoughts and decisions with you and I will always be informed.

I hope this is useful for you!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Young



# School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## Attendance

Whole School	93.9%
Reception	90.4%
Year 1	90.5%
Year 2	98.3%
Year 3	96.8%
Year 4	91.0%
Year 5	98.5%
Year 6	92.9%



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



**144**



**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:**

**95.9 %**

## 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	Dominion Udeh
YEAR 1	Sienna Deluce
YEAR 2	Charlie Siddall
YEAR 3	Axel Richardson
YEAR 4	Radin Ekanayke
YEAR 5	William Gartside
YEAR 6	Leo Sarsfield

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

### 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



# 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—Oopsie Daisy Angel  
YR, Y1 and Y2

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

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 more! 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 anyone playing Bingo,
- Children Film Night 50p per child
- Tickets are available to buy from the office (cash). Limited Numbers
- 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



## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

### Early Help

This week our safeguarding focus is early help. Early help and early intervention are forms of support aimed at improving outcomes for children or preventing escalating need or risk. Early help can be given to families and children from a range of external agencies that can include school. Research suggests that early help and intervention can: protect children from harm; reduce the need for a referral to child protection services; improve children's long-term outcomes; improve children's home and family life; support children to develop strengths and skills to prepare them for adult life. If you would like more information, please contact us at school.



## Online Safety -Tip of the Week

### Black Friday and Cyber Monday

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have ballooned in popularity during the past few years, as prices on almost everything are slashed for a few precious days. With consumers in the UK alone spending a staggering £9.4 billion over last year's discounted digital shopping weekend, it can often become a frenetic rush to grab tech, games and other products at knock-down prices.

Such radical reductions are especially welcome at this time of year – but Black Friday and Cyber Monday are also peak season for scammers, who bet on a sense of urgency blinding shoppers to the red flags in their 'offers'. This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** guide highlights some common warning signs to help you bag the goods without being left out of pocket.



## Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

# BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

### ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

### TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

### REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

### BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

### CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

### MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

### SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

### DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

### RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

### TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

### 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 tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday