



NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesprimary.co.uk

Twitter:

Learn, Love 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 13 Friday 15th December 2023

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a festive week we have had this week!



The children have been busy making Christmas Crafts in readiness to sell at next week's Christmas Fair and we have been enjoying the lovely decorations and lights strewn across school.

Our EYFS and KS1 children treated us to 3 AMAZING performances of 'Born in a Barn' yesterday and today - what a show! They sang their little hearts out and projected their voices with such confidence and joy. I am always so proud of the children here at school but I must admit, I was a little extra proud this week, watching them all shine!

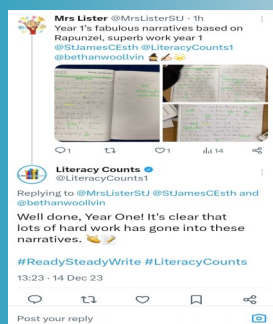
Next week we have more lovely things to look forward to such as our Christmas Dinner day and of course our Christmas Party Day.

In addition to the Christmas Festivities, I have also had the chance to go into every class across school and watch English lessons this week. Our new English Scheme, 'Ready, Steady, Write', is being enjoyed by all children and the progress they are making as future authors and poets is phenomenal. Our Y1 class's writing based on the book 'Rapunzel' has even been featured on the Scheme's Twitter/X page as an example of amazing outcomes!

Have a wonderful weekend this weekend - maybe like me you will be doing lots of last-minute Christmas shopping and card writing!

Best Wishes

Mrs Young





AWARD WINNERS

Journey Driver Focus:

Opportunity to Build New Knowledge and Skills

RECEPTION	Aria Hill-Price
YEAR 1	Vincent Piorkowski
YEAR 2	Jax Lever
YEAR 3	Poppy comiskey
YEAR 4	Oscar Newton
YEAR 5	Matthew Murphy
YEAR 6	Jessica Kay

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance

Whole School	94.4%
Reception	94.4%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	95.7%
Year 3	95.0%
Year 4	92.1%
Year 5	93.2%
Year 6	93.9%



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:

95.5%



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME



132

pupils

with perfect attendance this week.

Can we beat this next week?





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!

Attendance Steps to Success:



- ★ 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.



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 .

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.



Clubs

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

Booking is available on the school app

- **Monday**-Sports for Y3 and Y4 with the Sports Coach
- **Tuesday**-FAB Club for KS2 with Miss Barratt
- **Thursday**-Board Games Club for Y1 and Y2 with Miss Hunter
- **Thursday**-Computing Club for Y1 and Y2 with Miss McDonald
- **Friday**-Book Club for Y5 and Y6 with Mrs Briers

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



PE Days Spring 1

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

Monday	Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5
Tuesday	Year 3 and Year 6
Wednesday	Reception, Year 1 and Year 6
Thursday	Year 2 and Year 5
Friday	Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

Reading to your Child

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, e.g. a story at bedtime.
- Stick your feet up and let your child see your reading a book.
- Go to the library so your child can choose some books to borrow for free.
- Read in fun places, e.g. a den made from blankets.
- Give books as birthday presents - this will show you value them.
- Keep books in your bag or the car.

Reading Expectations

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. In fact, 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 Home School Diary and books to take home. We ask that the reading records are signed daily and brought into school where they will be checked and signed by an adult. We expect children to read at home at least 4 times a week.



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—Opsie 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 games! Children are invited to wear their party clothes on this day.



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

Kindness Calendar

As we enter the festive period of advent, it is important to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world during Advent. Attached is our annual 'Kindness Calendar' with a variety of different daily kindness activity that your child can choose to complete.

The calendar explains what the activity is and why it has been chosen with all of the tasks free to complete. Once completed, please share your acts of compassion on Twitter (@StJamesCE) using #StJamescompassion or bring completed activities into school for display.

Across the month, certificates will be sent home to celebrate those children who complete a range of kindness activities during that week. I cannot wait to see the range of activities that children can complete alongside the kindness and compassion that is spread throughout the St James School Community.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



Our Kindness Calendar for Advent:

"Learn, laugh and live with the Love of God."



	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>
Hope 				1 With an adult, call/video call a friend or a relative to have a chat. Make them smile and give someone hope in this festive period.	2 Safely with an adult, find a source of light (such as a torch). Together say/write a prayer for "Who needs light in their darkness?"	3 With an adult, research 'Teardrops' (a local St Helens charity). Produce a poster all about how they give people hope.	4 Make a small donation to our foodbank collection in school for Teardrops. Give real hope to someone this Christmas.
Peace 	5 Design a Christmas decoration that symbolises 'peace' and add this to your Christmas tree.	6 Have a day without using any digital devices. Have a peaceful day talking to your family.	7 Listen to a piece of your favourite music. Stop, reflect and think about how this makes you feel.	8 Do something to help look after our beautiful planet Earth— recycling is a great example.	9 Explore the Christian value of 'Peace' means to you. Write an acrostic of what 'peace' means.	10 Research Christmas traditions in different countries – having an interest in the lives of others brings peace.	11 Write things that bring you peace within a 'dove' and hang it in your window at home as a Christian symbol of peace.
Joy 	12 Our greatest gift can be to say thank you. What would you like to say thank you for? Write or explain this to a member of your family.	13 Write a joke at home that you could bring into school and share with your class.	14 Leave a positive message for someone in school or at home to find. Spread some joy this Christmas!	15 Gospel means 'good news.' Share some good news in your life with your class.	16 Make a Christmas card for someone you care about to bring them some joy. Give them the card.	17 With an adult, go on a winter walk into God's world and appreciate the joy this brings. Take a photo of this.	18 Listen and sing Christmas Songs - spread festive joy! ☺
Love 	19 Pray for someone less fortunate than you this Christmas and show them your love.	20 Our School vision is 'Learn, laugh and live with the Love of God.' Design a poster to share our school vision.	21 Draw a heart and write the names of all the people who give you love in your life at this festive time.	22 As we finish school for the Christmas holidays, watch a Christmas film with someone you love.	23 With an adult, bake something festive. Spend time with the people you love.	24 Be kind to yourself – do something that you love on Christmas Eve.	25 Merry Christmas!

How many acts on our Kindness Calendar can you complete over the period of Advent? Remember to share them on Twitter (@StJamesCE) or bring them into school!

Safeguarding Tip of the Week

County Lines

This week our safeguarding focus is County Lines. County Lines is the police term for urban gangs exploiting young people into moving drugs from a hub, normally a large city, into other markets - suburban areas and market and coastal towns - using dedicated mobile phone lines or “deal lines”. Children as young as 12 years old have been exploited into carrying drugs for gangs. This type of exploitation can involve children being trafficked away from their home area, staying in accommodation and selling and manufacturing drugs. In some cases the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing. For more information visit the NSPCC website.



Online Safety -Tip of the Week

There's no disputing how integral the digital world has become to modern life. It can prove difficult for many young people to stay off smart phones, tablets and other devices for a single day – even one as special as Christmas. In fact, according to a survey by e-commerce platform Groupon, almost 80% of parents and carers would prefer a festive period that's free from technology.

Going online, of course, is useful for checking in with friends and relations who we can't be with, or for arranging celebrations – but if we allow gadgets to dominate our Yuletide break, that precious time could pass in a flash. This **#WakeUpWednesday**, has got suggestions for keeping a handle on device use over the holidays, so your family can be truly together this Christmas.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Get down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The
National
College



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Save the
Children



CONGRATULATIONS

St James CE Primary School

Thank you for pulling on your most Christmassy jumper and making it the best. Day. EVER!



£ 106.00



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Save the Children Fund is a charity registered in England & Wales (213093), Scotland (SC039570) and Northern Ireland (1999). Registered office: 19 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4A 3DF.

Coach Christmas
Jumper HQ,
Save the Children



CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL CAMP 2023



Book now to avoid disappointment.

For more information
on prices and availability contact:

Steven Pagendam on 07492091999
Or message me on
Facebook STEVEN PAGENDAM



I am DBS approved and an FA
qualified coach. I have over 13 years
experience in coaching both in the
UK and overseas.

Thatto Heath Crusaders
RLC

The Barn
Close Street
Thatto Heath
St Helens
WA9 5JA

Steve's Football Academy's
Christmas Football Camp is
a great way to build
confidence, keep fit, learn
new skills, make friends and
have fun.
Prizes for all children who
attend.

PACKED LUNCH AND
PLENTY OF DRINKS IS
ESSENTIAL.

TRAINERS AND SHIN
PADS ESSENTIAL (NO
BOOTS)

CLASS DATES AND TIMES:

Ages

5-8 Years

1030am - 130pm

28th December 2023

Ages

9-12 years

1030am - 130pm

29th December 2023

ST HELENS WELLBEING

Breathe Buddies Reindeer Workshop ★



Join us for our **Reindeer Workshop** to create some festive magic!

Children will enjoy a story, learn some Christmas themed breathing exercises and then make their very own flying reindeer!

All sessions are running from
**Central Link Children's Centre, Peter St, St Helens,
WA10 2EB**

Friday 8th December- 9:30am

Tuesday 12th December- 1:00pm

Friday 15th December- 10:30am

Monday 18th December- 10:30am

Tuesday 19th December- 1:00pm

No booking required, just turn up at start time advertised.

Sessions are open to all ages, but most suited to ages 2-5 years. All children must be supervised throughout the session by an adult.

For further information, please call 01744 371111 or visit our Facebook page @StHelensWellbeing

