

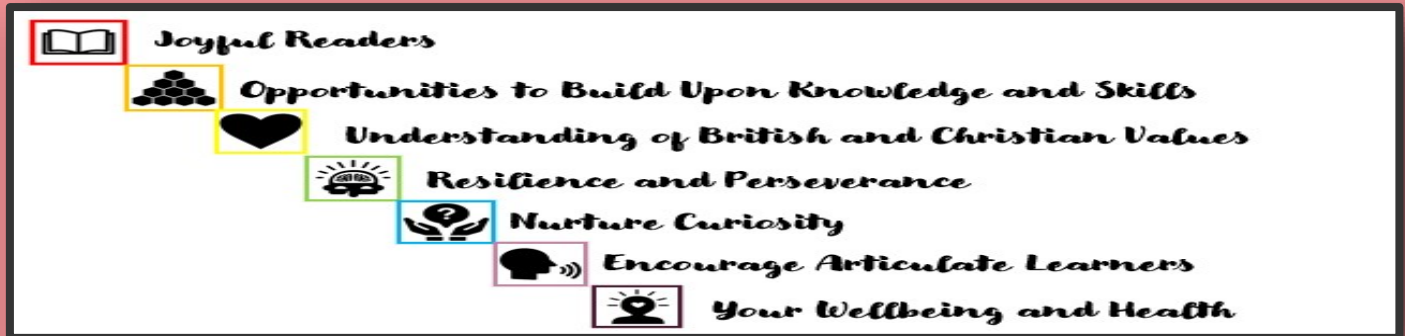


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

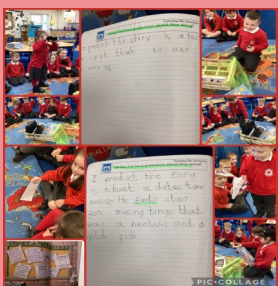
Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

Learn, Laugh and Live with the Love of God



2023-2024 Issue Number 15 Friday 12th January 2024

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



A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,



We've had a wonderful first week of the new year and Spring term here in school. The children have been busy starting their new topics and have begun learning lots of new and exciting things. As we move into 2024, I would like to share a prayer for the new year with you all.



We ended our first school week of 2024 with our Science Coffee Morning, thank you to everyone who came along to find out more about our science curriculum.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Young

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance

Whole School	95.3%
Reception	97.8%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	93.7%
Year 3	91.7%
Year 4	93.2%
Year 5	94.4%
Year 6	96.4%



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME



150

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:

95.31%



The Bumper Breakfast Attendance Bonanza!

To celebrate 'National Hot Breakfast Month' being in the month of February, we are launching an exciting competition!

Come to school each day from 29th January to 9th February (10 school days) and you will be in with a chance of winning a luxury breakfast hamper to enjoy with your family over the half term break.

Breakfast items will include all of the essentials to make a delicious hot breakfast plus lots of luxury added extra treats for you to enjoy! Drink items to wash down your yummy hot breakfasts will be included too!

Good Luck!



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.

AWARD WINNERS

Journey Driver Focus:

Understanding British

and

Christian Values

RECEPTION	Ellie Chafer
YEAR 1	Nate York
YEAR 2	George Twist
YEAR 3	Poppy Comiskey
YEAR 4	Olive-Christina Adabie
YEAR 5	Amelia Pickering
YEAR 6	Taylen Baker-Wilson

CONGRATULATIONS
TIME TO
Celebrate
WELL
DONE!



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

Uniform reminders

- School shoes should be black and not trainers.
- Jewellery is not to be worn. A watch and a small pair of studs is permitted. Studs must be removed or covered with a plaster during PE lessons.
- PE kit consists of a **plain black tracksuit** and **white t shirt** only.

Sports Clubs

If your child has a Sports After School Club, and it is not their PE day, please ensure that you send suitable kit for them to get changed into.



Clubs

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

- **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



Whole School events Spring 1

Date	Event
6/01/24	School re-opens for Spring Term 1
12/01/24	Science Coffee Morning 9.00am
22/01/24	No Seashells Afterschool Club
22/01/24	B-Tales Drama Workshop - Reception
26/01/24	Year 5 Class Assembly - 9.00am
29/01/24	Start of National Storytelling Week
02/02/24	Candlemass Eucharist - St James' Church 9.30am
05/02/24	Start of Whole School Safety Week 2024
06/02/24	Winter Warmer - Year 4
07/02/24	Winter Warmer - Year 4
09/02/24	School Closes for half term

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



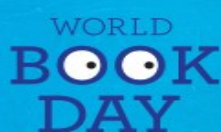
12th November 2023
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Honouring those who have served. (Actual day 11th November)



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



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.



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

What Children & Young People Need to Know about

FREE SPEECH VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The
National
College

NOS

National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Please refer to <https://www.equalitycollective.org.uk/app/2019/15/collective>
<https://www.equalitycollective.org.uk/app/2019/15/collective>



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.01.2023

Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Cyberbullying...

The best way to keep your child safe online is to take an active interest right from the start. They need your love and protection online as much as they do in the real world.

What your child is exposed to will depend on how they're using the Internet – social network users are more likely to experience cyberbullying, see sexual or violent images, or have contact with strangers.

Please watch the following video:

https://youtu.be/SO1j_qH5iOs



Online Safety -Tip of the Week

Free-Speech versus Hate-Speech

Contentious or provocative viewpoints are shared every second of the day online. That's not to say, however, that an opinion is less valid simply because it's initially unpopular:

just think about Galileo or Emmeline Pankhurst. The facility to have our beliefs questioned – and to challenge other people's in return – is often a catalyst for scientific and social progress.

With disturbing frequency, though, some individuals post damaging hate speech online under the guise of 'freedom of expression' – and unless young people can identify hate speech, there's a risk of them being influenced by such harmful content. This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide explores the crucial differences between free speech and hate speech.

Mental Health Support Team WELLBEING WEBINARS

Your MHST is running a series of webinars one Friday a month on a number of topics relating to mental health and wellbeing.

TOPICS AND DATES

- Worry Management - 19 January
- Parenting for Anxiety - 23 February
- Low Mood - 22 March
- Neurodiversity - 26 April
- Parent Skills for Behaviour - 17 May
- LGBTQ+ - 21 June
- Emotional Regulation - 19 July



WHEN
4pm to 4:45pm



WHERE
Zoom
(link will be emailed)



To register please email which webinar you want to attend to **events@merseycare.nhs.uk**

Webinars will be recorded.
No chat function will be available for safety purposes.



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