





# NEWSLETTER


Email: [www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk](http://www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk)


Twitter: @StJamesCEsth


*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 17 Friday 26th January 2024

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday we had a staff twilight focusing on Environment Enhancements and it was amazing to see so many new displays and easels being created around school. We are very proud of our beautiful school and our research driven approaches to the learning environment ensure that St James is a warm, calm and welcoming place to learn.



ar-  
ful

Great end to the week this week with Y5's magnificent class assembly based on their Anglo Saxons learning. It's always a great opportunity to see and hear first hand the immense amount of knowledge our children acquire in our topics but also how much they enjoy their learning too.

Next week is National Storytelling Week and Mrs Atherton, our English Champion, has been busy organising a week full of activities to promote our love of storytelling. Please keep an eye on Twitter/X as we share this with you across the week.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Young



# School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	91.6%
Reception	97.4%
Year 1	95.5%
Year 2	91.7%
Year 3	93.2%
Year 4	81.8%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	87.9%




**136**

  
**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:**

**95.0%**

## Attendance Update

We would like to thank all of our families who have attended school daily for the first three weeks of the Spring term. **Our attendance for the whole academic year so far is 95%**. We are close to achieving our 97% target, but this target can only be met if all children attend school regularly. Please don't let us down. Let's all work together and make a huge effort for the final two weeks of this half term. See the amazing competition below.

Where there is ongoing unauthorised absence and parents are not engaging with school regarding attendance, it is the school's duty to make a referral to the Local Authority Legal Intervention team and legal action, including penalty notices, may be considered.



## **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!





# AWARD WINNERS

## Journey Driver Focus:

Understanding British

and

Christian Values

RECEPTION	Frankie Brown
YEAR 1	Harley-Wade Rigby
YEAR 2	Noah Siry
YEAR 3	Isobel McCue
YEAR 4	David Udeh
YEAR 5	Lottie Stanley
YEAR 6	Chloe

CONGRATULATIONS  
TIME TO  
**Celebrate**  
WELL  
DONE!



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### PE Days Spring 1

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

<b>Monday</b>	Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 3 and Year 6
<b>Wednesday</b>	Reception, Year 1 and Year 6
<b>Thursday</b>	Year 2 and Year 5
<b>Friday</b>	Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

### Collection From School

If your child is being collected by someone different than usual or who members of staff have not met before, it is vital that the School Office or the Class Teacher is informed. If this is not done, we will have to call you to confirm the arrangements. This is to ensure that your child is released into your care safely.

Furthermore, we will only hand over pupils to older siblings provided they are 14 years old or above (however, if the professional judgement of the adult at school deems the older sibling not to be suitable, they will not hand the child over).

You can support us with this by making us aware of any changes to your child's collection arrangements in advance. Please be patient with staff who are just trying to keep children safe.



### 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
30/01/24	Year 6 Football Competition
02/02/24	Candlemass Eucharist - St James' Church 9.30am
05/02/24	Times Tables Rockstar/Numbots Day
05/02/24	Start of Whole School Safety Week 2024
06/02/24	Winter Warmer - Year 4
08/02/24	Year 5 Football Competition
07/02/24	Winter Warmer - Year 4
09/02/24	School Closes for half term

**Numbots and Times Table Rockstars Relaunch Day:**



To celebrate our relaunch, on Monday 5th February, your child is invited to:

Reception and Y1 – Attend school wearing an item of clothing with a number on this day. This can be accompanied by children wearing their own clothes with uniform not required.

Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 - Attend school for the day dressed as a 'Rockstar.' There is no expectation that a 'costume' has to be bought or made- this could be any bright or musical themed clothing although creativity as always is welcome!



In school, we will be celebrating 'National Storytelling Week' from **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** with lots of different activities in classes such as reading buddies and virtual author visits.

At home, we are asking the children to take a photo of them telling or reading a story to someone in an interesting location. It could be in your garden, local park or on a forest walk. You could also tell your story to your siblings, pet or maybe your favourite teddy. Use your imagination and creativity!

Everyone that participates will receive a certificate and we will then be using the photos for an exciting reading display in school.

**All entries must be handed to Mrs Atherton by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 9am.** They could be printed photos, sent on Twitter by tagging school @StJamesCEsth and #StJamesStoryteller or they could be emailed to the school office at [stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk](mailto:stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk). Please ensure names and year groups are on your entry.

Have fun!

## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

### Wellbeing

As we head into 2024 it is a fresh start for many and a time for optimism and hope. For some people however, it can be a more difficult time as all holiday festivities have ended and the nights can often seem long and dark. It is important to look out for those around you and offer help if needed. This could be to a neighbour who just wants someone to talk to, it could be to a friend who is finding life hard to navigate or to a family member who might just need some extra help. Kindness goes a long way and sometimes you just need someone to ask if you are okay. For help and support these organisations can be contacted.

Shout   Mind   Young Minds   NHS   Samaritans   NSPCC



## Online Safety -Tip of the Week

### MyLOL

“The #1 teen dating website in the world” That’s the claim of MyLOL, which offers 13 to 19-year-olds the chance to rate each other’s pics, send private messages and contact strangers online. If that sets your alarm bells ringing, you’re far from alone: law enforcement agencies and schools in several countries have seen fit to issue warnings about the platform

Among the main issues is the fact that MyLOL doesn’t have a reliable age verification method – meaning there’s no foolproof way to stop anyone outside the platform’s intended 13–19 audience signing up for an account under a false age. This week’s [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide highlights potential concerns around in-app purchases and the use of geolocation for sinister reasons.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION  
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### FLimsy AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

### POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

### IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

### DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

### EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

### RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

### SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

### 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.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety



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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:LASCStransitions@sthelens.gov.uk) so we can send you a TEAMS link to the sessions

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