

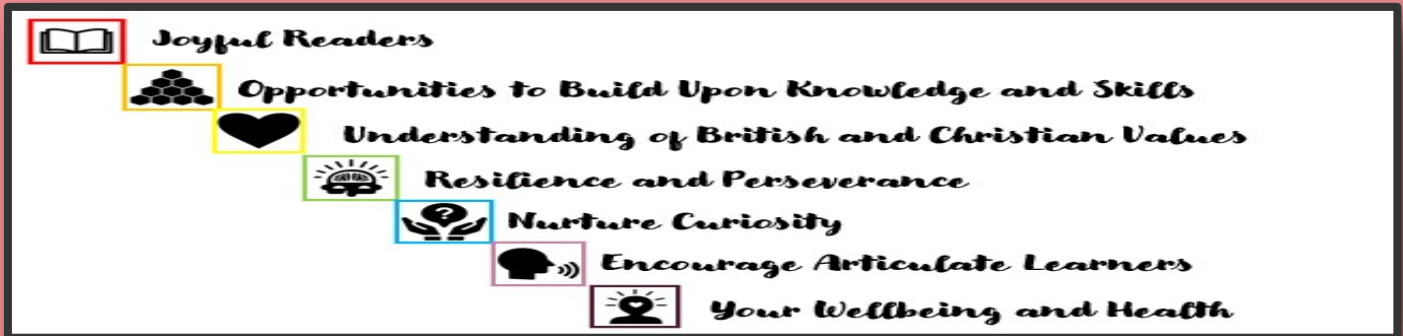


# NEWSLETTER

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

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

*Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God*



2024-2025 Issue Number 14 Friday 10th January 2025

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

## This week at St James

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school for the start of the new year and Spring term. We've had a wonderful first week, and the children have been busy starting their new topics and learning lots of new and exciting things.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parents and guardians for their incredible support in ensuring that the children have come into school despite the adverse cold, snowy, and icy conditions. Your dedication and commitment are greatly appreciated, and it truly makes a difference.

As we move into 2025, I would like to share a prayer for the new year with you all:

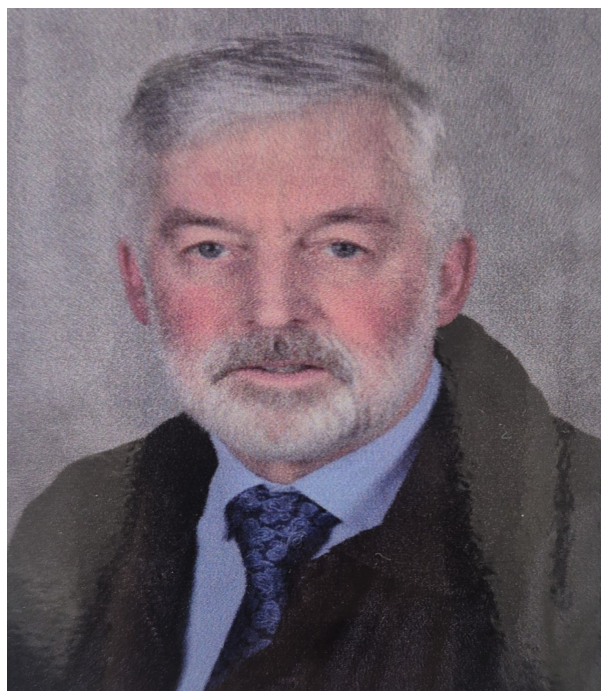


Thank you once again for your continued support. We look forward to a fantastic term ahead! Have a lovely weekend, and don't forget to wrap up warm if you are out an about

Mrs Briers



## Introducing Bill Wiswell: Chair of Governors



Bill Wiswell is a dedicated member of our community from Haydock. He is retired and enjoys spending time with his wife, three children, and four grandchildren, two of whom are of primary school age.

Bill's educational journey began at Richard Evans School in Haydock, followed by Ashton Grammar School (now Birchall High). Throughout his school years and after graduation, Bill gained diverse work experience, including roles as a building labourer, tarmac layer, police officer, and IT Manager. While serving as a police officer, Bill pursued part-time studies in IT at Liverpool John Moores University, graduating in 2004.

With nearly 20 years of experience as a school governor, Bill has served 8 years at Grange Valley School and nearly 12 years at St. James. His commitment to education and the community is evident in his long-standing service.

Bill is an active member of St. James Church and enjoys a variety of hobbies, including skiing, keeping fit, gardening, music, and travel.

We are grateful for Bill's dedication and look forward to his continued contributions to our school community.

# School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## Attendance Updates

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 Whole School attendance to date is 95.4%**

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Year 3

**There were 128 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?**

## Weekly Attendance

Whole School	94.5%
Reception	95.3%
Year 1	93.6%
Year 2	93.5%
Year 3	97.2%
Year 4	92.5%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	94.5%







## Term Dates

**2024-2025**

<b>Autumn Term</b>		<b>Days</b>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	33
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	34
<b>Spring Term</b>		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	30
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	33
<b>Summer Term</b>		
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	23
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025	37
		190

## Term Dates

**2025-2026**

<b>Autumn Term</b>		<b>Days</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	38
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	35
<b>Spring Term</b>		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	30
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	25
<b>Summer Term</b>		
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	29
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	33
		190



# Every Lesson Counts



## At St James' CE Primary School

Days off school add up to lost learning and impact on your child's life chances.

175 Non School Days a year



175 DAYS TO SPEND ON HOLIDAYS, FAMILY TIME, VISITS, SHOPPING, HOUSEHOLD JOBS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

190 school days  
each year for your  
child's education  
  
EXCELLENT  
  
96% - 100%  
  
Most effective way to  
success and sets your  
child off to a flying  
start.

10 days absence  
180 days of educa-  
tion  
  
CONCERNING  
  
LESS THAN 96%  
  
School monitors  
attendance; it is less  
than expected.

19 days of absence  
170 days of education  
  
WORRYING  
  
Less than 90%  
  
Less chance of success;  
harder to make progress  
in learning, friendships  
and relationships with  
others.

29 days absence  
HALF A TERM MISSED  
161 DAYS OF EDUCATION  
  
Serious concerns  
  
Less than 85%  
  
This is not fair on your child.  
You risk prosecution and a  
jail term.



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## Spring Attendance Competition

We are so proud that our attendance is currently above the national average! Let's keep it up.

Your new attendance challenge—

What do you need to do?

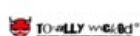
Come to school on time, everyday, between Monday 13th January and Friday 14th February.

How can you win?

Any child who has 97% attendance between these dates, will have their name put in a prize draw to win a fantastic prize!

What can you win?

A Family Match Tickets for 2 adults and 2 children for the St Helens Vs Wakefield game on Friday 11th April 2025.



## Whole School events Spring 1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
6/1/2025	School Re-Opens
20/1/2025	World Religion Day
21/1/2025	Year 6 Football Competition
27/1/2025	Holocaust Memorial Day
30/1/2025	Year 5 Class Assembly 9.00am
30/1/2025	Year 5 Football competition
3/2/2025	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
4/2/2025	Year 4 Winter Warmer Day 1
4/2/2025	Coffee Morning Attendance and Mental Health 9.00am
4/2/2025	Year 5 Manchester Synagogue Trip
4/2/2025	Candlemass Service 1.00pm St James' the Great
5/2/2025	Year 4 Winter Warmer Day 2
14/2/2025	School Closes

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# Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

### Online Safety

As we step into 2025, it's crucial to stay informed about the latest updates in online safety to protect our children. The new guidance from *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024* highlights several important points:

- **Increased Online Risks:** Children are spending more time online, which increases their exposure to potential risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and online predators. It's essential to monitor their online activities and encourage open communication about their experiences.
- **Safeguarding Measures:** Schools are now required to have robust filtering and monitoring systems in place to protect children from harmful online content. This includes ensuring that all staff are trained to recognize and respond to online safety concerns.
- **Special Considerations for Younger Children:** Younger children are particularly vulnerable to online risks. The guidance emphasises the need for age-appropriate education on online safety, helping children understand the importance of privacy settings, recognising suspicious behaviour, and knowing how to report concerns.
- **Role of Parents and Guardians:** Parents and guardians play a vital role in online safety. Regularly discussing online activities, setting clear rules, and using parental controls can significantly reduce the risks.

By staying informed and proactive, we can create a safer online environment for our children. Let's work together to keep our kids safe and happy online!

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need further assistance regarding online safety.



## Online Safety Tip of the Week

### Supporting Children's Return to Routine

For some children, the return to education at the end of the school holidays can be a difficult time for a variety of reasons. The start of the new term comes with plenty of challenges, from social worries to the stress of ensuring they're entirely ready for upcoming lessons and learning.

Of course, these youngsters don't have to weather these burdens alone, and as parents and educators, we should do all we can to support the children in our care as they head back to school. This week's free guide offers you expert advice on how you can be there for children and young people as they transition back into their school's routine.

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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

### 1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine at least a few days before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

### 2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

### 3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

### 4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

### 5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

### 6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

### 7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

### 8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

### 9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

### 10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently; so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education as easy as possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

## Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-return-to-routine>

X @wake\_up\_weds

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ig @wake.up.wednesday

yt @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.01.2025





Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse. (The Operation Encompass information is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information). The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

As a school we have ensured that we have members of our staff, (the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Lead) known as Key Adults, who have been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing them to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care. We are aware that we must do nothing that puts the child/ren or the non-abusing adult at risk .

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved. As a staff we have discussed how we can support our children who are experiencing Domestic Violence and Abuse on a day-to-day basis and particularly following an Operation Encompass notification. We use the Operation Encompass Key Adult Responsibilities checklist to ensure that all appropriate actions have been taken by the school.

## Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

**“Journeying together to Live,  
Learn and Laugh with the Love of  
God”**



Mr Moon's favourite bible verse is:



*'Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing,' James 1:2-4*

Mr Moon says:



*This verse by James tells me that trials of faith and challenges are fundamental to moulding our faith to be steadfast and strong. It teaches me that doubt isn't always a bad thing, that working through and moving past whatever doubts we may have in our faith is a means of moving us closer to God and strengthening our faith.*





### **Journey Driver Focus:**

Each half term, one child from each class is nominated by their class teacher for 'living out' our value of the half term. The value for this half term is Understanding new knowledge and skills.

RECEPTION	Zavier Bauline
YEAR 1	Aria Hill-Price
YEAR 2	Ivana Arthur
YEAR 3	Alice Slater
YEAR 4	Charlie Jackson
YEAR 5	Logan-James
YEAR 6	Briella Shaw

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### PE Days

Start (Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 25)

End (Fri 7<sup>th</sup> March 25).

**Monday**      Year 3 and Year

**Tuesday**      Year 5 and Year

**Wednesday**      Reception  
Year 5 and

**Thursday**      Year 1 and Year  
2

**Friday**      Year 1 , Year 2.  
Year 3 and Year  
4

### Clubs

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



- **Tuesday**-FAB Club for Y2 and Y3 with Miss Barratt
- **Thursday**– Sports Fusion for KS2

If your child is in Y6, you may receive a letter inviting them to attend a Reading Booster Club.

### **Uniform reminders**

We are seeing an increasing number of children coming to school wearing necklaces, bracelets and hoop earrings. Can we remind all parents and carers that children are not allowed to wear jewellery in school, with the exception of small stud earrings and wrist watches (but not smart watches). These items can be easily damaged or lost and are a risk to the health and safety of children at playtime and during PE lessons.

Thank you for your continued support.





## Food Bank Vouchers

Food banks provide emergency food and compassionate, dignified support to people locked in crisis. There are 10 food banks available to residents in St Helens Borough, five of which are managed by The HOPE Centre charity in St Helens and require a voucher from a relevant local agency.

St James are registered with St Helens Foodbank and are 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 Miss Moore can support with.

## Community food pantries

Pantries operate as a member-led neighbourhood hub and are just like a shop, in that you choose the food you want from the shelves. Members pay a small subscription each week they visit, and in return can choose groceries worth many times more, often saving up to £1,000 a year on shopping bills.. How it works.:

**Step one:** Find your nearest pantry (you must live in the area in which it is based).

**Step two:** Go along and join on the day it is open, remembering it is open to everyone in that community.

**Step three:** Pay your £5 membership each time you visit. Sit and have a cuppa while you wait for your turn.

**Step four:** Choose your shopping, which will always be worth more than your weekly membership fee.

**Step five:** Tell your neighbours and get them to join too.

For more information please see <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/6987/Food>




### Chinese New Year Menu

Please see below our special Chinese New Year menu. If your child usually has a school dinner, they will automatically be offered the Chinese New Year menu on Wednesday 29th January 2025. If your child usually brings a packed lunch to school but would like to sample the Chinese New Year menu, please email school at [stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk](mailto:stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk) before Friday 17th January.

**HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR**

**2025**  
YEAR OF THE SNAKE




**WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY**

**CHICKEN CHOW MEIN**

**QUORN & EGG "FRIED" RICE**

**SERVED WITH CABBAGE**

**CINNAMON DUSTED COOKIE**







**Three-week free  
trial for all new  
participants!**



**Football Fun & Development  
for children aged 5-12 Years Old**

**Haydock Leisure Centre**

**Mondays  
5-6pm**



**Scan  
Here!**

**We also deliver Tots Football Fun for  
18 months – 5 years in Ashton-in-  
Makerfield! Register your interest at  
[www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk](http://www.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk)**



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# GIRLS FOOTBALL CLASSES

## FREE FIRST TASTER CLASS

Steve's Football Academy girls classes are designed for all ability levels, from newcomer to those already playing with a team.

All sessions include fun games, mini matches, skill building & much more. Prizes are regularly awarded for achievements.

These classes are a great way to gain confidence and meet new friends while enjoying the beautiful game.

I am DBS approved and an FA qualified coach. I have over 15 years experience in coaching both in the UK and overseas.



### Course Details

Ages 9 - 11 years  
Mondays 5 - 6pm

Ages 6 - 8 years  
Tuesdays 6 - 7pm

**De La Salle School**  
**WA10 4QH**

For more information on prices and availability contact - Steven Pagendam on 07492091999 or message me on facebook Steven Pagendam

**Water, shin pads & indoor trainers essential.**





Listen4change.com Listen4change@outlook.com

Wonderland Community Centre

**Listen 4 Change**

*For all Parent Carers*

## Chat & Chill Over a Brew!



Drop in to chat with other parent carers in a relaxed setting, tell us what is working well and what isn't working so well with health, education and social care services and to help improve them.

*Free Parking Available*

Reflection Court, Canal Street, St Helens WA10 3JQ

**Friday's 10am-12pm**

10th January  
7th February  
14th March  
4th April  
9th May  
6th June  
11th July

Listen4change.com Listen4change@outlook.com

Wonderland Community Centre

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*Free Parking Available*

Reflection Court, Canal Street, St Helens WA10 3JQ

**Tuesday's 6.30pm-8pm**

21st January  
25th February  
25th March  
22nd April  
20th May  
24th June



# What's on in St Helens

Spring 1 Half Term 2025



**ADDvanced Solutions**  
Community Network  
Supporting you to find the answers



## **ADDvanced Solutions Community Network**

is an open access offer that supports the emotional health and wellbeing of neurodivergent children and young people, their families and the professionals that work with them. Below you will find the learning programmes and workshops for St Helens families. No diagnosis or referral is needed to access ADDvanced Solutions Community Network.

### **Community Network Groups**

Delivered weekly during term time, an informal, open access learning opportunity to seek advice and support around challenges you may be facing at all stages of your journey. Drop in, no need to book, to meet the team and visiting professionals.

**PAGE 2-4 | [Click for more information](#)**

### **Neurodevelopmental Conditions Learning Programme**

Six-session learning programme for parents and carers to increase understanding of neurodevelopmental conditions and build skills and confidence to better support their child or young person's presenting needs.

**PAGE 5 | [Click for more information](#)**

### **Preparing For Adulthood Learning Programme**

A newly commissioned offer of learning opportunities to parents and carers of neurodivergent young people **aged 11+, who are awaiting Autism and LD assessment**, to support them as they approach adulthood.

**PAGE 6-7 | [Click for more information](#)**

### **Online Learning Workshop**

**Difficulties Attending School:**

To help you to better understand the reasons why neurodivergent children and young people may have difficulties in accessing education, the impact of not attending and strategies we can use to support our children and young people to support them in accessing school.

**PAGE 8 | [Click for more information](#)**

### **Autism Learning Programme**

Six-session programme designed to support and empower parents and carers, following their child's diagnosis, in their understanding of how autism is experienced by children and young people, providing learning, guidance and strategies to better support you and your family.

**PAGE 7 | [Click for more information](#)**

### **Professionals Neurodevelopmental Conditions Awareness Raising Training**

Funded training for professionals to increase understanding of neurodevelopmental conditions and the impact on children, young people and their families.

**PAGE 8 | [Click for more information](#)**