

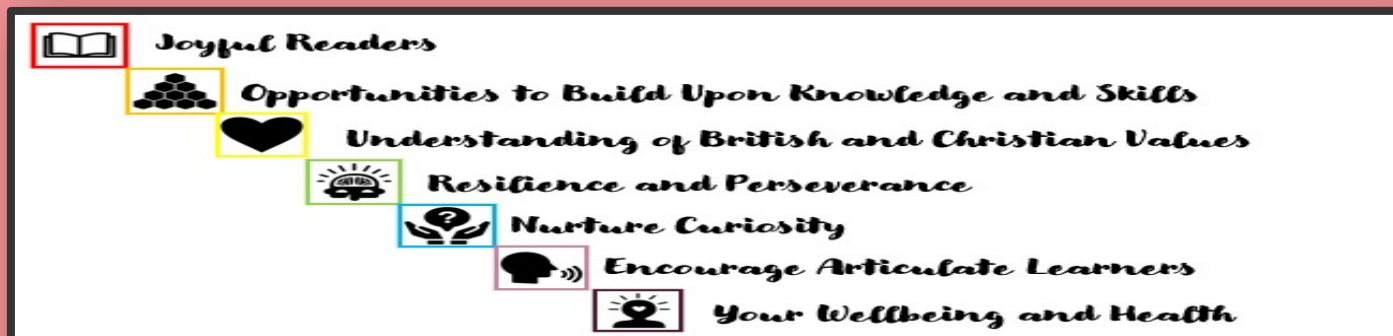


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 17 Friday 31st January 2025

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



This week at St James

This week has been absolutely wonderful, filled with exciting activities and valuable learning experiences for our children

We kicked off the week with a heartfelt worship led by Miss Barratt in honour of Holocaust Memorial Day. We had the privilege of hearing from a Holocaust survivor, which was incredibly moving. Our Year 6 children also visited Haydock Library for a Holocaust workshop, which was a profound learning experience for them.

On Tuesday, Mr. C joined us, and Year 1 had a fantastic time working with him on their latest art project. Wednesday was filled with music as Mr. Mannings led a wonderful singing assembly where we learned a brand new Creation song.

Thursday was a day of celebration for Year 5. They delivered an amazing assembly all about Space, showcasing their enthusiasm and knowledge through acting, singing, and poetry! I am incredibly proud of their performance. In the afternoon, the Year 5 football team achieved great success by coming 3rd in the football competition! They were so excited to show me their medals and share their experiences when they returned to school.

Looking ahead, next week is Mental Health Week at our school. We have lots of exciting activities planned, including a Parent Coffee Morning on Tuesday and a Dress to Express Yourself Day on Friday. Additionally, Year 1 and Year 5 will be visiting Haydock Library, and Year 4 will have their two-day Winter Warmer experience.

Please remember the importance of good attendance so that children don't miss out on any of these wonderful experiences.

Thank you for your continued support as we live, learn, and laugh with the love of God. Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Briers

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 95.5%

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Year 6

There were 141 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	96.9%
Reception	98%
Year 1	97.9%
Year 2	98.2%
Year 3	96.3%
Year 4	96.7%
Year 5	92.7%
Year 6	99%





Term Dates

2024-2025

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

Term Dates

2025-2026

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



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?

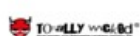
Come to school on time, everyday, between Monday 13th January and Friday 14th February.

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

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



**MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD
IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY.**

'Missing school is missing out!'

At St James, we recognise that regular attendance plays a crucial role in our children's academic success and overall well-being.

Why Attendance Matters

Regular school attendance is essential for students to fully engage in their learning and make academic progress. Here are some key reasons why attendance matters:

1. **Academic Success:** Attending school regularly allows students to benefit from consistent instruction, participate in classroom discussions, and complete assignments on time. This contributes to better academic performance and helps students achieve their educational goals.
2. **Building Relationships:** School attendance provides opportunities for students to build meaningful relationships with their peers and teachers. These connections enhance the learning experience and contribute to a positive school environment.
3. **Developing Essential Skills:** Consistent attendance helps students develop important life skills such as time management, responsibility, and resilience. These skills are crucial for success both in school and in future endeavours.
4. **Preventing Learning Gaps:** Missing school, even for short periods, can lead to gaps in learning that may be difficult to overcome. Regular attendance ensures that students receive continuous instruction and stay on track with their learning objectives.

It is essential for children to attend as much school as possible if they are to get the most from their education and achieve their full potential. Being absent or late to school means a lost learning opportunity for your child.

The Impact of Missing School

While the importance of good attendance is clear, it's also essential to understand the negative consequences of missing school:

1. **Academic Challenges:** Students who are frequently absent often struggle to keep up with their classmates academically. They may miss important lessons, fall behind in their coursework, and experience difficulty mastering essential concepts.
2. **Decreased Engagement:** Chronic absenteeism can lead to disengagement from school and a lack of motivation to participate in learning activities. This can result in decreased academic performance and lower levels of achievement.
3. **Social and Emotional Impact:** Missing school can also have social and emotional consequences for students. They may feel isolated from their peers, experience increased stress or anxiety about falling behind, and miss out on valuable opportunities for personal growth and development.

Long-Term Outcomes: Research has shown that students who are chronically absent are more likely to have lower graduation rates, decreased earning potential, and higher rates of involvement in negative behaviours such as substance abuse.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Parental Controls: Keeping Children Safe Online

In today's digital age, it's essential to ensure our children are safe while exploring the internet. Here are some tips on setting up parental controls to help protect your child online:

1. **Use Built-in Parental Controls:** Most devices, including smartphones, tablets, and computers, come with built-in parental control settings. These can help you restrict access to inappropriate content, set screen time limits, and monitor online activities.
2. **Install Parental Control Software:** There are various software options available that offer more advanced features. Programmes like Qustodio or Bark can block inappropriate websites, monitor social media interactions, and alert you to potential dangers.
3. **Set Up Child-Safe Browsers:** Encourage your child to use browsers designed for kids, such as Pikluk or KidRex. These browsers filter out inappropriate content and provide a safer online experience.
4. **Create Strong Passwords:** Ensure that all devices and accounts have strong, unique passwords. This helps prevent unauthorised access and keeps your child's information secure.
5. **Educate Your Child:** Talk to your child about the importance of online safety. Teach them not to share personal information, recognise suspicious behaviour, and report any uncomfortable online interactions.

By combining these tools with open communication, you can help your child navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

Let's work together to keep our children safe online!



**National
Online
Safety**

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Health and Fitness Apps

A study entitled The Digital Health Generation has highlighted that more than 70% of young people in the UK, some aged just 8, are using apps and other digital online technologies to track and manage their health. For those of us who might struggle with sticking to a routine or even knowing where to start, physical wellbeing and fitness apps promise to do the heavy lifting for you providing meal plans, exercise routines and more.

However, some of these apps aren't always as safe as they might first appear, and they tend to present a few risks to their users – especially for their underage demographic. That's why we've put together this free guide on safety concerns around physical wellbeing apps, to provide you with expert advice on how to mitigate these risks for young people. See this week's guide for more information.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Physical wellbeing apps are useful tools for monitoring and improving our health. They allow us to balance nutrition, set goals, track our activities and sleep patterns, and motivate us to exercise. Nonetheless, there have been some reported drawbacks; this guide outlines some of these concerns and explains how to use fitness apps safely.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children: a 16-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 10. This can create unrealistic expectations and set exercises which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.

NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but a concerning number of them *aren't*. As such, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or might include age-inappropriate content which would clearly cause more harm than good.

REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical exercise can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, at the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally dislike this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather exercise in the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.

DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Fitness and wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users, including name, location, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some of these apps may sell this data to third parties. We'd advise that any apps young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more helpful content (such as new workouts, nutrition advice or a personalised plan) by signing up to a subscription or paying for extra features. This can incentivise users to spend money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.

DEPENDENCY ON THE APP

While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to manage their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being sent frequent rewards and reminders – children could start to lose their natural drive to be active. Young people may also become obsessed with tracking their exercise, health and eating habits: this can have negative effects on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE

Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends, rather than always exercising alone. Emphasise the fun they can have by interacting with others rather than solely relying on an app to maintain their regime. Remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.

PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin taking things too far. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's vitally important for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.

REVIEW THE APP FIRST

Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its reviews and scroll through its data policy, to ensure its suitability for younger users. You could also try it yourself, to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and decide if you're comfortable with them using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these on a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – these will relate to screen-time limits, disabling or capping in-app purchases, and managing social aspects or features which aren't age appropriate. By utilising these controls, you can help to ensure a child is getting a safe experience.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/wellbeing-fitness-apps>

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@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: 22.01.2025

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

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



Miss McDonald's favourite bible verse is:



*'Guard your heart, for everything
you do flows from it' Proverbs 4:23*

Miss McDonald says:



*I love this verse as it helps me to remember to keep myself
away from things that could hurt my heart and reminds
me that if I want to promote love and positivity to others
then I need to have a loving and positive heart.*



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	Reina Pye
YEAR 1	Poppy Siddall
YEAR 2	Harry Major
YEAR 3	Emmanuel Ejimofor
YEAR 4	Billy Mason
YEAR 5	Lily Hind
YEAR 6	Jake Mason



PE Days

Start (Mon 6th Jan 25)

End (Fri 7th 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.



Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins beginning February 2025



Come along to one of our drop in sessions in St Helens.

Our team will answer questions you have about the neurodevelopment pathway process.

You don't need to be using our service, you can drop in if you have any questions to ask about this.

We look forward to meeting you.

Second Tuesday of the month at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub 1pm to 4pm.

Third Tuesday of the month at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

Fourth Tuesday of the month at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

11 February at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

11 March at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

8 April at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

18 February at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

18 March at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

15 April at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

25 February at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

25 March at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

22 April at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

Sutton Family Hub, Ellamsbridge Road, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3PY





Mental Health Support Team

Wellbeing webinars



Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Your MHST is running a series of mental health and wellbeing webinars.

TOPICS AND DATES

Understanding Low Mood - **25 February**

Neurodiversity - **18 March**

Parenting Skills for Behaviour - **29 April**

LGBTQ+ - **10 June**

Emotional Regulation - **13 May**

Body Image - **8 July**

We have two webinars available on our website. These sessions focus on Understanding Anxiety will give you a flavour of what to expect from a session.

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

WHEN

Tuesdays 3.30pm to 4.15pm on Zoom
(link will be emailed once you register)

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



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



Early Years Bootcamp

**Guaranteed
1:1
Interview**



**6 Week
FREE
Course**

Early Years Staff Urgently Needed!
Hybrid learning: Classroom & Homebased
Free DBS check provided
upon successful interview!

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Early Years Foundation Stage - Children and Young Peoples Workforce

The Level 3 Early Years Foundation Stage Skills Bootcamp enhances your school support CV even further, recognising and developing your knowledge and understanding and establish personal, learning and employment goals within the education sector.

The course will consist of hybrid learning: 2x days classroom delivery and 3x days learning from the comfort of your own home. The face to face education be delivered at the following venue:

The Liner Hotel
Lord Nelson Street
Liverpool
L3 5QB

Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.

This is a 5 week course.

If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.



**STUDY
SMART**
Free Online Courses



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**Education & Skills
Funding Agency**

**Fully Funded
School
Support
Course**

**Available
in Levels
1, 2 & 3**

***Please go to our website
for more detailed
information.**



**6 Week
Course**

Mon - Fri

Daily sessions

1st session 9:30 - 11:30am

2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

We are looking to fill 150+ School Support vacancies in local schools (e.g. Teaching Assistants, SEN Support, Behaviour Mentors, 1-1 Classroom Support, Cover Supervisors etc). These roles are available in both full time and part time positions.

Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.

This is a 6 week course, full time, intensive course, with online guided learning sessions within school hours.

If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.



Journeying together to Live, Learn and Lead with the Love of God



**Computer
Xplorers**

Leading the way in
providing tech-based
activities that are both
inspirational and
educational!

FEBRUARY HALF TERM TECH CLUBS

ST HELENS



Rainford High School
Higher Lane, Rainford, WA11 8NY



19th & 20th Feb 2025



9am-3pm
half days available

**Providing fun, educational
activities this half term!-**

Wednesday- Digital Animation & Minecraft

Thursday- Robotics & Minecraft



BOOK!

Visit the link or scan the code-
computerexplorers.co.uk/bolton-wigan/book



@CompXBolton



RECRUITING BLACKBROOK U8's



Training - Tuesdays
Game Days - Sundays



Is your child in year 3 at School
and shows a big interest in Rugby
and Sports?

Are they looking to make new
friends and have fun?

Blackbrook U8's are looking to
recruit new and experienced
players to join their teams.

For more information please
contact head coach:
Lee - 07586 790212

SUPPORT THEIR FUTURE - FUEL THEIR PASSION

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



Food Included

Lots of fun games and activities
to keep the children Happy

St James Parish
Centre
Church Rd
Haydock
WA11 0NJ

Holiday club February
Half Term
Monday 17th
To
Friday 21st
For children
Aged 2 to 4 years old
8.30 till 5.30

£30 a day
Special offer
£120 full week

Contact Lisa
07749873295
Lisa.lovelearning79@gmail.com



Holiday Club
February Half Term
Monday 17th – Friday 21st
8.30am – 5.30pm
£30 Per Day
Special Offer!!!
£120 Full Week

Love Learning Childcare
St James Parish Centre
Church Rd,
Haydock, WA11 0NJ

Places Available
We currently have spaces available for
Funded and Non-Funded children aged
18 Months to 4 Years.
Opening 1st April 2025

Opening Times: | Holiday Clubs
7.30am -6.00pm | 8.30am – 5.30pm

 Email:
lisa.lovelearning79@gmail.com
Phone Number:
07749873295

IN OTHER NEWS

Children's MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2025

3rd-9th February 2025



Monday

Introduction to Mental Health Week.
Teacher led activities in class and a chance to understand the focus of
"Know Yourself, Grow Yourself"

Tuesday

9am—10am Coffee Morning,
focusing on Mental Health.
This will be led by the Mental Health
Support Team.
(Feel free to stay behind and ask
questions if you like)
You will also have the opportunity to
go into your child's class/es to see
what work they are doing around
mental health.

Wednesday

More teacher led activities
around Children's Mental Health
week.
Opportunity for guided
meditation in class.



Thursday

In-class worship led by the
Trust.
Kevin Dyer coming in to
school to do some creative
writing for Children's
Mental Health week.



Friday

Own clothes day; express
yourself!
"Know Yourself, Grow Yourself"
Wear your own clothes to
express who you are.