

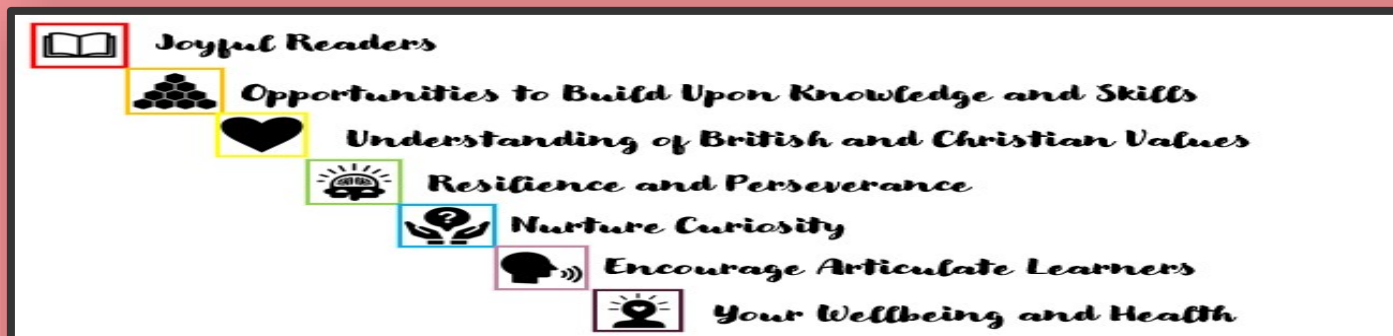


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 18 Friday 7th February 2025

**OUR VALUE THIS
HALF TERM IS:

COURAGE**



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we've had at St James! Our Mental Health and Well-being Week was filled with a variety of engaging activities that brought our community together in wonderful ways. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who attended the Parents Coffee Morning on Tuesday. I hope you found it useful to speak with Siobhan and learn about the valuable services offered by the Mental Health team. everyone A special highlight was Kevin Dyer's visit to work with Year 5 on a Creative Writing workshop. The children were incredibly inspired and produced some truly creative pieces.

Our Candlemass service at the church went beautifully. Thank you to Father Michael for always welcoming our school community and allowing us to share in worship together.

Year 4 had a wonderful time on their two-day Winter Warmer trip, even though they missed out on their chippy dinner! The experience was still filled with fun and learning.

This morning, some of our school governors visited to observe our Opening Worlds lessons in action. It was a great opportunity to showcase the fantastic learning happening in our classrooms and we embraced "Dressing to Express Ourselves," and wow, did we do that! The school was a vibrant display of individuality and creativity, and it was heartwarming to see Year 1 and Year 5 enjoyed their visits to the library for their BASH book sessions, where they shared their favourite book and discovered new ones. It was a joy to see their love for reading grow.

Looking ahead, next week marks the final week of the half term, and we are excited to celebrate Safer Internet Day. Miss McDonald, our Computing Champion, has planned a series of informative and fun activities to help our children learn about staying safe online.

Additionally, we have an exciting TT Rockstars competition for KS2 children next week against Parish. Please encourage your child to participate as I would love us to win this!

As always, let's continue to live, learn, and laugh with the love of God guiding us.

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 95.7%

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Year 4

There were 147 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	97.3%
Reception	94%
Year 1	96.8%
Year 2	99.1%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	95.9%
Year 6	97.5%





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?

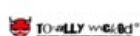
Come to school on time, everyday, between Monday 13th January and Friday 14th February.

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.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Well-being and Mental Health Online

Children are spending more time online for school, socializing, and entertainment. While the internet offers many benefits, it's important to be aware of its impact on mental health.

Positive Effects:

- **Learning and Development:** Educational games and resources enhance learning.
- **Social Connections:** Online platforms help children stay connected with friends and family.

Negative Effects:

- **Screen Time:** Excessive screen time can lead to sleep problems and eye strain.
- **Cyberbullying:** Negative interactions online can cause stress and anxiety.
- **Addiction:** Spending too much time online can lead to neglect of other activities.

What to Look Out For:

- **Changes in Behaviour:** Signs of distress, such as withdrawal or mood changes.
- **Physical Symptoms:** Headaches, eye strain, or fatigue.
- **Online Safety:** Importance of privacy settings and risks of sharing personal information.

Guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024:

- **Early Intervention:** Address issues early to prevent escalation.
- **Education:** Teach children about online risks and healthy habits.
- **Support:** Provide a supportive environment for discussing online experiences.

By staying informed and proactive, we can help children enjoy the digital world while safeguarding their mental health and wellbeing.

Online Safety Tip of the Week



Top Tips for Supporting Children to Develop Emotional Literacy

As we grow up, we're inevitably exposed to new and challenging feelings – whether it's sadness, fear or rage. These emotions can be tough to handle when we're still learning about the world – and even once we've passed into adulthood – which is why emotional literacy is a vital life skill.

Of course, when emotions are running high, it can be tricky to help young people process these feelings in a healthy way, but it's incredibly important that we do so as parents and educators. This free guide provides you with expert tips on teaching children to recognise their own emotions and deal with them in a mature manner.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's wellbeing by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

1 NAME THE EMOTION

Encourage children to identify and name their emotions. This helps them understand what they're feeling and why. Use simple language and relatable examples to make it easier for them to share their emotions. This builds a foundation for emotional understanding and open communication.



2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by sharing your feelings visibly. When children see adults properly displaying how they're doing and what they're thinking, they learn to do the same. Discuss how you handle emotions in different circumstances, providing a real-life framework for young ones to follow.



3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions during more challenging moments. Activities like deep breathing, meditation or yoga can reduce stress and enhance emotional regulation. Regular practice can improve focus and emotional stability, which can significantly help children both as they're growing up and throughout their adult life.



4 USE STORYTELLING

Incorporate storytelling to help children understand emotions. Stories can offer relevant scenarios illustrating how the characters experience and manage their feelings. Discuss the emotions depicted in stories and ask children how they might feel in similar situations.



5 PRACTISE EMPATHY

Teach children to consider others' views and emotions – and to explore why they might think or feel this way. Role-playing and discussing various scenarios can enhance their ability to empathise. Understanding others' emotions helps children to develop compassion and improves their social interactions.



6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING

Suggest keeping a journal to make note of thoughts and emotions, as writing can provide an outlet for self-reflection and emotional processing. Encourage children to write about their daily experiences and feelings, helping them gain insight into their emotional world. Do this alongside them, so they can see and experience how to do it effectively.



7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Do what you can to help children develop problem-solving skills to assist in managing emotional challenges. Discuss potential solutions to emotional conflicts and encourage them to think critically about what they (and others) can do to process their feelings in a healthy way. This empowers children to handle emotions positively and build resilience.



8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Establish an environment where children feel safe to display their emotions without judgement. Encourage open exchanges and reassure them that all feelings are valid. This supportive atmosphere promotes trust and encourages children to express themselves with confidence.



9 USE VISUAL AIDS

Take advantage of visual aids like emotion charts or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. Use these tools regularly in your interactions. They provide a visual representation of emotions, making it easier for children to communicate their emotional state.



10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy, and praise children for expressing their emotions and handling them effectively. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool that will encourage continued growth and reinforces the importance of emotional literacy – encouraging young people to maintain the good habits and healthy behaviours that you've taught them.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, an organisation that supports schools in improving their mental health provision.



@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

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



There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

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



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 British and Christian values.

RECEPTION	Ariella Pendlebury-Fernandes
YEAR 1	Risin Ekanayake
YEAR 2	Sienna Deluce
YEAR 3	Allie
YEAR 4	Mason
YEAR 5	Madison Frater-Hassett
YEAR 6	Matthew Murphy



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

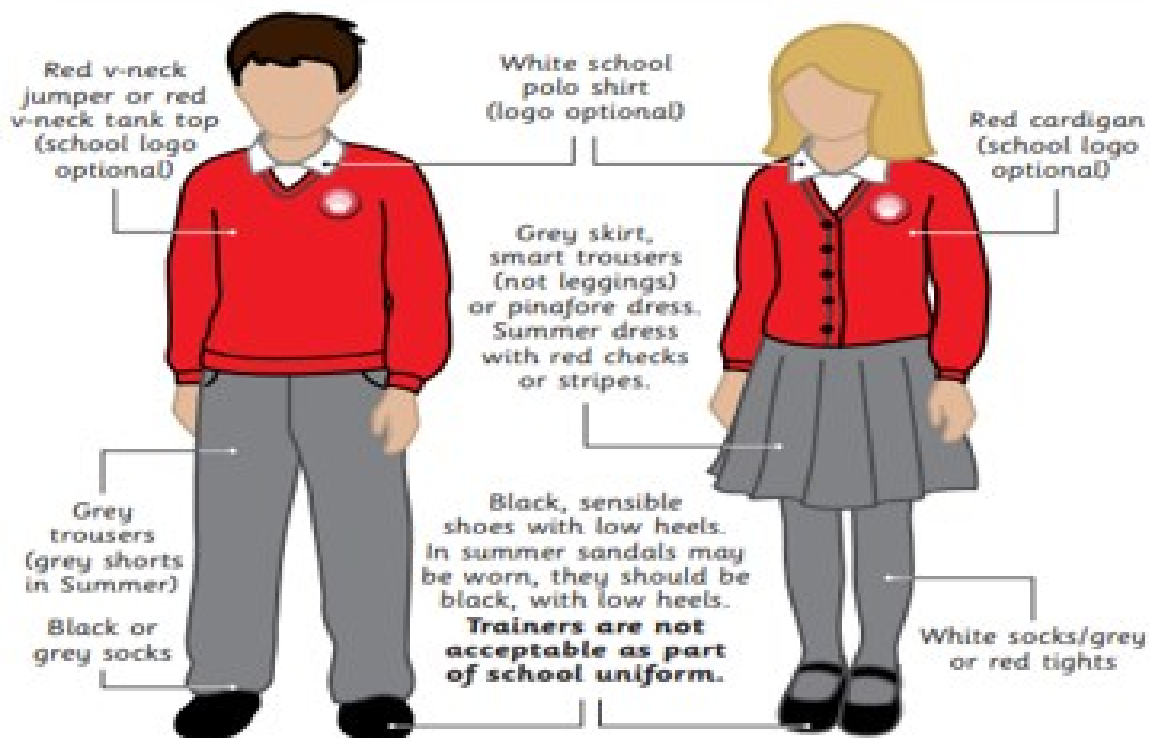
Y5 Swimming (5th March to 2nd April)

Uniform

Please make every effort to ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform and that it is clearly labelled. Children should wear completely black shoes – not trainers. **A reminder that our school PE kit consists of a black tracksuit/red shorts and white t shirt.** It is important that the P.E kit is seen as an extension of our school uniform, therefore our high standards should be kept. Please note that children should not wear any form of jewellery (only stud earrings are allowed and should not be worn on PE days)

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

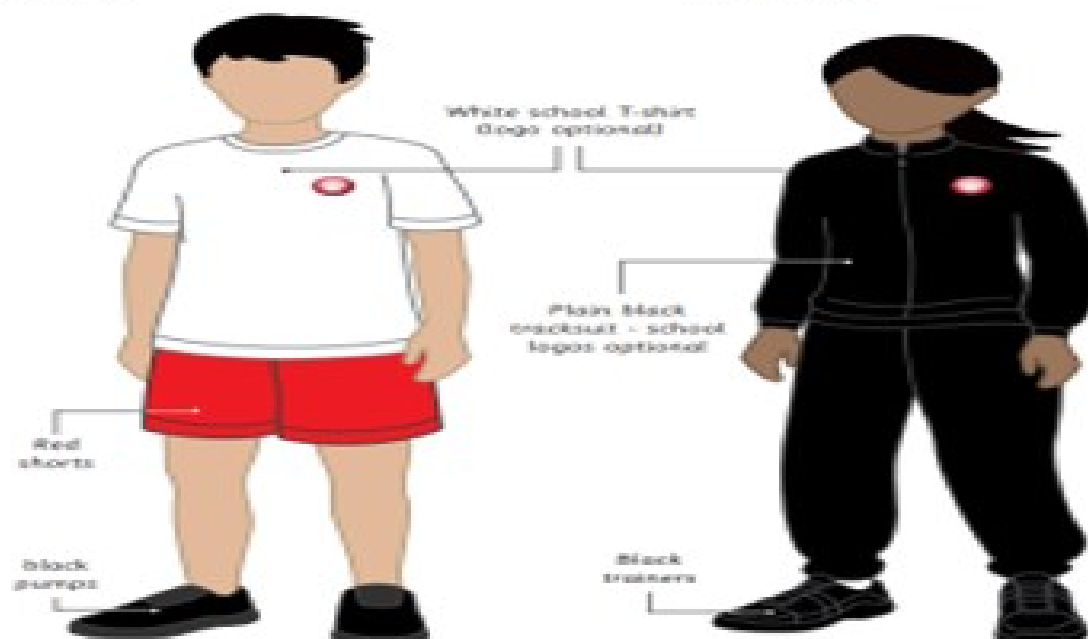
School Uniform



PE Kit

Indoors

Outdoors





Clubs

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

Booking is now open on Parent App.

- **Monday**
 - KS2 Darts Club with Mr Ratcliffe
- **Tuesday**
 - 8am Archery Club with external provider.
 - FAB Club for Y3 and Y4 with Miss Barratt
- **Wednesday**
 - Nature Club for YR and Y1 with Mrs Bibby and Mrs Boardman.
- **Thursday**– Multi-skills for KS1

If your child is in Y4, Y5 or Y6, you may receive a letter inviting them to attend a Booster Club.

MUSIC SERVICE ENSEMBLES AT ST HELENS TOWN HALL

2024 - 25 FREE!

TUESDAY... ROCK & POP BAND 4.30PM - 5.50PM	WEDNESDAY WIDER OPPORTUNITIES BAND 4PM - 5PM	WEDNESDAY INTERMEDIATE WIND BAND 4PM - 5PM	WEDNESDAY INTERMEDIATE STRINGS 4PM - 5PM
WEDNESDAY MUSIC THEORY CLUB 4PM - 5PM	WEDNESDAY YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA 5.15PM - 6.30PM	WEDNESDAY SINFONIA 5.15PM - 6.30PM	WEDNESDAY MUSIC THEORY CLUB 5.15PM - 6.30PM

ST HELENS COUNCIL MUSIC SERVICE

INSPIRING MUSICAL CREATIVITY
FOR EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON IN MERSEY

@sthelensmusic @sthelensmusic.service

01744 677946
music.service@sthelens.gov.uk

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO JOIN AND REGISTER TODAY

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



ST JAMES AND PARISH

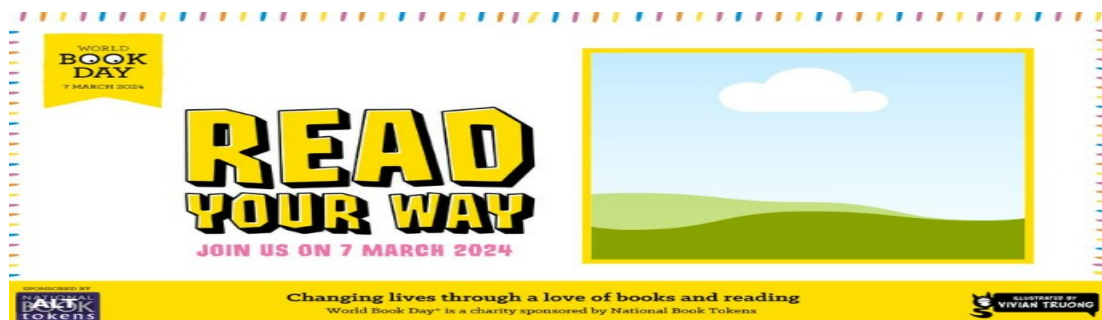


ST JAMES VS PARISH ROCKSLAM

07 FEBRUARY - 14 MARCH 2025

* ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE *
PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE * THE WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER PUPIL *
ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR FULL DETAILS AND RULES *





This year, World Book Day will be held on **Thursday 6th March** and we hope you'll join us to celebrate across the school.

Reading for pleasure is a vital indicator of a child's future success and it is **'the beating heart'** of our curriculum. We want to see all of our children form a life-long habit of reading and thus enjoy the improved life chances this provides for them.

The theme for this year's World Book Day is to **'Read Your Way!'** and **celebrate with words**. Therefore, we are inviting children to come in **dressed as a word of their choice**, which will support and encourage vocabulary development in a fun, creative way. Some examples include *athletic, creative, fragile, mythical, vibrant, brave, glamorous, courageous, duplicate, celebrate, hilarious, sleepy, festive, puzzled, contagious, nocturnal, ancient, illuminate, retro, coronation, blizzard, emotion, excavate, archaeologist, skeletal, astronaut etc.* The list is endless and there are lots of brilliant ideas online!

If your child already has a World Book Day costume in mind, they could still dress as a character and choose a word associated with their character. For example: Harry Potter could be associated with the word **'magic'**, Incredible Hulk could be associated with the word **'strong'**, Elmer the Elephant could be associated with the word **'colourful'**, George's Marvellous Medicine could be associated with the word **'curious'** etc. We have lots of exciting activities planned for the day including a vocabulary parade, competitions, reading buddies, visits from some of the Saints RLFC players and many more.

Further information to follow after half-term!

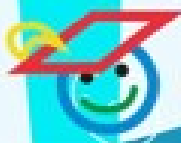
Many thanks for your support,

Miss Dodd
English Leader



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

IN OTHER NEWS



**CHEFS CLUB
ST JAMES CE
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

AFTER SCHOOL COOKERY CLUB



ENROL YOUR BUDDING CHEFS ON THIS ALL ACTION COURSE.
THEY WILL LEARN BASIC KNIFE SKILLS, HOW TO FOLLOW
RECIPES, BAKE, PEEL, CHOP AND COOK LIKE A REAL CHEF!

RETURN COURSE AFTER COURSE.

SIGN THE LETTER AND RETURN THE SLIP TO ATTEND.
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, PLACES GO FAST!

www.chefdepartyinfo.co.uk



CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY CREDITS AWARDED FOR ATTENDANCE



GIVE VOUCHERS AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE COURSES AND
PERSONALISED APRONS



If you would like to book your budding chef on to this 5 week course
please contact the school office for booking details.



@infochefdeparty



Chef de Party



@chef_dePparty_1

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



SHROVE

TUESDAY

YUM!

HAPPY PANCAKE DAY



TUESDAY 4TH OF MARCH

DESSERT OF THE DAY (CAN YOU GUESS?)



PANCAKES WITH BANANAS





Love Learning Childcare

Places Available

We have both Funded and Non-Funded places available at our nursery for children aged 18 Months – 4 Years.

OPENING 1st APRIL 2025

What we offer:



As well as our new, fun and engaging setting full of resources. We have secured an amazing outdoor space for us to explore some Forest School activities.



Email: lisa.lovelearning79@gmail.com


We are Ofsted Registered!



Lily the
Love Learning Bear



Holiday Club

We have a Holiday Club available each School Holiday. The dates can be found on our Facebook Page  Love Learning Haydock! Alternatively, contact Lisa on 07749873295.

Our Holiday Club welcomes children aged 2-8 Years Old.
8.30am – 5.30pm



Special Offer!
£30 Per Day
£120 Full Week



Where?

St James Parish Centre
Church Rd,
Haydock,
Saint Helens,
WA11 0NJ



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



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

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



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



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**

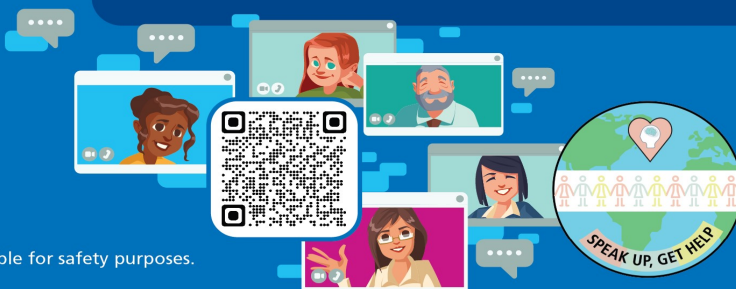
WHEN

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.

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



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