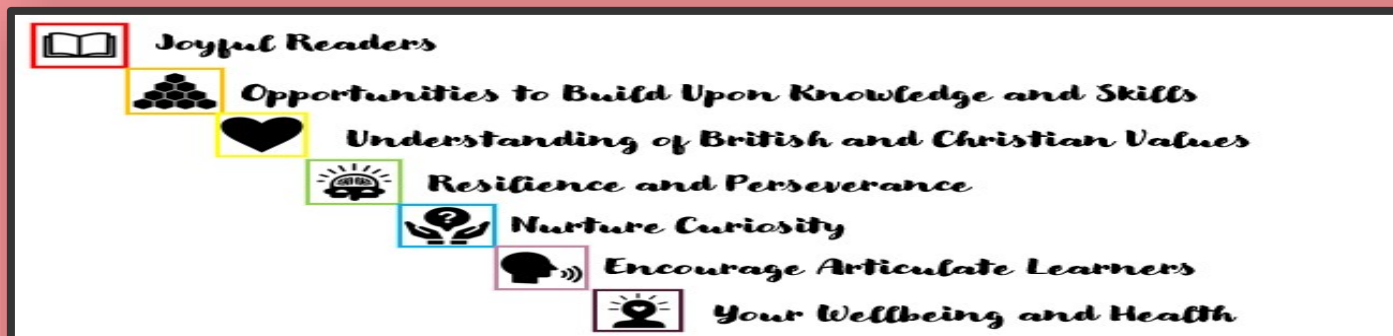


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 20 Friday 28th February 2025

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



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely half term! A special thank you to those families who shared their beautiful pictures with us, capturing moments of joy and connection with nature. Your participation in our 'Show the Love' campaign truly highlighted the importance of cherishing our green planet and creating lasting memories with the ones you love.

Our Year 4 and Year 5 children had an incredible time on their residential trip to Malham. They enjoyed activities such as fire lighting, stargazing during our night hike, walking in nature, building a campfire, and participating in minibeast challenges and scavenger hunts. We are all exhausted and I'm sure everyone will sleep well tonight! A huge thank you to all the staff who attended this event and to YHA Malham and the Generation Green project, as without their support, this trip would not have been possible.

Huge congratulations to our Year 3 football team who came first when representing our school on Thursday. We are so proud of their teamwork and sportsmanship. Well done Year 3!

Our new after-school clubs have also been hugely successful. We may have some future archers and darts players in the making!

As we move forward into the new term, we are excited about the upcoming events and activities that we have planned. As always, we are committed to our school vision: to live, learn, and laugh with the love of God. Let's continue to work together to make this term a positive and enriching experience for all.

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 96%

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

There were 136 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	95.7%
Reception	89.3%
Year 1	98.6%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	93.3%
Year 4	97.5%
Year 5	93.6%
Year 6	99.5%



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

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Attendance Steps to Success:



LDST
Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust

- ★ 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.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Whole School events Spring 2

Date	Event
24/02/2025	School Re-opens 8.40am
26/02/2025	Year 4 and Year 5 Residential begins
26/05/2025	School Nurse drop-in 3.30pm
27/02/2025	Archery Club starts 8.00am
27/05/2025	Year 3 Football
05/03/2025	Year 5 Swimming starts
05/03/2025	Ash Wednesday Service, St James' the Great Church, 2:15pm
06/03/2025	World Book Day
11/03/2025	Year 3 Trip - Liverpool Philharmonic and World Museum
17/03/2025	Young Carers action day
17/03/2025	Year 1 Phonics Information 2.00pm
24/03/2025	Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.00pm
24/03/2025	Book Fair 3.30pm
25/03/2025	Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.00pm
25/03/2025	Book Fair 3.30pm
26/03/2025	Book Fair 3.30pm
26/03/2025	New Hope Fundraising Day
28/03/2025	Reception Mother's Day Event 2.00pm-3.00pm
31/03/2025	Eid Celebration Day
01/04/2025	Year 5 and Year 6 Hockey
08/04/2025	Easter Service, St James' the Great Church, Year 3 to lead
09/04/2025	School Closes for Easter 2.00pm

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Early Help and Intervention: Supporting Your Child's Emotional Well-being

At our school, we understand that children may face emotional challenges at times. It's important to recognize the signs and know how to support your child effectively. Based on the **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024** guidelines, here are some steps you can take if your child is struggling emotionally:

Recognise the Signs

Children may not always express their feelings directly. Look out for signs such as:

- Changes in behaviour or mood
- Withdrawal from friends and activities
- Decline in academic performance
- Physical symptoms like headaches or stomach aches

Open Communication

Encourage your child to talk about their feelings. Create a safe and supportive environment where they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts. Ask open-ended questions and listen without judgment.

Seek Support

If you notice persistent emotional difficulties, consider seeking help from professionals. Our school has a designated safeguarding lead (Mrs Briers) who can provide guidance and connect you with appropriate resources. Additionally, you can reach out to:

- Mental Health support Team
- School Nurse
- St Helens Early Help
- Local mental health services

Promote Healthy Habits

Encourage your child to engage in activities that promote emotional well-being, such as:

- Regular physical exercise
- Adequate sleep
- Healthy eating
- Creative outlets like art or music

Stay Informed

Stay informed about the resources and support available within the school and the community. Attend workshops and read materials provided by the school to better understand how to support your child's emotional health.

Remember, early intervention can make a significant difference in your child's well-being. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our school's safeguarding team for assistance.

Together, we can ensure that every child feels safe, supported, and valued.

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

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Group Chats



Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more in, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed. In this week's guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as bullying, inappropriate content and unknown members.

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.

56

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about
GROUP CHATS

64

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they can be great for connecting with others, there are several risks posed by these tools.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING
Teens are often trying to find their place in their social group. Unfortunately, group chats can sometimes lend themselves to unkind comments being shared freely, putting people down to make their peers laugh – often creating a vicious circle that encourages others to join in. Being bullied so publicly – in front of friends and acquaintances – can also amplify the hurt, embarrassment and anxiety that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION
This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: for instance, starting a new group, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one person doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss events that exclude them – for example, sharing photos from a day out that they didn't attend.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by a child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some apps have features that cause messages to disappear after they're viewed, so children may be unable to report something they've seen, as it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT
Group chats can feel more private and protected, allowing children to share inside jokes and video calls with a smaller group of friends. It's important to remember that while the chat's content is private between those in the group, individual users can easily share material with others outside of the group, or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something a child intended as private becoming public is higher if there are strangers in the chat.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS
Within larger group chats, it's more likely for children to communicate with people they don't know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly towards everyone present. It's wise for young people to avoid sharing personal details and remember that they have no control over what others do with the material they send into the chat.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO
A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications they tend to generate. Every time someone sends a message, each member's device will be 'pinged' with an alert. This could result in hundreds of notifications a day. This is often highly distracting, and young people's fear of missing out (FOMO) can cause increased screen time as they try to keep up with the conversation.

74

Advice for Parents & Carers

117

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS
Group chats can become an arena for young people to compete for social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse which could upset others. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave in this way. If the child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING
In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure children understand the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school, or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT
Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS
Sadly, many individuals online hide their identity to gain a child's trust and serve their own ends – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure the child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and why they should never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE
If a child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block whoever sent the material, report that person to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could put a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise that it's OK for children to simply leave any group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS
Having a device bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of the group chat while disabling notifications – and that it would be healthier for them to do so, avoiding a situation where they could feel pressured to respond.

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

<https://www.thenationalcollege.com/online-safety/group-chats/> | <https://www.nos.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-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. Release date: 27.04.2022 Last reviewed: 30.05.2024

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"**



Our Christian Value this half term is:

Forgiveness

'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.'

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us and always forgiving us when we make mistakes. Please help us to forgive others, just as You forgive us. When someone hurts us, give us the strength to let go of our anger and to show kindness instead. Help us to remember that everyone makes mistakes and that forgiving others makes our hearts lighter and our friendships stronger.

Amen.

Wiping the slate clean...



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 Resilience and Perserverence .

RECEPTION	Daisy Hind
YEAR 1	Sujatha De Silva
YEAR 2	Sophia Illes
YEAR 3	Willow Butler
YEAR 4	Matilda Smith-Pilling
YEAR 5	Madison Frater-Hassett
YEAR 6	Briella Shaw



PE Days

Start (Mon 6th Jan 25)

End (Fri 7th March 25).

Monday Year 3 and Year
4

Tuesday Year 5 and Year
6

Wednesday Reception

Year 5 and

Year 6

Thursday Year 1 and Year
2

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

Y5 Swimming (5th March to 2nd April)



Clubs

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

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

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

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. You can support us with this by making us aware of any changes to your child's collection arrangements in advance.

IN OTHER NEWS

Christ Church URC, West End Road, Haydock.



Sit
down
meal

Come
and
join
us

1st MARCH 2025

Games



Stories

Crafts



puzzles

3.00/5.00

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Christ Church URC
West End Road, Haydock
Come along and join us

All age
Service

Tea
&
coffee



2nd MARCH 2025

We'll be open from 10.15

for a cuppa n chat

Everyone welcome



SHROVE

TUESDAY

YUM!

HAPPY PANCAKE DAY



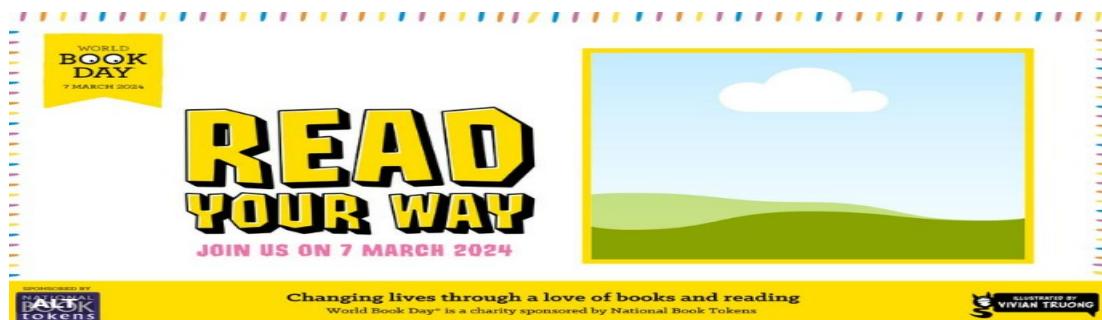
TUESDAY 4TH OF MARCH

DESSERT OF THE DAY (CAN YOU GUESS?)



PANCAKES WITH BANANAS





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.



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 *



New Hope for Africa - Fundraising Day: Wednesday 26th March 2025



Please help support New Hope School and Orphanage in Uganda – our Trust Charity (where we sponsor a child in the school).



For a £1 donation, you are invited to come to school wearing the colours of the Uganda Flag (red, yellow or black). This can be paid via School Money.

We are also having a **bake sale on the day!** Please could you donate any cakes (either home-made or shop bought) that are nut free for the sale.

Cakes will then be priced to buy at 50p each.

Thank you for your support!





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



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