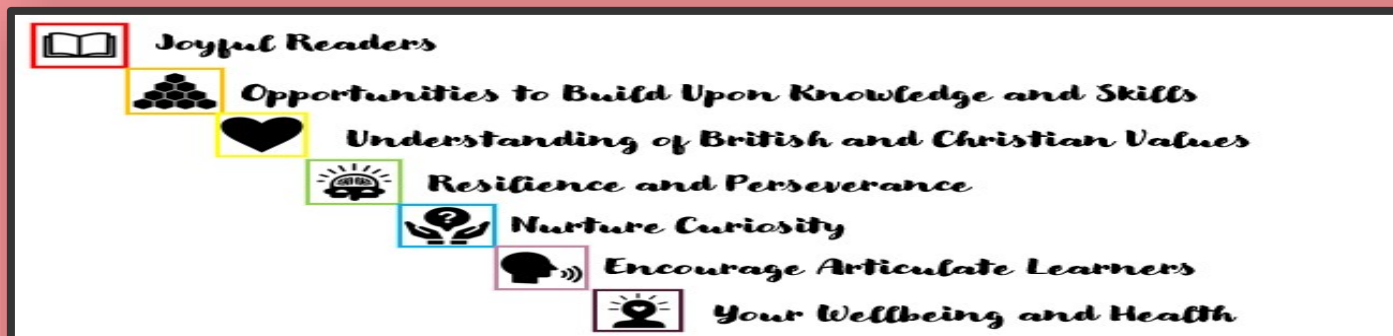


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

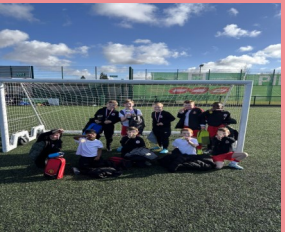
Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 21 Friday 7th March 2025

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



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible week it has been! Last week's residential trip to Malham was an amazing experience for our Year 4 and Year 5 children. Despite the rain and mud, the children embraced the adventure with enthusiasm. We witnessed double rainbows, hiked through beautiful landscapes, explored waterfalls, and encountered sheep along the way. The children enjoyed activities such as shelter building, fire lighting, star gazing, and a mini beast hunt. It was a joy to see our Journey Drivers in action and to get to know the children better outside the school environment. The food was delicious, and the memories made will last a lifetime.

This week marked the start of our spring assessments. The children have been working diligently to show us what they know and can remember. These assessments are important as they help us understand what your child needs to do next to make further progress. We appreciate the hard work and effort the children have put in.

We had a successful governor visit this week, focusing on Inclusion and how we adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of all children. It was a great opportunity to showcase how we put the children at the heart of everything we do.

Our Ash Wednesday Service in church marked the beginning of Lent. It was a reflective and meaningful time for our school community.

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of reading and creativity. Highlights included:

- The Great Big Footy & Book Quiz for all KS2
- Vocabulary Parade with music and certificates.
- Workshops from Haydock Library for Year 3 and Year 4.
- Reception's Stay and Play 'Teddy Bears' Booknic'. Thank you to the parents and carers who attended this event.

We have even had some chicks hatch in Reception! They are adorable!

As always, we live, learn, and laugh with the love of God.

Have a lovely weekend! Mrs Briers x

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 2.

There were 145 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	96.8%
Reception	98.7%
Year 1	98.6%
Year 2	99.5%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	97.1%
Year 5	93.2%
Year 6	95%



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Easter Hamper

Attend school every day (and on time) for 4 weeks to be in with a chance of winning our mega Easter hamper!
10th March to 4th April.

Piggy Bank

An extra £5 in your class Piggy Bank if your class has 100% attendance in the final week
7th-9th April

We're aiming for...

97%



100%

Eggsellent Attendance!

Spot Prizes

Each week there will be an attendance 'Spot Prize' to be won.

Don't forget to attend in the last week of term to take part in our church Easter services and Easter activities.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Whole School events Spring 2



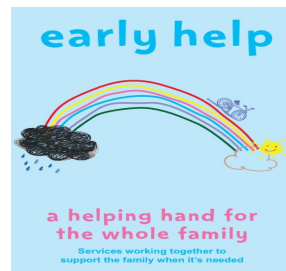
Date	Event
24/02/2025	School Re-opens 8.40am
26/02/2025	Year 4 and Year 5 Residential
26/05/2025	School Nurse drop-in 3.30pm
27/02/2025	Archery Club starts 8.00am
27/05/2025	Year 3 Football
05/03/2025	Year 5 Swimming starts
05/03/2025	Ash Wednesday Service, St James' the Great Church 2.15pm
06/03/2025	World Book Day
11/03/2025	Year 3 Trip - Liverpool Philharmonic and World Museum
14/03/2025	Non-uniform Day - Easter Egg
17/03/2025	Young Carers action day
17/03/2025	Year 1 Phonics Information 2.00pm
21/03/2025	Non-uniform Day - Bottle for Tombola
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 - wear red, yellow or black
28/03/2025	Reception Mother's Day Event 2.00pm-3.00pm
01/04/2025	Eid Celebration Day - wear party/celebration clothes
01/04/2025	Year 5 and Year 6 Hockey
02/04/2025	Academy Photography Year 6 Leavers and class photographs
08/04/2025	Easter Service, St James' the Great Church, 9.30am
09/04/2025	School Closes for Easter 2.00pm

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



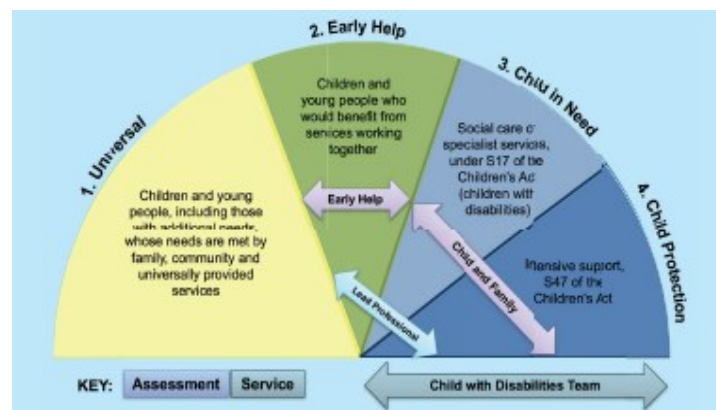
Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Early Help



What is Early Help?

Early Help is: Services working together for children, young people and their families, who would benefit from extra support: Keeping children, young people and their families safe from harm; helping children, young people and their families to overcome difficulties; supporting children, young people and their families to and be happy ; making sure families can support themselves .



The diagram above shows the four levels of need. As you can see, Early Help is the second level where families can get extra support. Early Help doesn't usually involve children's social care. You may ask for Early Help as you are worried about your child's health, development or behaviour. You may be caring for a child with a disability and need extra support. Or if you are a young person, you can ask for help to manage situations that affect your life such as having caring responsibilities, concerns for either your own or someone else's drug or alcohol use, emotional wellbeing or any other health or social difficulty. Whatever the concern, it's ok to ask for help.

In our guide, this week you will find some top tips for using technology to boost reading skills which links in perfectly with World Book Day.

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 USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:



Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord .

Amen

Eid Celebration Day at St James CE Primary School

On **Tuesday 1st April**, we will be holding an Eid Celebration Day to allow us to celebrate alongside some members of our school community and to provide all children with the opportunity to learn more about this religious festival. This special occasion will definitely give our children the opportunity to enjoy the spirit of Eid, while promoting cultural awareness, respect, and inclusion.

Event Details:

Date: Monday 1st April.

Dress Code: Children are welcome to wear traditional or party/celebration clothes if they wish.

Activities: There will be a range of fun activities, including crafts, storytelling, and learning about the significance of Eid.

Treats: Children may bring in **nut-free** treats to share with their class if they would like. We will be providing all children with an Eid specially baked treat too thank you to the wonderful ladies in the St James kitchen.

We encourage all children to take part in this joyful celebration, whether they celebrate Eid at home or would just like to learn more about it.

If you are celebrating Eid and would like to help school in planning the day (maybe by coming in to talk with the children, share some Eid music or celebrations or even helping us with activity ideas), please do speak in person or via phone/email with the school office who will put you in touch with a senior member of staff.

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	Kwamina Adabie III
YEAR 1	Michael Piorkowski
YEAR 2	Nate York
YEAR 3	Layton
YEAR 4	Isobel McCue
YEAR 5	Florence Davies
YEAR 6	Joey Roscoe



PE Days

Start (Mon 10th March 25)

End (Fri 16th May 25).

Monday	Years 1, 2, 3 and 4
Tuesday	Year 3 and 4
Wednesday	Reception and Year 5
Thursday	Reception and
Friday	Year 1, 2, 5 and 6

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
 - Football for KS2 with the Sports Coach
- **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

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Parental Survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve and provide the best possible education for your children, we kindly ask you to take a few moments to complete our parent survey.

Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us. We always strive to listen to your views and take action where possible. Your opinions play a crucial role in shaping the future of our school and ensuring its success.

Thank you for your time and support.

Please use the QR code or the link below.

[St James CE Primary School \(Parent/Carer Survey 2024-2025\)](#)

St James CE Primary School -
Parent/Carer Survey (2024/2025)



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)

Snack



Children in Years 1-6 can bring in their own **healthy snack** to eat at breaktime. This must be separate to their packed lunch. **This must not be chocolate, crisps or a sugary cereal bar.** Remember that we are a nut free school.

Water bottles are permitted but these **must only be filled with water.** We advise children to have a separate water bottle for class to their lunch drink if they are on packed lunches.





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!



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 *





St James' PTFA Easter Bingo

Thursday, 3rd April 5-7pm

Doors open 4.30pm

School Hall



- Entry tickets are £1, available from the office, (limited numbers).
- Bingo tickets are available to buy on the evening (cash).
- Bingo £1 game £6 a full book, (6 games).
- Please bring cash on the evening.
- Refreshments will be available on the evening for a small cost.

Come along, join in the fun and help support our school!



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.