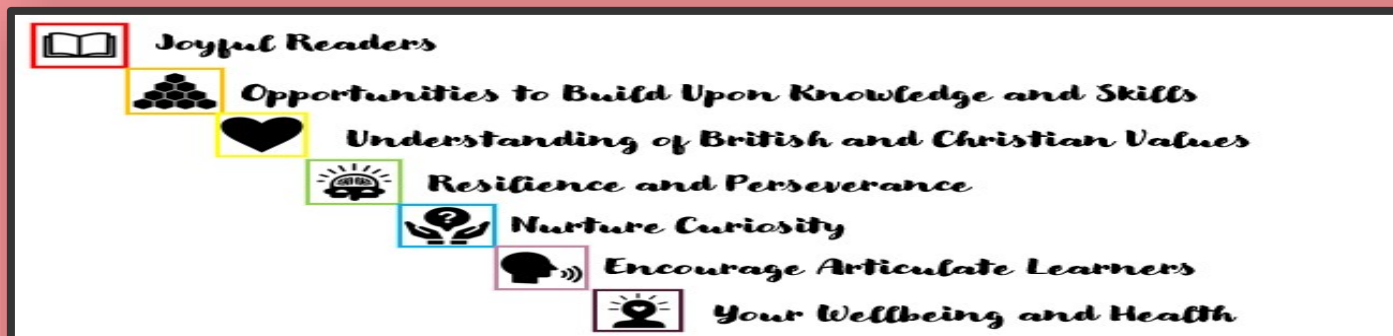


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 23 Friday 21st March 2025

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



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue to live, learn, and laugh with the love of God, I am delighted to share the wonderful activities and achievements of our school community this week.

On Monday, all Pupil Leader groups met to plan their initiatives for the remainder of the year. They worked diligently to brainstorm ideas on how they can contribute to making our school even better. Their enthusiasm and commitment are truly inspiring.

Tuesday saw more spot prizes awarded for 100% attendance. Thank you for your unwavering support in ensuring our children attend school regularly. Our attendance rates are currently higher than in previous years, surpassing our Trust average, the National average, and the North West average. This is an incredible achievement, and we must continue to strive for excellence.

On Wednesday, our KS2 children participated in a National Rail Safety lesson, and Year 5 enjoyed their swimming lessons. It was heartwarming to see our Ethos team in action, delivering in-class worship to Year 6. A big thank you to the parents who attended the Year 1 Phonic Screening check information session.

Thursday was another busy day with KS1 children taking part in National Rail Safety lessons.

Thank you for your support in sending in bottles in exchange for the children wearing their own clothes. This will greatly contribute to creating a fantastic tombola for our Easter Bingo.

Looking ahead, next week promises to be equally exciting. Our Book Fair will be open from Monday to Wednesday, and we hope you can attend. Monday is World Maths Day, and we will have a special worship led by the Young Carers Team. Parents Evening will be held for all years except Y2 and Y4, which will be scheduled separately. Additionally, Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6 will be visiting Haydock Library for Shakespeare workshops.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

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 96%

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

There were 133 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	93.9%
Reception	96.7%
Year 1	93.9%
Year 2	94.5%
Year 3	93.7%
Year 4	95.4%
Year 5	92.3%
Year 6	91%



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

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Attendance Update:

Retrieval Time:

- From 8:40, retrieval time begins. This is the most important lesson of the day!
- Prior knowledge is revisited, and children are supported to close any gaps in their knowledge.
- This is also our wellbeing check in time where we support children to have a strong start to the day.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Remember that school
starts at:



Coming into school at 8:40 means that:

- You take part in an extra 10 minutes of learning each day.
- You get to have extra practice during retrieval time.
- You can take part in your class morning routine.

Attend every day for
4 weeks to be in with
a chance of winning
our mega Easter
hamper!

10th March-4th April

Spot prizes top be
given for children
attending school
regularly

An extra £5 in your
piggy bank for the
classes with at least
97% in the final week
7th-9th April

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

Important Dates Coming Up:

- **Year 6** assessments are timetabled from Monday 12 May to Thursday 15 May 2025.
- **Year 4** must complete the multiplication tables check between the two week of period after Monday 2nd June 2025.
- **Year 1** must complete the phonics screening check from Monday 9 June 2025.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything.

Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine.

The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160

+ £160

+ £160

+ £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1

Day =

2

Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160

+ £160

+ £160

+ £160



4 children & 2 parents =

£1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

2ND TIME

2 parents and

1 child = £320

2 children = 640

3 children = 960

4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.

A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000

2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

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.



Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Access to Mental Health Resources

We understand the importance of mental health and wellbeing for our children and their families. As part of our commitment to supporting our community, we want to share some valuable resources available through the **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024** guidelines.

Where to Find Mental Health Support Services:

School Mental Health Lead: Our school has a designated Mental Health Lead (Mrs Conant and Miss Moore) who is trained to oversee and support the mental health and wellbeing of our children. They are available to provide guidance and connect families with appropriate resources.

Local Mental Health Support Teams: St Helens Mental Health Support Team works closely with St James schools to offer targeted support for children and young people experiencing mental health challenges. They provide early intervention and help to ensure that children receive the care they need.

Online Resources: The Department for Education offers a range of online resources to help families understand and support their children's mental health. These include guides, toolkits, and information on various mental health issues.

Community Services: There are numerous community-based services that offer mental health support for children and families. These services can provide counselling, therapy, and other forms of assistance.

Helplines and Websites: Families can access support through helplines and websites dedicated to mental health. These platforms offer confidential advice and support from trained professionals.

We encourage you to reach out if you have any concerns about your child's mental health. Our school is here to support you and ensure that every child has access to the resources they need to thrive.

Online Safety Tip of the Week



Streamers

You may already know that livestreaming plays a major role in children's entertainment, with a wide range of personalities influencing young viewers in both positive and negative ways. While watching streamers can be fun, it also comes with significant risks, including misinformation, financial harms, and inappropriate content.

Popular streaming platform Twitch has over 2.5 million viewers at any given time, which is why it's more important than ever to stay informed. This week's guide, also available as a podcast, explores the potential dangers of livestreaming and offers essential insights to help you protect the children in your care.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMERS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Livestreaming has become a big part of the entertainment people consume, and what began as a series of gamers sharing their screens has grown into a huge industry packed with personalities – and potential risks for your children. With over 2.5 million people watching Twitch, the most popular streaming service, at any one time, it's important to remain aware of the risks associated with streamers.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



Some gaming streamers will stick to family-friendly titles, but others will play more violent games that tend to be more popular. Non-gaming streamers could, in theory, discuss just about anything, and some streamers will often stream in revealing outfits.

NEGATIVE INFLUENCES



While things have improved, streamers are often paid by companies to promote products, and this isn't always stated explicitly. While it's unlikely these goods will be harmful to your child, some streamers and influencers have engaged (knowingly or not) in scams in the past.

FINANCIAL HARM

Streamers will often have donation buttons on their screens for users to submit money. What can start as small amounts can quickly spiral as streamers engage with paying viewers more often, potentially leading to financial issues.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



Influencers often showcase how glamorous their lives are, making some users feel as though they are lesser. However, it's important to stress that, in many ways, this is an act, or at the very least, not common. Logan Paul, who has been successful as a streamer and influencer, has a Pokemon card worth \$5 million, but this is atypical of anyone working in the medium.

MISINFORMATION



Streamers are, in many ways, just like us – and they can get things wrong or reel off an opinion without having thought about it. Some can simply say awful things to get a rise out of viewers or to sway them to their side of a hot topic.

ADDICTION AND SCREEN TIME



If your child is watching a lot of a particular streamer, it can be just as damaging to their social life as playing too many video games.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN HOW STREAMING WORKS



For a younger viewer, being a streamer or influencer seems aspirational, but it involves a lot of work and no small degree of good fortune. Streamers are often managed and unable to speak freely due to sponsors, and influencers are just that – influencing young minds, for better or for worse.

DO NOT LOG PAYMENT INFORMATION



Streamers can reward donations with additional content, on-camera "shout outs" and more. If you're unsure about who or what your child is watching, consider avoiding linking payment information. This is especially notable with Twitch, which is owned by Amazon and therefore has some crossover.

CHECK OUT STREAMING PLATFORMS



While Twitch was the de facto streaming service for years, YouTube has gained popularity, too. Then there are Kick and Rumble, which have grown in popularity with moves for big-name streamers – despite many being dogged by controversy.

SET SCREEN TIME LIMITS



You can set screentime limits for mobile apps on iOS and Google, but with other platforms like a PC it may be more difficult to keep tabs. Consider checking in regularly to ensure your children aren't watching content they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of the Daily Star, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/streamers>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.03.2025

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

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



Lent Week 3
Matthew 6: 16 - 24

Fasting

“When you fast, do not look sombre as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

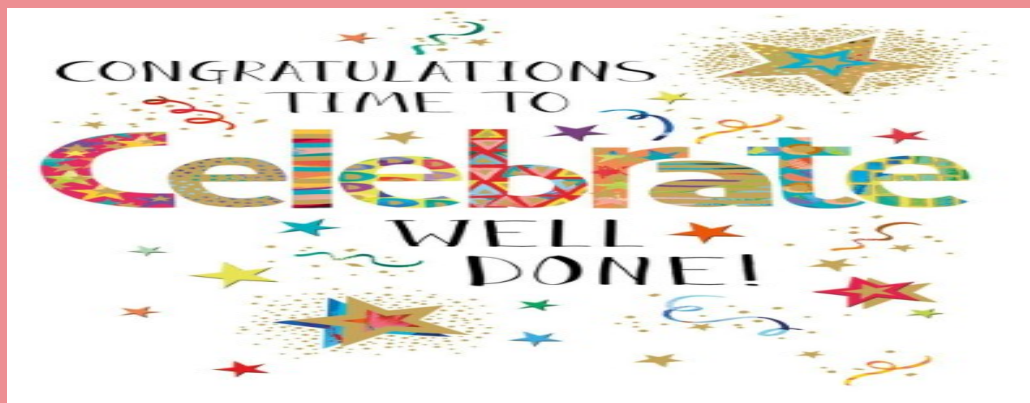
Treasures in Heaven

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

“No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

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 Perseverance .

RECEPTION	Esmay Royle
YEAR 1	Frankie Brown
YEAR 2	Lucy Eccleston
YEAR 3	Alice Slater
YEAR 4	Nathanael Arthur
YEAR 5	Olive-Christina
YEAR 6	Briella Shaw



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

Thursday Reception and
Year 6

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

- Confirmation Classes (for those children who are being confirmed) with Father Micheal.

- **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.



Parental Survey

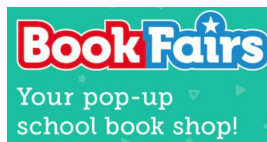
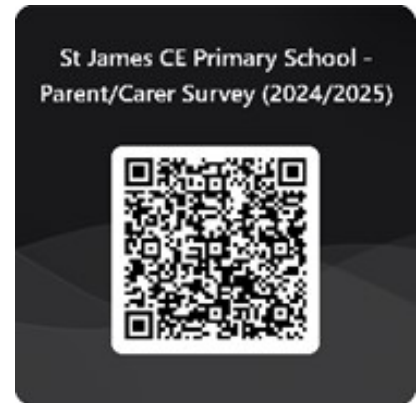
As part of our ongoing commitment to improve and provide the best possible education for your children, we kindly ask you to take a few moments to complete our parent survey.

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 \(Parent/Carer Survey 2024-2025\)](#)



Due to the overwhelming success of our previous event, the Book Fair is returning to St James' School!

The Book Fair will be held from **Monday, 24th March to Wednesday, 26th March.**

Event Details:

- **Time:** 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
- **Location:** Inside the school (Please enter via the school office)

Payment Options:

- We accept both cash and card payments. However, card payments are preferred and can be made via a QR code.

Special Note for Seashells Attendees:

- If your child attends Seashells, they can visit the Book Fair with staff. Please place the money in an envelope clearly labelled with your child's name and the amount provided.

Thank you for your support!

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

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.



Tree Planting

School has been given some trees and we planning to use them to being to establish a woodland area at the far end of the school field. In order for this to happen, we need some help planting them. So, on Sunday 23rd March, a number of us will meet on the school field at 3pm and would appreciate it if lots of people could join us. All are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Please come to the field through the gate to the bottom car park and bring a spade or a trowel. We will be finished by 4:30 at the latest. During this time there will not be access to the school building or play-grounds.



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' 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!

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



Funded by



The Easter Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

Funded by the Department for Education, the FREE holiday activities and food (HAF) programme provides healthy food and enriching activities for primary and secondary school-aged children eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

The aim of the programme is to:

- support children to eat healthier and be more active over the school holidays
- give children a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
- enable children to become more engaged with school and other local services.

HAF Easter Programme 2025

The Easter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) will be running from **Monday 7 April to Saturday 19 April 2025 for all eligible children, young people, and families.**

The programme is open to **children aged 4-18 years who are eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM), and their families. Children who are in receipt of a support plan via Early Help, Child in Need or Children We Look After, EHCP, or if your child receives additional hours at school.**

The HAF Team would like to ensure that as many eligible families take this offer up over the Easter to remove some of the financial burden to families who are already on the brink.

Please see below the link to the HAF webpage with all of the information about the Easter programme.

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/4060/Holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

If you require any further information, please call Central Link Family Hub 01744 673445.



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**

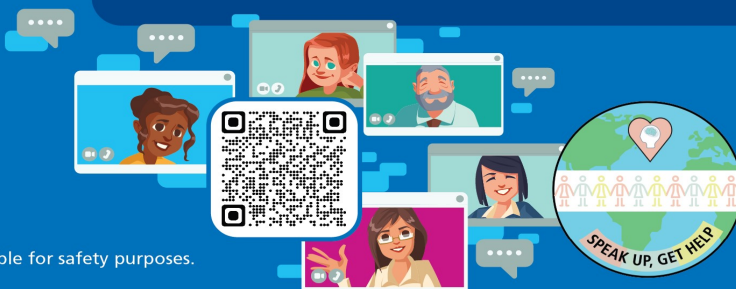
WHEN

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.



EASTER TECH CLUBS

CODING-ROBOTICS-GAME DESIGN-MINECRAFT & MORE

Computer Xplorers

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

ST HELENS



Rainford High School

Higher Lane, Rainford, WA11 8NY



7th-11th & 14th-17th April



9am-3pm/11am-3pm

Paid sessions Funded Sessions



Childcare Voucher payments
now available.



Providing fun, educational activities including coding, robotics, game design and Minecraft Education as part of the HAF Scheme. Both paid and funded places are available to book for kids aged 5+.



Department
for Education



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



***FREE places** available to those eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM), and their families. Children who are in receipt of a support plan via Early Help, Child in Need or Children We Look After, EHCP, or if your child receives additional hours at school.

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

Questions? Email us- bolton@computerexplorers.co.uk



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