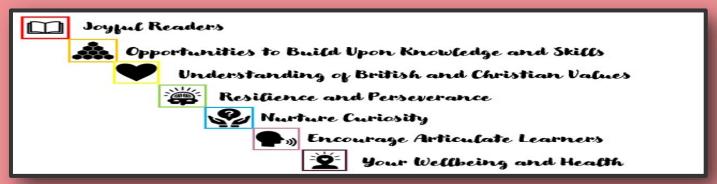


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 24 Friday 28th March 2025

OUR VALUE THIS HALF TERM IS: FORGIVENESS

This week at St James

At St. James, our school value of Live, Learn, and Laugh with the Love of God continues to guide and inspire everything we do—celebrating growth, kindness, and community. We're delighted to share the highlights of a busy and rewarding week:

On Monday, Year 5 participated in another enlightening Debt Aware session with Mr. Souter. These sessions are instrumental in equipping our pupils with practical financial education that promotes responsibility and wise decision-making.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parents who attended Parents' Evening this week. We hope the discussions were insightful and beneficial for you. Your ongoing support strengthens the partnership between home and school, ensuring the best possible outcomes for our children.

Thank you to everyone who visited our Book Fair and purchased books. Your contributions, combined with the funds raised during November, will enable us to enhance our supply of books in school. Reading truly opens the door to endless possibilities for our children!

Our New Hope Fundraising Day was a remarkable success! The funds raised will continue to support New Hope School and Orphanage, making a tangible difference in the lives of children in need. Last year, your generosity helped provide essential items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and body cream. Your kindness truly reflects our values and the love of God in action.

Year 4 and Year 5 visited Haydock Library on Thursday to dive into Shakespeare Workshops, and Year 6 followed on Friday. These sessions brought the magic of the Bard to life, sparking curiosity and creativity in our young learners.

Finally, a big thank you to all the Reception parents who joined us for our special Mother's Day event. It was wonderful to celebrate this occasion together, and we hope you enjoyed the heartfelt activities and moments prepared by your little ones.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks, let us continue to live, learn, and laugh with the love of God, embracing every opportunity to grow together as a caring community. Thank you for your unwavering support and involvement in our school life—it makes all the difference!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Briers









School Matters!



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 96.1%

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

There were 144 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance		
Whole School	96.6%	
Reception	93.3%	
Year 1	93.2%	
Year 2	95.9%	
Year 3	98.7%	
Year 4	98.3%	
Year 5	97.3%	
Year 6	99%	





Equates to:	100%	PERFECTION
SCHOOL DAYS off each year	98%	IMPRESSIVE
7 SCHOOL AND DAYS off each year	96%	>>> G00D
9 SCHOOL DAYS of real year	95%	NEARLY THERE
SCHOOL DAYS off each year	94%	NEEDS TO IMPROVE
SCHOOL DAYS Off each year	90%	CONCERNS ordered to Educational Violation / Persistent absenting
30 SCHOOL DAYS of each year	85%	SERIOUS CONCERNS

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.





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 I must complete the phonics screening check from Monday 9 June 2025.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

ATTENDANCE

WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

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









+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160 4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

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



=

Sessions

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



4 children & 2 parents =

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...



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

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

97%



Spot Prizes

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







Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Encouraging Open Communication How to create a safe space for your child to discuss their feelings.

Open communication is a cornerstone of your child's well-being and development. It allows them to feel valued, heard, and supported, laying the foundation for trust and resilience. The "Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024" guidelines emphasise the importance of fostering environments where children feel secure enough to voice their thoughts and emotions. Here's how you can create such a space at home:

Be Present and Attentive

Take time to actively listen to your child without distractions. Show genuine interest in their day and thoughts by asking open-ended questions like, "What made you smile today?" or "Is there anything on your mind?" This shows them you care about their feelings.

Create a Judgment-Free Zone

Let your child know they can share anything with you without fear of being criticised or dismissed. Reassure them that their feelings are valid, whether they're excited, sad, or even frustrated. Avoid rushing to solve their problems; sometimes, simply listening is the most helpful thing you can do.

Model Healthy Communication

Children learn by example, so demonstrate openness by sharing your own feelings in an age-appropriate way. This normalises discussions about emotions and teaches them constructive ways to express themselves.

Be Patient and Encouraging

Children may not always know how to articulate their feelings. Encourage them gently and provide tools like drawing or storytelling to help them express themselves in ways that feel natural to them.

Respect Privacy and Boundaries

While staying engaged, it's also essential to respect your child's need for space. Let them know you're always available when they're ready to talk.

By creating a nurturing, safe space for open communication, you empower your child to build confidence, self-awareness, and trust. Keeping children safe isn't just about physical protection—it's about safeguarding their emotional well-being too.

Let's keep the conversations flowing and the connections growing!

Online Safety Tip of the Week





Bluesky social app is a microblogging social media platform that gained popularity after separating from Twitter in 2021. It's more than doubled its user numbers in the past six months alone, from 14.5 million in October 2024 to 32 million at present. Since accounts must be public, this opens the door to potential trolling \bigcirc , cyberbullying and the spread of misinformation.

This free guide – also available in podcast format – offering parents and educators advice and guidance on the tools available to keep children safe while using the popular social media platform Bluesky.



Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:





Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Loving God,

Thank you for mums and children and for all the joy of family life.

Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;

Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;

Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.

Let your love be present in every home,

And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thank you God for the love of our mothers:

thank you God for their care and concern;

thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;

thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;

thank you God for all that they give us;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





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	Charlotte Comber
YEAR 1	Oakley Passey
YEAR 2	Noah Welsby
YEAR 3	George Braithwaite
YEAR 4	Mason Cliffe
YEAR 5	Roman McCabe
YEAR 6	Lottie Stanley



<u>PE Days</u> <u>Start</u> (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.



Eid Celebration Day at St James CE Primary School

On **Tuesday 1**st **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: Tuesday 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.

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.

St James CE Primary School-

Thank you for your time and support.

Please use the QR code or the link below.

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







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.





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

Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

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.

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

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

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

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

15 April at Newton 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

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)

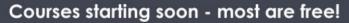
Webinars will be recorded. No chat function will be available for safety purposes.

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









- Contact us to find out more: 01744 676671, 01744 677328, or 07702 959814
- adultlearning@sthelens.gov.uk
- www.sthelens.gov.uk/adultlearning
- StHelensACL
- @STHLearning

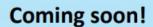












When	Course	Where
Monday afternoon 31st March 1-2pm	Caring for Children information session Ideal for those hoping to work or volunteer with children aged 0-5.	Park Road Centre WA9 1HE
Tuesday afternoons 22 nd April 1-3pm	Photography and Wellbeing 5-week course, exploring the 5 ways to wellbeing and how photography can help to develop these. Use your smart phone, no cameras needed!	United Reformed Church, St Helens WA10 2JZ
Tuesday afternoons 1:30-3:30pm Enquire for the next start date	Digital Skills for Improvers Learn how to use Microsoft Word, Excel, or PowerPoint.	St Helens Library WA10 1BX
Tuesday afternoons From 22 nd April 1-3pm	Intro to English Learning English made easy and enjoyable. Perfect for anyone looking to improve their basic English skills.	Park Road Centre WA9 1HE
Wednesdays From 23 rd April 9:15am -2:45pm	Entry level 3 Award Caring for Children Learn about confidence through play, routines for a young child (0-5yrs) and providing a safe and healthy lifestyle.	Park Road Centre WA9 1HE
First Aid Places available for Monday 14 th April and Tuesday 15 th April	Are you a volunteer in St Helens or part of a charitable organisation or community group? Our FREE first aid 1 day course will help to support your role.	Park Road Centre WA9 1HE
Watch this space for	Crafts Mental Health Awareness Training for volunteers iPads and Tablets Digital Skills for Beginners	Assorted Venues

To join our free courses, you need to be aged 19 or over and live in one of these areas: St Helens, Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, or Wirral.

















