

NEWSLETTER

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

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

God



2024-2025 Issue Number 25 Friday 4th April 2025

This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

OUR VALUE THIS HALF TERM IS: FORGIVENESS









On Tuesday, 1st April, we held a fantastic Eid Celebration Day, allowing us to join in the joy with members of our school community while providing all the children an opportunity to learn about this meaningful religious festival. The day was filled with exciting activities, including a special worship session led by Mrs. Young, arts and crafts projects, and even specially baked biscuits from the kitchen to share as part of breaking the fast. The event truly highlighted the importance of promoting cultural awareness, respect, and inclusion within our school.

This week has been another wonderful example of how we embrace our school

motto—journeying together to learn, live, and laugh with the love of God.

On Wednesday we all took part in a wonderful LDST trust-wide Easter Service (as some of our school break up this Friday!).

A big thank you to everyone who came along to our second bingo event of the year! Congratulations to all the lucky winners—it was a delightful evening, and your participation helped us raise much-needed funds for the school. These funds will go directly toward enriching our children's learning experiences.

Looking ahead, a quick reminder that next week is a shorter one as we approach the Easter break. We will finish on Wednesday with an early dismissal, so please ensure you have made arrangements for your child's early collection on this day.

Wishing you a restful weekend filled with joy and laughter

Mrs Briers



Attendance Updates

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our <u>97%</u> target—this will help us to succeed!

Our Whole School attendance to date is 95.9 %

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

There were 114 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

		Attendan	ce Matte	rs
Weekly Attendance		1		
Whole School	91.6%		Counts	
			6-A	Re In SCHOOL
Reception	90.7%		Q	Be In SCHOOL Be On TIME
Year 1	86.8%		100%	PERFECTION
Year 2	91.4%	Equates to:	100 %	
		4 SCHOOL DAYS off each year	98%	IMPRESSIVE
Year 3	94.3%	7 SCHOOL DAYS of each year	96%	GOOD
Year 4	91.3%	9 SCHOOL DAYS of real year	95%	NEARLY THERE
Year 5	95.9%	11 SCHOOL DAYS eff exc3 year	94%	NEEDS TO IMPROVE
Year 6	91%	20 SCHOOL DAYS off each year	90%	CONCERNS Inferred to Educational Wedane / Pressaint abundances
		30 SCHOOL DAYS of each year	85%	





Whole School events Summer 1

Date	Event
22/04/25	School Re-opens
22/04/25	World Earth Day
22/04/25	Confirmation Class 3.20pm – 4.15pm
24/04/25	St James' Easter Service - Year 3 led 2,30pm (in church)
28/04/25	Year 2 Parents Evening
29/04/25	Year 5 Trip – Jodrell Bank
29/04/25	Year 2 Parents Evening
01/05/25	Year Lassembly 9.00am
05/05/25	SCHOOL CLOSED – Bank Holiday
06/05/25	Digital Leaders – Football Fundraiser
06/05/25	Confirmation Class 3.20pm-4.15pm
13/05/25	Confirmation Class 3.20pm-4.15pm
20/05/25	Confirmation Class 3.20pm-4.15pm
22/05/25	Year Trip - Safari Park
23/05/25	Coffee Morning TBC 9.00am
23/05/25	School Closes

Term Dates

2024-2025

Autumr	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 9th 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



Attenda	nce	M	DMENTS ATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.
<u>Updat</u>		Rei	member that sch starts at:
 Retrieval From 8:40, retrieval ti This is the most impor the day! Prior knowledge is rev children are supported gaps in their knowledg This is also our wellbe time where we support have a strong start to	me begins. tant lesson of isited, and to close any e. eing check in t children to	• You take • You get	ming into school at 8:40 means o part in an extra 10 minutes of learning to have extra practice during retrieva take part in your clase morning routing Important Dates C
Attend every day for 4 weeks to be in with a chance of winning our mega Easter hamper! 10th March-4th April	Spot prizes given for ch attending s regular	rildren ichool	 Year 6 assessment timetabled from M May to Thursday 2025. Year 4 must comp multiplication table check between the period after Monde
An extra £5 in your piggy bank for the classes with at least 97% in the final week 7th-9th April	Don't forget ti in the last wee to take part church Easter	k of term ir our	2025. Year I must compl phonics screening Monday 9 June 2

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LDST



ool at 8:40 means that

a 10 minutes of learning each day.

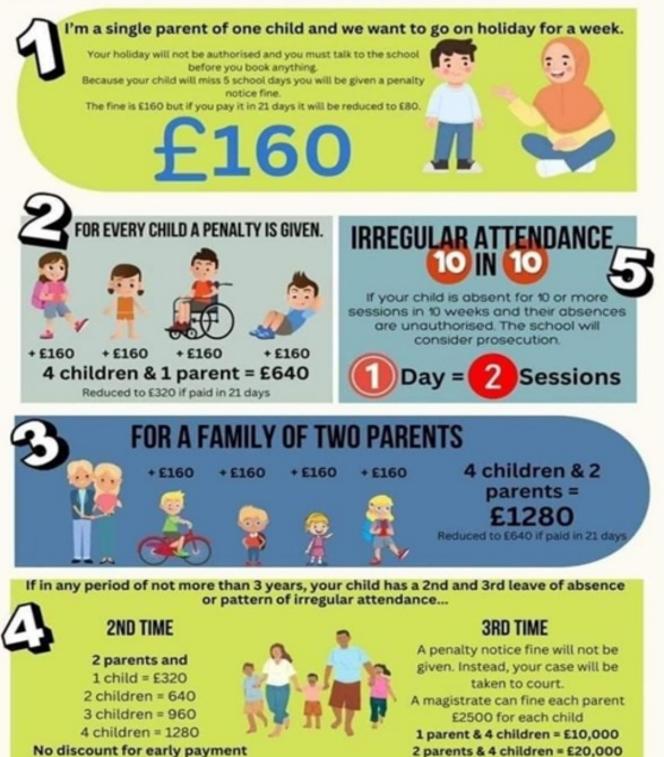
- ractice during retrieval time.
- ir class morning routine.

ant Dates Coming Up:

assessments are ibled from Monday 12 to Thursday 15 May must complete the lication tables between the two week of l after Monday 2nd June must complete the cs screening check from ay 9 June 2025.



WHAT THE NEW RULES ATTENDANCE MEAN FOR ME



No discount for early payment

Easter Hamper Piggy Bank Attend school every day (and An extra £5 in your class on time) for 4 weeks to be in Piggy Bank if your class with a chance of winning our has 100% attendance in mega Easter hamper! the final week 10th March to 4th April. 7th-9th April 97%

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.



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Supporting Children Affected by Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can have a significant and lasting impact on children, affecting their emotional well-being, development, and ability to learn. Even when children are not direct victims, exposure to domestic abuse can create feelings of fear, anxiety, and insecurity, potentially leading to difficulties in forming relationships and staying focused in school.

As a school, we are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all our pupils. Following the guidance outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024, we actively support children who may be affected by domestic abuse. Our staff are trained to recognise the signs of abuse and provide a safe, nurturing environment where children feel secure and valued.

We also work closely with external organizations, social services, and families to ensure every child has access to the care and resources they need. If you have concerns about a child or need support yourself, we encourage you to reach out to us. Together, we can help create a safer and brighter future for every child.

If you'd like more details on the guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024, or need assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch a member of the school Safeguarding Team.

Online Safety Tip of the Week

<u>Instagram</u>



Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – used by around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds.

It may be one of the most familiar social media names around but features like AI-powered chatbots and Threads integration have added fresh challenges for families and schools to navigate. From worrying livestreams to issues like social exclusion and fear of missing out, Instagram isn't just about photos. As the platform evolves, so too must the conversations we have with young people about how they use it.

This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide outlines what these new features involve, the possible risks they bring and how to make the most of Instagram's parental controls to keep children safe online

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 national college.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know abouttollow

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app - and what the risks are.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

WHAT ARE

THE RISKS?

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, sts from friends, influencers, and strangers, ich may disrupt their day-to-day activities

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time oadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inapportate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

GE RESTRICTION

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Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced esteem and a sense of not belonging

Advice for Parents & Educators

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USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

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OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

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.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss Al features, too, therefore helping children understo that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotion and how online personalities can shape opinions and beha<u>viour.</u>

The National College®

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Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:



Lucy's Courageous Act of Kindness

We are so proud to celebrate Lucy's incredible decision to donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust. In her own heartfelt words, she wanted to "give her long beautiful hair to little girls that are sick."

This selfless gesture was completely Lucy's decision, showing not only her kindness but also her courageous advocacy for helping others. She has inspired us all with her compassion and thoughtfulness.

The photographs below captured this special moment—Lucy's hair before the big cut, and her radiant smile afterwards. These images remind us of the beauty in giving and the impact one person can have.

Lucy, you are a shining example of bravery and generosity. Well done!





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	Zavier Bauline	
YEAR 1	Toby Jones- Pendlebury	
YEAR 2	Nate York	
YEAR 3	Alice Slater	
YEAR 4	Poppy Comiskey	
YEAR 5	Sebastian	
YEAR 6	Joey Roscoe	

Journey Driver Focus:

Forgiveness

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 Forgiveness"

RECEPTION	Ariella Pendlebury- Fernandes	
YEAR 1	Aria Hill-Price	
YEAR 2	Sophia Illes	
YEAR 3	Riley McClymont	
YEAR 4	Khloe-Mae Lee	
YEAR 5	Oscar Newton	
YEAR 6	Logan Chick	



<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)



<u>Clubs</u>

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

Tuesday

- Sports Club for KS1 with the Sports Coach
- -Confirmation Classes (for those children who are being confirmed) with Father

Micheal.

- Thursday
 - Sports Club for KS2 with the Sports Coach

Booking is now available via ParentPay.

*If your child is in Y1, Y4 Y6, you may receive a letter inviting them to attend a Booster Club.







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.







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Create a profile relevant to your child's age



Reminders for important dates such as immunisations

Find local services like pharmacies 0



Receive personalised information without revealing data

NHS reviewed articles and videos





catchapp.co.uk @catchapp_uk search for catch app







Confidential text messaging service for young people in St Helens.

ChatHealth, is new confidential text messaging service for young people aged 11-19 in St Helens.

Young people can access confidential advice and support from their local <u>School Nursing Service</u> by text, on a range of health and wellbeing issues, including anxiety, bullying, relationships and emotional health.

This service, a winner of the NHS Innovation Challenge Award, provides advice, information and guidance, and signposting to other services if needed. It does not replace face-to-face services, but it does make it easier for a young person to get in touch with a school nurse confidentially and anonymously. It also offers a way to get in touch for those who feel reluctant to talk about difficult or sensitive issues.

Young people can access a range of advice and support around:

- Anxiety and stress
- Relationships
- Healthy eating
- · Puberty and sexual health
- Mental wellbeing
- Sleeping
- Feelings and emotions

How ChatHealth works

ChatHealth is available between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday (including school holidays, excluding bank holidays) and accessed by texting a dedicated number. Anyone sending a text outside these hours will receive an automated message with advice on where to get help if they require it urgently. When the service reopens, the sender will then receive a reply to the message.

For more information about ChatHealth visit www.wchc.nhs.uk/chathealth



Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins beginning February 2025

Mersey Care

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.

> 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.

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

11 February at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton

25 February at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

Sutton Family Hub, Ellamsbridge Road, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3PY

11 March at Parr

Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton

Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

25 March at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

18 March at Newton

Mental Health Support Team Wellbeing webinars

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

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** 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.

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.



Courses starting soon - most are free!



SKILLED

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matrix

Coming soon!

When	Course	Where
Vionday afternoon Caring for Children information session B1st March Ideal for those hoping to work or volunteer with children aged 0-5.		Park Road Centre WA9 1HE
Tuesday afternoons Photography and Wellbeing 22 nd April 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 Intro to English From 22 nd April Learning English made easy and enjoyable. 1-3pm 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

Places must be booked in advance.

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.

Journeying Together to Live, Learn





