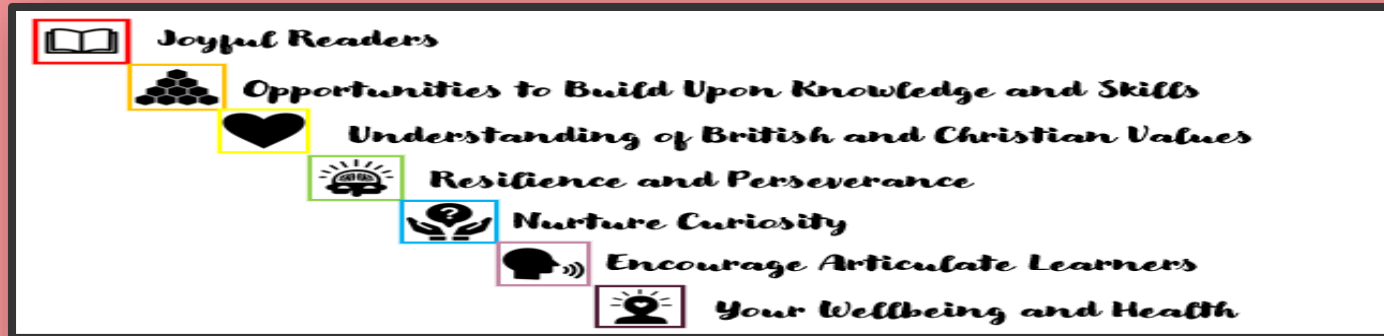




## *Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God*



2024-2025 Issue Number 26 Friday 25th April 2025

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



### **This week at St James**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although this has been a short week, we have enjoyed a fantastic start to the summer term!

This week, we've had quite a mix of weather, but we're definitely enjoying the lighter mornings and evenings that come with this time of year. As the sunshine becomes more frequent, we look forward to making the most of the outdoors across the term.

On Wednesday, Joe Heyes joined us for worship, and it is always a delight to welcome him each half term. His visits bring joy and inspiration to both pupils and staff alike.

On Thursday, we gathered at church for our Easter service, beautifully led by Year 3. What a wonderful way to reflect on the Easter season and begin the summer term in such a meaningful way.

Looking ahead to next week, there's even more to be excited about. Year 5 will head out once again for their Golden Shell experience at Jodrell Bank, while Year 1 will take the stage for their class assembly. We know they'll both shine in their respective activities!

A big thank you to all parents and carers who responded to the parent survey before

## Attendance Updates

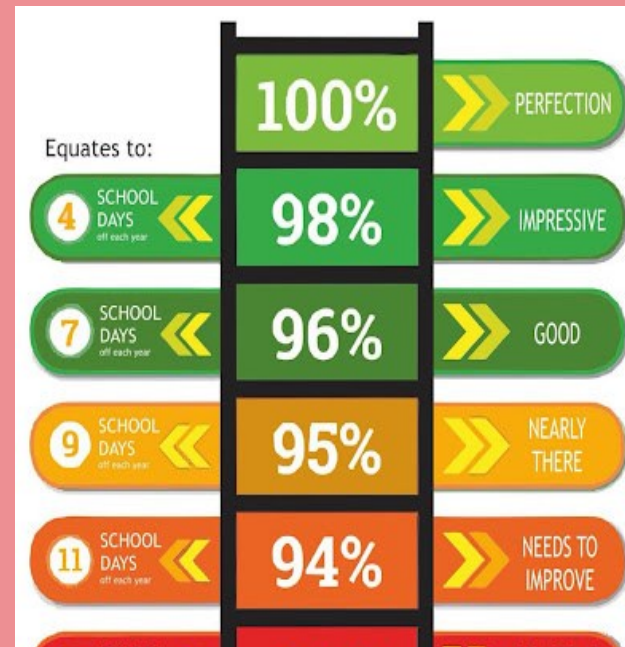
We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our **97% target**—this will help us to succeed!

Our Whole School attendance to date is **95.4%**

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

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

Weekly Attendance	
Whole School	96.1
Reception	96.7
Year 1	95.1
Year 2	95.5
Year 3	96.3
Year 4	97.9
Year 5	94.3





## 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 1 assembly 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 1 Trip - Safari Park
23/05/25	Coffee Morning TBC 9.00am
23/05/25	School Closes

## Term Dates

**2024-2025**

Autumn Term		Days
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	33
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	34
Spring Term		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	30
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	33
Summer Term		



## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

### Child Exploitation: Recognising the Signs and How We Address It

At St James,, safeguarding our children is our top priority. As part of our commitment to their safety, we want to raise awareness about child exploitation and how we work together to protect our students.

#### **Signs of Child Exploitation**

Child exploitation can take many forms, including criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, and forced labour. Some signs to watch for include:

- Sudden changes in behaviour or mood.
- Unexplained gifts, money, or possessions.
- Absences from school or unexplained injuries.
- Becoming withdrawn or secretive.
- Becoming withdrawn or secretive.

These indicators are outlined in the *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024* guidance, which emphasizes the importance of vigilance and early intervention.

#### **How We Address This Issue**

Our school follows a robust safeguarding policy, including:

- Regular training for staff to recognize and respond to signs of exploitation.
- A designated safeguarding lead (DSL) who coordinates support and referrals.
- Open communication with parents and carers to share concerns and provide guidance.
- Collaboration with local authorities and agencies to ensure children receive the help they need.

We encourage parents to reach out to us if they have any concerns about their child or others. Together, we can create a safe and supportive environment for all our students.

For more information, please refer to the *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024* guidance.



someone they've never met face to face. The latest #WakeUpWednesday guide explores how young people form connections online and what trusted adults should know.

With expert advice on encouraging safer habits, spotting red flags and keeping communication open, this week's free guide offers valuable guidance for parents and educators alike. It's all about helping children navigate online friendships safely, confidently — and most importantly, happily.

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](https://nationalcollege.com). Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

#### EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

#### PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

#### COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

#### LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 15, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

**26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW** ✓

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

#### ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

#### KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

#### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

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



### **A Prayer for Friendship**

Loving God,

As we step into this new term, we thank You for the gift of friendship.

Help us to welcome one another with kindness, to listen with open hearts, and to support each other in times of need.

May our classrooms be places of joy, laughter, and learning, where every child feels included and valued.

Teach us to be patient, to forgive, and to celebrate the unique gifts You have given each of us.

Bless our teachers as they guide us, our families as they encourage us, and our friends who walk beside us each day.

May Your love be the foundation of our friendships, and may we reflect Your goodness in all we do.

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 Nurturing Curiosity.

<b>RECEPTION</b>	Kayden-Kai Pearson
<b>YEAR 1</b>	Betty Rotherham
<b>YEAR 2</b>	Andra Varga
<b>YEAR 3</b>	Joseph Webb
<b>YEAR 4</b>	Axel Richardson
<b>YEAR 5</b>	Lily Hind
<b>YEAR 6</b>	Tommy Davies

Start (Mon 10th March 25)

End (Fri 16th May 25).

<b>Monday</b>	Years 1, 2, 3 and 4
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 3 and 4
<b>Wednesday</b>	Reception and Year 5
<b>Thursday</b>	Reception and Year 6
<b>Friday</b>	Year 1 , 2. 5 and 6

**Y5 Swimming (5th March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April)**



### Clubs

We are running the following after school clubs this 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

\*If your child is in Y1, Y4 Y6, you may receive a letter inviting them to attend a Rooster



# BREATHING SPACE

*Join us to find out how we can help you love your lungs!*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S BREATHING?

DO YOU WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT THE CONDITIONS IN YOUR HOME AND AIR QUALITY?

UNSURE WHO CAN HELP YOU WITH KEEPING WARM AND BREATHING BETTER?

**Bring your friends and the whole family, to get FREE support and advice from a variety of local services about how to improve respiratory health, and get everyone breathing better!**

**PARR CHILDREN'S CENTRE,  
ASHTONS GREEN  
DRIVE, ST HELENS,  
WA9 2AP**

**9:30AM-12NOON**

**15TH APRIL 2025**

**27TH MAY 2025**

**8TH JULY 2025**

**19TH AUGUST 2025**

**30TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

**11TH NOVEMBER 2025**



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**

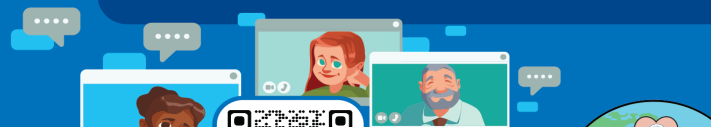
Emotional Regulation - **13 May**

Body Image - **8 July**

### WHEN

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](mailto:events@merseycare.nhs.uk)



# Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins

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.**

\*Please note, on Tuesday 8 July the session will be held at Sutton Family Hub 1pm to 4pm only.

**13 May** at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

**10 June** at Parr Children's Centre, 9.30am to 11.30am and Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

**8 July** at Sutton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

**20 May** at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

**17 June** at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

**15 July** at Newton Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

**27 May** at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

**24 June** at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

**22 July** at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.



# Year 5 & 6 Open Evening

*We warmly invite Year 5 & 6 students  
along with their parents/carers to  
attend our annual open evening.*

**Thursday 19th June 2025**  
**4:30<sup>pm</sup> - 7:00<sup>pm</sup>**

**Principal's presentation at  
5:15<sup>pm</sup> and 6:00<sup>pm</sup>**

Outwood Academy Haydock  
Clipsley Lane, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside, WA11 0JG

Tel: 01744 678833 Twitter: @OutwoodHaydock

Email: [enquiries@haydock.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@haydock.outwood.com)

Web: [www.haydock.outwood.com](http://www.haydock.outwood.com)



# St James Football Fundraiser



Bring in £1 to  
have 3 shots.

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> May -  
Fri 9<sup>th</sup> May

This will  
take place  
at break  
time





# Skydive

## FOR WILLOWBROOK

SATURDAY 3RD MAY 2025



£25 REGISTRATION FEE  
INCLUDES T-SHIRT  
RAISE £600 IN SPONSORSHIP  
Black Knights Skydiving Centre



**Willowbrook  
Hospice** Every Contact Counts  
Registered Charity No. 1020240



[www.willowbrook.org.uk](http://www.willowbrook.org.uk)



01744 453798



Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR



**Willowbrook  
Hospice** Every Contact Counts  
Registered Charity No. 1020240



[www.willowbrook.org.uk](http://www.willowbrook.org.uk)



01744 453798



Registered with  
FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR



# Plant Sale

Bedding plants,  
perennials, vegetables  
Café & outdoor  
terrace open

Friday 23rd May 10am-2pm  
& Saturday 24th May 10am-2pm

The Living Well Marquee  
Borough Road, St Helens, WA10 3RN



Sponsored by



# Sunrise on Snowdon

22ND JUNE 2025

MEET 10PM - 21ST JUNE  
SUNRISE 4.50AM

Trek to the summit of Snowdon in  
time for the sun to break the horizon  
in aid of Willowbrook Hospice

Registration £55 includes,  
trekking poles, £200

