



NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

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



Joyful Readers



Opportunities to Build Upon Knowledge and Skills



Understanding of British and Christian Values



Resilience and Perseverance



Nurture Curiosity



Encourage Articulate Learners



Your Wellbeing and Health

2024-2025 Issue Number 28 Friday 9th May 2025

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



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we've had at school! The sunshine has lifted our spirits, and it's been wonderful to see everyone enjoying the brighter days.

A huge well done to our Digital Leaders for organising such a successful Football Fundraiser—it was great to see so many children taking part and supporting a good cause.

We also had a fabulous time celebrating VE Day, with pupils proudly dressed in red, white, and blue as they took part in a range of special activities to mark this historic event. A big thank you to our amazing kitchen staff, who treated us to delicious themed cupcakes that added to the celebrations!

Looking ahead, next week is an important time for our Year 6 pupils as they sit their SATs tests. We know they have worked incredibly hard, and we ask you to join us in wishing them all the very best.

Year 6, remember—you've got this!

SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.
SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.
SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.
SATs don't hear your laughter, or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.
So sitting at your table, with a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are, remember you're the best.

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 95.9%

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

There were 138 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	95.7%
Reception	95.8%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	93.8%
Year 4	97.4%
Year 5	90.9%
Year 6	100%



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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



Every Lesson Counts



At St James' CE Primary School

Days off school add up to lost learning and impact on your child's life chances.

175 Non School Days a year

175 DAYS TO SPEND ON HOLIDAYS, FAMILY TIME, VISITS, SHOPPING, HOUSEHOLD JOBS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

190 school days each year for your child's education
EXCELLENT
96% - 100%
Most effective way to success and sets your child off to a flying start.

10 days absence
180 days of education
CONCERNING
LESS THAN 96%
School monitors attendance; it is less than expected.

19 days of absence
170 days of education
WORRYING
Less than 90%
Less chance of success; harder to make progress in learning, friendships and relationships with others.

29 days absence
HALF A TERM MISSED
161 DAYS OF EDUCATION
Serious concerns
Less than 85%
This is not fair on your child. You risk prosecution and a jail term.

Miss School Miss Out

If you're not coming to school, you will miss out on....



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Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Bullying and Cyberbullying

At our school, ensuring the safety and well-being of every child is our highest priority. As part of our commitment to safeguarding, we follow the government's Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance to tackle bullying and cyberbullying.

We believe that every child has the right to feel safe, respected, and valued both in school and online. Our Anti-Bullying Policy, available on our school website, outlines the steps we take to prevent and address any instances of bullying. We encourage all parents and carers to take a moment to read this important document.

How Parents Can Help

You play a vital role in helping to tackle bullying, and together, we can create a supportive environment where all children thrive. Here are some ways you can support your child:

- Encourage open conversations – Talk to your child regularly about their day, friendships, and any concerns they may have.
- Spot the signs – Changes in mood, reluctance to go to school, or withdrawal from social activities may indicate a problem.
- Promote kindness and inclusivity – Help your child understand the importance of respect and standing up for others.
- Stay informed about online safety – Monitor their online activity and encourage responsible internet use.
- Report concerns – If you suspect bullying, whether in school or online, please contact us immediately so we can provide support.

In addition to our strong commitment to tackling bullying, we are also embracing **restorative practice and trauma-informed approaches** to support our pupils' emotional well-being. These methods focus on building positive relationships, understanding individual experiences, and helping children navigate challenges in a safe and supportive environment.

Restorative practices encourage **open conversations**, where children can express their feelings, resolve conflicts, and strengthen their sense of belonging within the school community. Meanwhile, trauma-informed approaches ensure that staff recognise the impact of difficult experiences and provide nurturing, compassionate support tailored to each child's needs.

By integrating these approaches, we aim to foster a school culture where **every child feels understood, valued, and empowered** to thrive both academically and emotionally.

By working together, we can ensure that every child feels happy, confident, and safe in our school community. If you have any concerns or need further advice, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Exam Stress

Exam stress – sometimes referred to as test anxiety – is of course a long-running issue for children and young people.

The possible impact of exam stress on children's mental, emotional and physical wellbeing is difficult to overstate – and students' need for support is seldom greater than during these periods of their academic life. This week's guide offers you ten practical tips for helping young people to manage exam stress and minimise its potentially detrimental effects.

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 MANAGING EXAM STRESS

At some point in their education, children are almost certain to encounter exam stress, which can cast a shadow over their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. Mental health charity YoungMinds estimate that a staggering 87% of pupils suffer from exam stress – highlighting the urgent need to minimise its impact on children's health and happiness.

1 PRACTISE WORKLOAD WISDOM

The build up to exam season is such a busy and pressurised time in a child's education that it can be difficult for youngsters to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Encourage them to consider whether their current workload is realistic and allows them sufficient time to relax and recharge. Work with them in crafting a revision timetable that's manageable and includes breaks and occasional days off.

2 ADVISE CLEARING THE CLUTTER

A disorganised work environment is proven to negatively affect our ability to focus, as well as our emotional state. Encourage children to keep their desk, notes and revision materials tidy – creating a dedicated, well-kept study space to promote maximum focus. Foster their creativity by suggesting they incorporate vibrant colours, mind maps and even quirky drawings into their revision notes.

3 MASTER THE MATERIALS TOGETHER

Revision seems far harder when a child is uncertain where to begin or what sources to consult. Support them in confirming revision materials with their various teachers – emphasising the importance of gathering a range of resources to get a more comprehensive understanding of the subject. Feeling more prepared should nurture the child's confidence and help to dispel some of their anxiety.

4 RECOMMEND CREATIVE NOTE-TAKING

Writing out notes in full – rather than simply bullet pointing – can be a strong start to a child's revision. Reinforce this idea, encouraging the use of flashcards (featuring shorter versions of previously taken notes) for effective repetition and memorisation. Discuss the power of regularly reviewing notes to help them stay in the child's memory.

5 USE VISUAL AIDS AND MNEMONICS

Encourage the use of visual aids like videos and sticky notes to enhance learning. Some children find these resources far more useful than simply reading their notes as written. Explore creating mnemonics for a fun and effective study approach – and it's also worth noting that the strategic use of colours is a proven means of triggering recall during exams.

6 GATHER A 'TECH TOOLKIT'

Technology can be a huge advantage in exam prep. Educational YouTube channels and revision websites like [SPC Notes](https://www.spcnotes.co.uk) can be immensely powerful resources for helping children to expand and retain their knowledge. You could also recommend the use of flashcard apps and educational podcasts for revision and reminders when young people are on the go.

7 KEEP IT FUN

Revision tends to go far more smoothly if children are having fun in the process. Injecting some humour into their notes, for instance, can make details more memorable – as can relating information to their real-life experiences. Try to encourage a variety of study methods, such as incorporating physical activity (even simply taking a walk) into their revision routine.

8 SUGGEST ACTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES

Make sure children are aware of different study techniques. You could emphasise the effectiveness of spaced repetition by reviewing material regularly over time to reinforce learning and improve retention. Discuss the benefits of active recall methods – such as self-testing or explaining a concept aloud – in identifying where their strengths and weaknesses lie.

9 ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE MINDSET

It can be easy for children's thoughts to fall into a downward spiral when they're stressed about exams. Try to foster a growth mindset by emphasising the importance of giving it their all rather than aiming for complete perfection. Positive self-talk and the use of affirmations can build confidence and reduce anxiety, while visualising success and setting realistic goals can help them stay motivated and focused.

10 HELP THEM TO SEIZE THE DAY

There are lots of things children can do on the day of their exam to reduce stress and increase their focus. Talk them through some helpful exam-day strategies – such as arriving early, reading the instructions and the questions carefully, and pacing themselves during the test. Suggest some relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing or visualisation, to help them manage any nerves before and during the exam.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School.



Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

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



Dear God,

Today, we send our love and prayers to our amazing Year 6 children as they get ready for their SATs.

Please help them feel calm, confident, and proud of all the hard work they've put in.

Fill their hearts with courage and their minds with focus, reminding them that they are capable and brilliant.

We also think of their older siblings, family members, and friends sitting GCSEs and A-Levels.

May they feel supported and encouraged, knowing they have so many people cheering them on.

Give them strength, determination, and belief in themselves as they take this next big step.

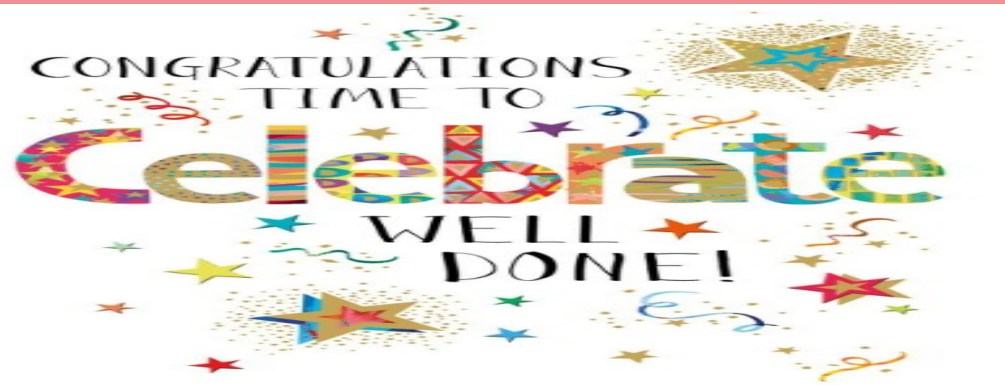
We are grateful for our wonderful teachers and families, who guide and lift them up.

Please remind them all that their kindness, effort, and unique gifts matter far more than any test score.

Bless them with peace, wisdom, and the knowledge that their future is bright.

Amen.

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 Nurturing Curiosity.

RECEPTION	Esmay Royle
YEAR 1	Hunter Frater-Hassett
YEAR 2	Harley –Wade Rigby
YEAR 3	Caspa-Troy Bridge
YEAR 4	Kade Smallwood
YEAR 5	Emmanuel Meza
YEAR 6	Shaun Johnson



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.

- **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 Booster Club.



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. It is important that the P.E kit is seen as an extension of our school uniform, therefore our high standards should be kept. **A reminder that our school PE kit consists of a black tracksuit/red shorts and white t shirt.** 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 not be chocolate, crisps or a sugary cereal bar.

Please be reminded that we are a nut free school.

Water bottles are permitted but these **must only be filled with water.**

School Collections

If your child is being collected by someone different than usual or who members of staff have not met before, it is vital that the School Office or the Class Teacher is informed. If this is not done, we will have to call you to confirm the arrangements. This is to ensure that your child is released into your care safely. You can support us with this by making us aware of any changes to your child's collection arrangements in advance. Please be patient with staff who are just trying to keep children safe.



Early Years Maths Taster Session

Join our informative and free family learning **EY Maths** session!

In this informative course, you will:

- ✓ Explore how you can support your child with maths.
- ✓ Improve your own knowledge of maths.
- ✓ Find out about other courses on offer.



**Tues 3rd June
2025
1 – 3pm at St.
James CE
Primary**

I would like to attend the family learning sessions

Name _____

Child's name and class _____





Food banks provide emergency food and compassionate, dignified support to people locked in crisis. There are 10 food banks available to residents in St Helens Borough, five of which are managed by The HOPE Centre charity in St Helens and require a voucher from a relevant local agency.

St James are registered with St Helens Foodbank and are able to issue Food Bank Vouchers (subject to conditions). If you feel like you are struggling to put food on the table, please contact Mrs Maloney, in the School Office, for more information.

We can also provide long term support through Early Help which Miss Moore and Miss Conant organise.

Community food pantries

Pantries operate as a member-led neighbourhood hub and are just like a shop, in that you choose the food you want from the shelves. Members pay a small subscription each week they visit, and in return can choose groceries worth many times more, often saving up to £1,000 a year on shopping bills.. How it works.:

Step one: Find your nearest pantry (you must live in the area in which it is based).

Step two: Go along and join on the day it is open, remembering it is open to everyone in that community.

Step three: Pay your £5 membership each time you visit. Sit and have a cuppa while you wait for your turn.

Step four: Choose your shopping, which will always be worth more than your weekly membership fee.

Step five: Tell your neighbours and get them to join too.

For more information please see <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/6987/Food>



**STUDY
SMART**
Free Online Courses

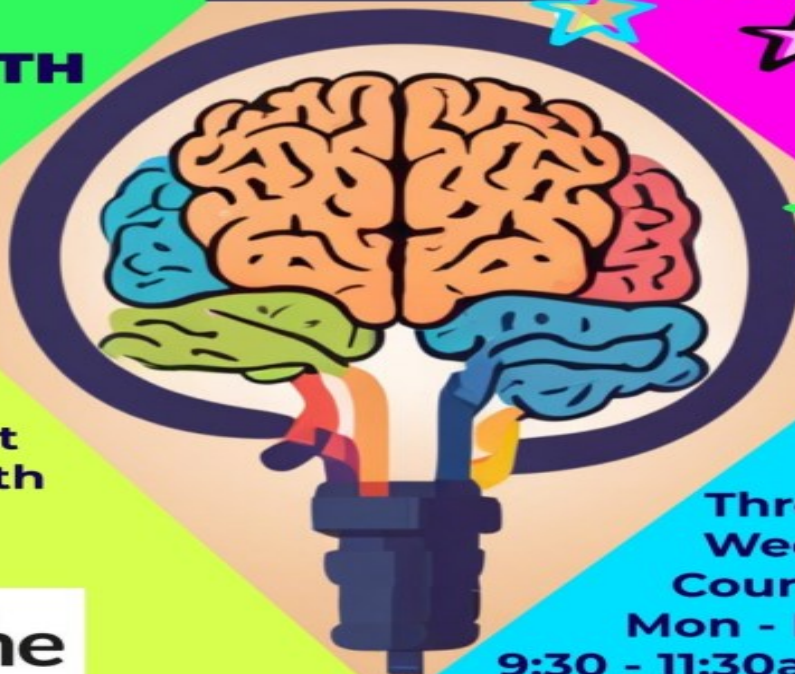
**ENROL
WITH US
TODAY!**

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MENTAL HEALTH
COURSE
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Start Date:
12th May

Understanding
Mental Health First
Aid & Mental Health
Advocacy in the
workplace

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**Three
Week
Course**

Mon - Fri

9:30 - 11:30am

12:30 - 2:30pm

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in Levels
1, 2 & 3**

*Please go to our website
for more detailed
information.



**6 Week
Course**

Mon - Fri

Daily sessions

1st session 9:30 - 11:30am

2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

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



Shape your space

We are changing Haydock Library, and we want YOU to help shape it!

Join our free creative workshops this May! All ages are welcome to help re-imagine Haydock Library as a fun and inclusive place, especially for disabled people and children. Share your ideas and explore materials as we design the library of the future together.

Refreshments provided - Family and Sensory - friendly

 Haydock Library, St Helens, WA11 0LY

 Free & Open to All

Book the workshop dates and times below. You can come to as many as you like.

- Wed 14 May 11 am - 1 pm
- Wed 14 May 7 pm - 9 pm
- Thurs 15 May 3.30pm - 5 pm



Book a free place and tell us your access requirements
Email: emilypeasgoodstudio@gmail.com
Call, text or WhatsApp: 07749 115484



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



EMILY PEASGOOD
STUDIO

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



Shape your space: Come take part in workshops to change Haydock Library.



My name is Emily Peasgood is an artist and I am going to change the design of Haydock Library in St Helens.



In May, I would like you to come to my workshops at Haydock Library. We want to include the ideas we come up with in the workshop in the final design for the library.



These workshops are happening on:

- Wednesday 14 May 11 am - 1 pm
- Wednesday 14 May 7 pm - 9 pm
- Thursday 15 May 3.30pm - 5 pm



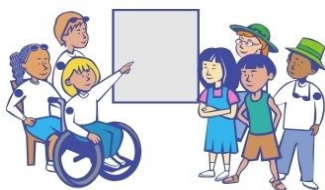
These workshops will be fun and inclusive, and we welcome everyone, especially people with disabilities and children.



To book your place on a workshop. You can reach me by email, call, text or WhatsApp.

My email is emilypeasgoodstudio@gmail.com

My phone number is 07749115484



When you book your space. Tell us if you have any access requirements and we will adjust things to make it inclusive for you.