

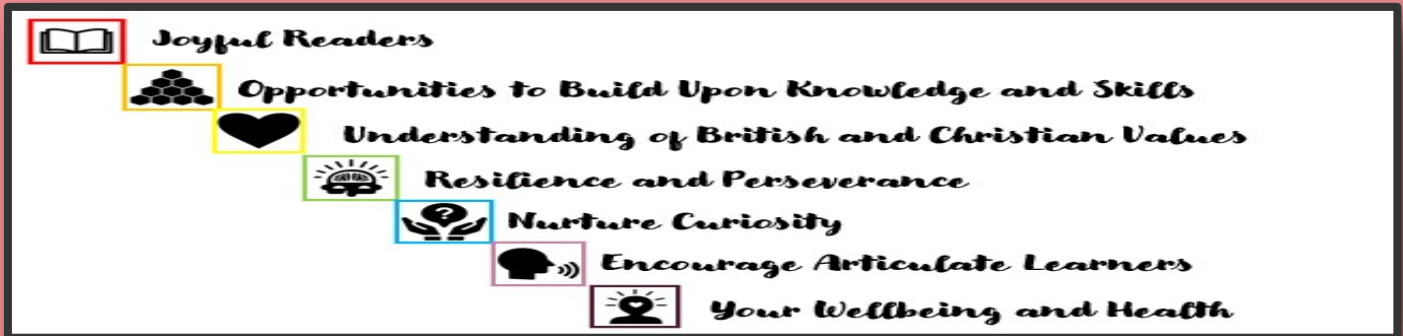


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 29 Friday 16th May 2025

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



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

At our school, we journey together to live, learn, and laugh with the love of God, supporting each other every step of the way. This week, that spirit has shone brightly as our incredible Year 6 pupils have tackled their SATs tests with maturity, commitment, and determination. Their resilience and perseverance—one of our valued Journey Drivers—have been truly inspiring, and myself and the rest of the staff could not be prouder of them.

To celebrate their hard work, the children have enjoyed a well-earned treat of Domino's pizza and some much-needed chill time! A special shout-out to Miss Barratt for creating a wonderful celebration cake, proudly displaying all the children's initials—it was a fantastic way to mark this milestone.

Meanwhile, our Year 3 pupils beautifully represented our school when they sang at the local care home. Their heartfelt performance truly brightened the residents' day, and they showcased the wonderful work they've been doing with Mrs Devaney.

On Wednesday, we were treated to an exciting judo display! A judo club will be running after half-term, so keep an eye out for the flyer with details on how to book.

It's been an uplifting and memorable week, and we continue to journey together, supporting and celebrating one another in all we do.

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

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	94.6%
Reception	92.7%
Year 1	91.8%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	94.7%
Year 4	92.1%
Year 5	97.7%
Year 6	99%



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



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.

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.

4

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

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







Attendance Competition

At St James, coming to school every day matters!

The more you attend, the more you learn—and those with the best attendance achieve amazing things.

Each week, your class could win a special reward!

On different days each week, the class with the best attendance will earn an *extra playtime* that day!

It's simple—if you're in school and your class is the winner, you get extra time to play!





THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

STAFFING UPDATE

Mr Ratcliffe, who has been with us for 3 years, will be moving on after May half term to focus on completing his teacher training and gaining wider school experience. We are incredibly sad to see Mr Ratcliffe go. He has supported a wide variety of classes and individual children during his time with us and has brought so much fun, care and commitment to his work each and every day. We will miss him greatly. but wish him the best of luck and hope he comes and visits us often.

Finally, Mrs Conant, our Inclusion Leader, will also be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Mrs Conant's husband has secured an exciting new job in the Midlands and so they will be relocating over the Summer. Mrs Conant has worked at St James for 9.5 years and has dedicated all of her focus in that time to supporting children to flourish and grow, especially those children with special educational needs as the school's SENCO. We cannot thank Mrs Conant enough for the love and commitment she has so tirelessly shown to our St James family over the years. We will all certainly miss her hugely but again know she'll keep in touch.

From September the school will have a new SENCO in place and the arrangements for this are in motion with more information to follow after half term.

RESIDENTIALS

For next academic year, we are proposing some exciting additions to our residentials offer for the children in Year 3 and Year 4 (children currently in Y2 and Y3) and for the children in Year 5 and Year 6 (children currently in Y4 and Y5).

The Y3/Y4 residential would be to Whitemoor Lakes and is an adventure holiday with lots of exciting activities including zip wires, climbing walls, archery, campfires and much more!

The Y5/Y6 residential would be to YHA Chester for a Connecting to Nature Package. This package is through Generation Green and offers young people in England the chance to spend the night under the stars and connect with nature in protected landscapes and aims to widen access and engagement with beautiful areas, boost nature connectedness, and provide the wellbeing benefits associated with being outdoors.

If you would like your child to attend, please confirm this on school money to secure your place. This will go live on Friday 16th of May at 8:00am. Places will be provided on a first come basis.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am excited to share an opportunity for us to come together as a school community to support everyone's health and well-being. While we already do a great deal to help pupils stay healthy, we believe we can do even more. Our passion lies in helping children reach their full potential and ensuring that our school environment promotes healthier choices and behaviours.

In England, one in three children leave primary school overweight or living with obesity. You may have heard discussions in the media about government efforts to address this issue, but schools also play a vital role. Our environment and curriculum have a powerful impact on children's health, and we are eager to work with the wider community to explore ways to improve access to nutritious food and encourage physical activity.

As a school, we are making a commitment by signing the School's Pledge for a Healthier and Active Future—an initiative being adopted by schools across the country. This pledge reflects our dedication to supporting children, staff, families, and the local community in achieving and maintaining a healthier lifestyle.

Beyond making changes, we also aim to challenge attitudes and reduce stigma surrounding health issues. We want to foster a culture of support, where positive change feels accessible to everyone.

We would love to hear your thoughts and find out how we can best support your family in eating well and staying active. You may have ideas on ways we can improve our school environment to better serve your child and their friends in leading happy, healthy lives. To help shape our approach, we ask that you review the 9 Core Commitments (found overleaf) and complete a short survey using the QR code provided.



If you'd like to get involved further, please reach out to Mrs. Briers via the school office to join our "School's Pledge for a Healthier and Active Future" action group.

We look forward to sharing our progress, exciting changes, and further opportunities to participate through our school newsletters and website.

Thank you for your support.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



National
Online
Safety



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Reporting Concerns

At our school, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. If parents or carers have any safeguarding concerns, we encourage them to report these promptly.

Concerns can be shared directly with our **Designated Safeguarding Team** or any member of staff. You can do this in person, via email, or by calling the school office. All concerns will be handled with sensitivity and in line with the guidance set out in *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024*.

If you ever feel a child is at immediate risk, please contact **Children's Social Care** or the **Police** without delay.

By working together, we ensure that our school remains a safe and supportive environment for all children.

St James CE Safeguarding Team



Mrs J Young
Executive Head Teacher
Deputy DSL



St James CE Primary School



Mr William Widdell
Chair of Governors
Safeguarding Link



Mrs T Briers
Acting Head of School
Designated Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)



Mrs A Conant
Inclusion Manager (SENCO)
Deputy DSL
Mental Health Lead



Miss J Moore
Pastoral & Safeguarding Manager
Deputy DSL
Mental Health First Aider



Miss A Barrett
Children & Families Champion



Mrs G Evans
Young Carers Champion



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

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Minecraft



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft has hundreds of millions of players - making it more important than ever to stay informed. With its vibrant worlds and endless potential for creativity it's no wonder Minecraft continues to capture young imaginations.

With the Minecraft movie hitting cinemas in April, interest in the game has remained strong. But whether they're mining resources or building digital castles, children could also encounter strangers, scary content or bullying behaviour online.

This week's free guide offers parents and educators the latest top tips on how to keep children safe from issues like griefing, chat risks, and unintended purchases, while still embracing the game's educational and creative benefits.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters - although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying - it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms, an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and - if necessary - ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential - as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.05.2025

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



OPEN WATER: DON'T TAKE THE RISK



Swimming in or playing near rivers and canals may seem like a great idea, particularly on a warm day, but it could all end in tragedy. **DON'T take the risk.**



THE WATER IS COLD...

...even on very warm days, rivers and canals contain water barely above 10 degrees. Sudden immersion can lead to cold water shock, which can cause gasping and intake of water.

This can be deadly in a matter of seconds.

DID YOU KNOW?

Even the narrowest of rivers can be considerably deep. Rivers are subject to strong flow and **hidden currents** which can trouble even the strongest of swimmers.

WHAT LIES BENEATH?



The water is untreated and can make you ill.

Canals and rivers contain pollutants, sewage and often unseen underwater obstructions and snag hazards.

Debris under the water such as shopping trolleys, broken glass and cans can cause **injury** or **trap** you.



Remember, there are no lifeguards to help you at your local river, lake, canal or dam.



Rivers can be very difficult to climb out of, especially with steep or slimy banks. **Stay clear of rivers with steep or unguarded banks.**



IN AN EMERGENCY...NEVER enter the water to try and help a person or animal. You could get into difficulty yourself. Instead, dial 999 and use any water rescue equipment that is available.

If you fall into the water unexpectedly, fight your instinct to thrash around. Instead, lean back, extend your arms and legs & float.



MERSEYSIDE
FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICE

www.merseyfire.gov.uk

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

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

**DO
EVERYTHING
in love**
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

Where Is God?

God is in the flowers
God is in the trees
God is in the butterflies
And the birds and bees



God is in the sunshine
God is in the storm
God is in the snow and frost
That makes you wrap up warm



God is in the good
God is in the bad
God is in what makes you happy
And what makes you sad



God is everywhere you look
And everywhere you go
God is your best friend always
Because God loves you so



Trina Graves
Spiritual Quotes
To Live By

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	Harry Mc Inroy
YEAR 1	Markas Pikalavicius
YEAR 2	Emily Gartside
YEAR 3	Eleanor Kenton
YEAR 4	Noah Barnes
YEAR 5	Noah Jackson
YEAR 6	Matthew Gartside

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

PE Days

Monday	Year 3
Tuesday	Year 1 and 2
Wednesday	Reception, Year
Thursday	Year 5 and 6.
Friday	Year 1 , 2. 3 and 4.

Y4 Swimming (4nd Jun – 16th July).



Clubs

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

- **Tuesday**
 - Judo at 8am (5 weeks 10th June-8th July)-Please see flyer
 - Sports Club for YR, Y1 and Y2 with the Sports Coach
 - FAB Club for Y2 and Y3-Miss Barratt
 - 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.

IN OTHER NEWS



JUDO EDUCATION
www.judoeducation.co.uk

Wirral Office
 Prenton
 07812 215 937
chris@judoeducation.co.uk

Cheshire Office
 Warrington
 07456 475 612
dale@judoeducation.co.uk

Lancashire Office
 Chorley
 07738 406 731
antony@judoeducation.co.uk



THE OLYMPIC SPORT OF JUDO IS COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL



What can Judo do for your child?

Self Defence • Increase Confidence • Increase Concentration
 Self Discipline and Respect • Increased Health & Fitness

- The classes are taught by fully qualified coaches.
- They have extensive experience in teaching children of all ages and abilities.
- All Coaches are Fully DBS Cleared



There are multiple levels in our courses. Each course attended, progresses your child onto their next skill level.

The Educational Judo course includes :

All Coaching Fees • Judo Suit hire • Certificate of Achievement
One FREE introductory session at your local Judo Club



St James CE Primary School

START DATE:	Tuesday 10 th June 2025	TIME:	08:00 – 08:45am
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Please scan the QR code below and complete the form. We will then confirm your child's place.
 Alternatively, just email dale@judoeducation.co.uk or text/call 07456475612.



5 Week Judo Course! Cost: £30 Please scan this QR code to join.

Coach: Dale Lawton

Email: dale@judoeducation.co.uk



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>



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.

IN OTHER NEWS



WHIT HOLIDAY FAMILY VISITS

**Looking for
somewhere to bring
your children during
half term**

We are running 2 hour family
visits throughout the half term
week.

**CREATE
EXPLORE
PLAY**

During your visit you can:

- **Meet our furry friends on the Farm**
- **Explore our Sensory Garden**
- **Have fun in our adventure playground**
- **Explore the woodland & toast a marshmallow**

To book visit:
www.caft.co.uk/families

Registered Charity
Number: 1003675
www.caft.co.uk

CAFT is able to offer visits for children up to 17 years with disabilities, life limiting/terminal illness, from disadvantaged backgrounds, with sensory/additional/social/emotional/behavioural/special educational needs. Please contact us for any questions on eligibility.

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