

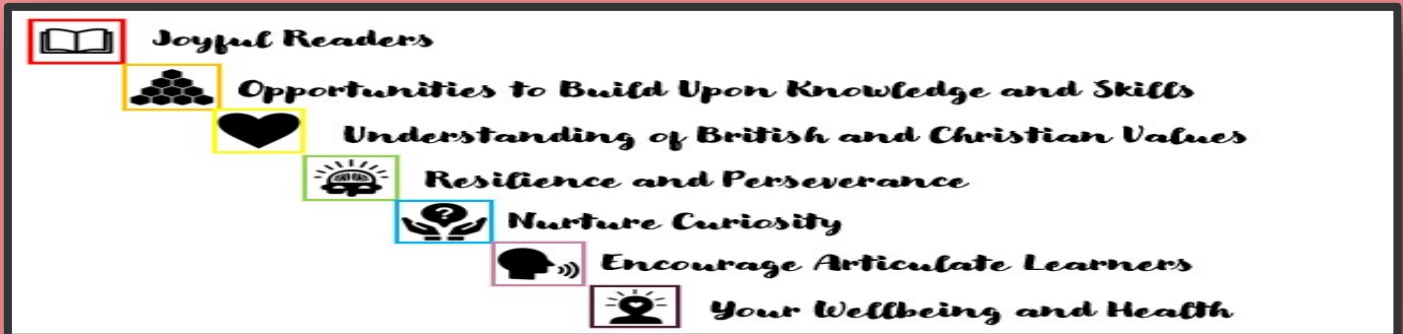


NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 31 Friday 6th June 2025

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



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful half-term break, even if the weather wasn't quite on our side. As we step into this busy new half-term, we are focusing on our school value of respect—showing kindness and consideration to others in all that we do.

We've already had a fantastic start! On Monday, we celebrated the children who read four times a week last half-term with a special treat, as well as our Living Value winners—we'll do this to all of them!

Year 6 have had an exciting week too. On Tuesday, they took part in another Debt Aware session with Mr Souter, learning valuable life skills. Then, on Thursday, they set off on their residential with Active Hope, where they had an amazing time. A big thank you to Mr Moon, Mrs Conant, and Miss Barratt for accompanying them!

A huge well done to our Year 4 children who have now completed their statutory multiplication check—they did an amazing job. Looking ahead, next week is an important time for our Year 1 as they will be completing their statutory phonics check, it is really important that all children are in school for these assessments.

We'd also like to gently remind families that we are seeing an increase in term-time holidays. While we completely understand the rising cost of holidays, schools must follow government and local authority guidance, and unfortunately, we cannot authorise these absences. Additionally, the local authority advises that any absences before or after a holiday will be classified as unauthorised unless appropriate evidence is provided. We appreciate your understanding and support in ensuring good attendance.

As always, we continue journeying together to live, learn, and laugh with the love of God, and we look forward to a fantastic half-term ahead!

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 95.8%

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Year 2

There were 136 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Whole School | 96.3% |
| Reception | 90% |
| Year 1 | 94.3% |
| Year 2 | 98.2% |
| Year 3 | 98% |
| Year 4 | 97.5% |
| Year 5 | 95.9% |
| Year 6 | 98% |





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.



Summer Days: Every Day Matters 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!

More fun, more fresh air, and more time to enjoy the sunshine with your friends.

So, let's show up, do our best, and see which class will take the prize.

Will it be yours? Keep coming in and find out!

Miss School Miss Out

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



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

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Whole School events Summer 2

| Date | Event |
|------------|--|
| 02/06/2025 | School Re-opens 8.40am |
| 03/06/2025 | Reception Early Years Maths Course (for parents) 1.00pm |
| 03/06/2025 | Confirmation Class 3.20pm |
| 04/06/2025 | Year 4 Swimming Commences |
| 04/06/2025 | Yer 1 Phonics Club 3.20pm |
| 05/06/2025 | Year 6 Residential |
| 06/06/2025 | Year 6 Residential |
| 10/06/2025 | Judo Club Commences 8.00am |
| 10/06/2025 | Year 4 to-lead Pentecost Service, St James' The Great 9.30am |
| 10/06/2025 | Year 6 High School Transition workshop for parents 2.15pm |
| 10/06/2025 | Confirmation Class 3.15pm |
| 11/06/2025 | Year 6 Leavers Service Anglican Cathedral |
| 11/06/2025 | Year 4 Swimming |
| 13/06/2025 | Reception Father's Day Event 2pm |
| 17/06/2025 | Year 4 Trip Liverpool Museum and Ferry Ride |
| 17/06/2025 | Judo Club 8.00am |
| 17/06/2025 | Confirmation Class 3.20pm |
| 18/06/2025 | Year 4 Swimming |
| 19/06/2025 | Reception Trip Manchester Airport |
| 20/06/2025 | Coffee Morning Maths 9.00am |
| 22/06/2025 | Confirmation Service St James' The Great 10.30am |
| 23/06/2025 | Year 4 and Year 5 Softball |
| 23/06/2025 | New Intake Meeting 4pm |
| 24/06/2025 | Year 2 Trip World of Glass |
| 24/06/2025 | Judo Club 8.00am |
| 25/06/2025 | Year 4 Swimming |
| 26/06/2025 | Year 2 Class Assembly 9.00am |
| 27/06/2025 | Year 6 Trip Shakespeare North Playhouse |
| 30/06/2025 | Transition Week |
| 30/06/2025 | Reception Vision Screening Test |
| 01/07/2025 | Judo club 8.00am |
| 01/07/2025 | Year 3 and Year 4 Crazy Rounders |
| 02/07/2025 | Year 4 Swimming |
| 04/07/2025 | Sports Day - KS1 9.30am, KS2 1.00pm |
| 07/07/2025 | Reserve Sports Day |
| 08/07/2025 | Judo club 8.00am |
| 09/07/2025 | Year 4 Swimming |
| 10/07/2025 | Year 5 and Year 6 Ultimate Frisbee |
| 14/07/2025 | Awards Evening |
| 15/07/2025 | Zumbathon Sponsored Event |
| 16/07/2025 | Reception Assembly 9.00am |
| 16/07/2025 | Year 4 Swimming |
| 18/07/2025 | End of Year Report to go Home |
| 22/07/2025 | Year 6 to Lead Year 6 Leavers Assembly |
| 22/07/2025 | School Closes for Summer 2pm |

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Term Dates

2025-2026

| Autumn Term | | Days |
|--|---------------------------------------|------|
| Wednesday 3 rd September 2025 | Friday 24 th October 2025 | 38 |
| Monday 3 rd November 2025 | Friday 19 th December 2025 | 35 |
| Spring Term | | |
| Monday 5 th January 2026 | Friday 13 th February 2026 | 30 |
| Monday 23 rd February 2026 | Friday 27 th March 2026 | 25 |
| Summer Term | | |
| Monday 13 th April 2026 | Friday 22 nd May 2026 | 29 |
| Wednesday 3 rd June 2026 | Friday 17 th July 2026 | 33 |
| | | 190 |

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.



IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

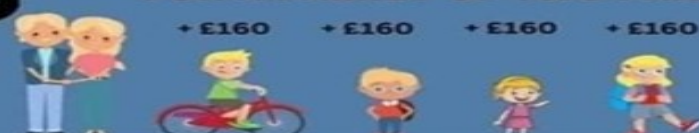
10 IN 10

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



4 children & 2 parents = £1280

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...

4

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

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Keeping Children Safe: Why Record-Keeping Matters

Safeguarding children is a top priority, and schools carefully keep records to help protect them. These records allow staff to spot concerns early, take action when needed, and ensure children get the right support.

Why Do Schools Keep Safeguarding Records?

- **Noticing Changes** – Keeping track of concerns helps staff identify patterns and act quickly.
- **Keeping Children Safe** – Records provide important details when decisions need to be made.
- **Working Together** – Schools share information with trusted agencies to support children's well-being.

How Are Records Kept Safe?

- **Private and Secure** – Only the right people can access safeguarding records.
- **Clear and Accurate** – Schools make sure records are updated and truthful.
- **Kept for the Right Time** – Records are stored responsibly and used appropriately.

By keeping good records, schools help create a safe and supportive environment for every child. If you have any questions about safeguarding, your child's school is happy to help.

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Emojis



They say a picture's worth a thousand words and when it comes to emojis, that's often true 📱😊💬. But in the wrong context, these innocent-seeming icons can take on a whole new meaning, sometimes hinting at things that aren't as light-hearted as they appear.

This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide breaks down some of the slang and symbols young people use online and explains how some could be masking real issues, from bullying and exclusion to harmful behaviours 🚫👤. With this handy cheat sheet and top tips, adults can keep pace with this ever-changing digital language 📖🌟

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

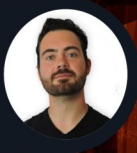
| | |
|---|--|
| 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around | 🙏 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping' |
| 😎 (Cool face) Cool, stylish or ruthless | 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold |
| 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement | 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.) |
| 😐 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered | 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference |
| 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great | 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour |

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

| | |
|--|---|
| 🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms) | 🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness |
| ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine | 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced' |
| 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use | 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm |
| 🍂 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis | ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil |
| 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse | 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles) |

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /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: 04.06.2025

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

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



A Prayer for Respect

Dear God,

Thank You for our school, our friends, and our teachers. Help us to show respect to everyone we meet—by listening with kindness, speaking with love, and treating others as we wish to be treated.

Teach us to care for one another, to value differences, and to always act with honesty and fairness. May we respect the world around us, looking after Your creation with gentle hands and grateful hearts.

Guide us to live, learn, and laugh together, sharing Your love in all that 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 'Encourage Articulate Learners'

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| RECEPTION | Tommie Long |
| YEAR 1 | Jacob O'Brien |
| YEAR 2 | Elliot Seddon |
| YEAR 3 | Levvie Gilsenan |
| YEAR 4 | Elliot Lee |
| YEAR 5 | Donnie Bridge |
| YEAR 6 | Logan Chick |

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 this 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.
- **Wednesday**
 - Football Club for Y5 and Y6 with Mr Moon
- **Thursday–**
 - Sports Club for KS2 with the Sports Coach



National Thank A Teacher Day

What is Thank a Teacher Day?

On Thank a Teacher Day, we take an opportunity to say a big thank you to the teaching community for all they've done to support, educate and care for children over the past year. It isn't just teachers either, as this day celebrates all of those who work in schools. Whether they're caretakers, teaching assistants, cleaners or catering staff, Thank a Teacher Day is the day that we can recognise everyone for their role in helping children to thrive.

It's supported by pupils, parents, schools and even celebrities from around the country. Behind every adult is the story of their learning journey. No matter how much you might have loved or hated a particular subject, just about everyone has had at least one teacher who inspired and encouraged them along the way.

Who's behind Thank a Teacher Day?

Thank a Teacher Day was set up by the Teaching Awards Trust, which was established in 1998. The organisation's main goal is to celebrate excellence in teaching and to raise the profile of educators, as well as the impact that they have upon wider society. Not only is this done through Thank a Teacher Day, but also through the Pearson National Teaching Awards.

How can I get involved with Thank a Teacher Day?

One of the main ways that you can get involved with Thank a Teacher Day is by sending a card to the person who you think deserves some recognition. Everyone who receives a card will be able to read your words of appreciation!

If you would like to get involved, please use the link below.

https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/?es_c=CCD434C50EF54071160EA607F332B8B9&es_cl=60918971AFB58EE6C41F07C83EEB755C&es_id=ph7%c2%a3o1