

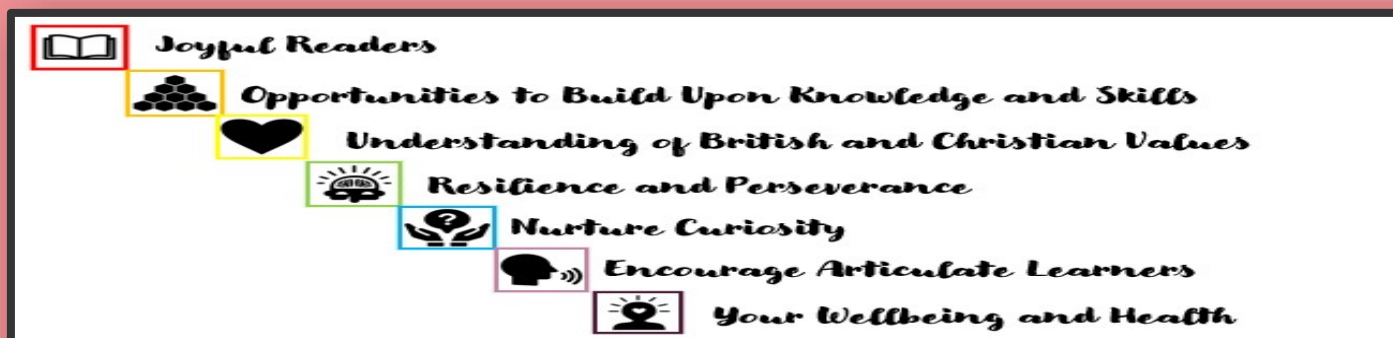


# NEWSLETTER

Email: [www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk](http://www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk)

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



2024-2025 Issue Number 35 Friday 4th July 2025

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

## This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it's been here at school! As always, we're "*Journeying together to live, learn and laugh with the love of God*", and this week has been packed with joy, learning, and lots of special moments.

We've had an amazing time celebrating International Week, where we focused on the wonderful continent of Africa. The children got stuck into all sorts of exciting activities—creating beautiful African art, listening to lively music, and learning about geography and daily life in different African countries. A real highlight was learning more about Rashidah, the young girl we sponsor in Uganda, and reflecting on our continued support for the New Hope charity. It's been lovely to see the children so curious and compassionate. A huge thank you to Miss Barratt for organising this.

On Wednesday, the Money Mentors joined our Year 5 class for another brilliant session all about money and financial awareness. The children really enjoyed it and picked up some great tips for managing money in everyday life.

Some of our Year 6 pupils have also been out and about, visiting their new high schools—a big step, and one they've taken with confidence and excitement. We're so proud of them!

Next week, we're looking forward to our whole school transition days from Monday to Wednesday. Everyone will spend time in their new classes with their new teachers, helping them feel happy and ready for the year ahead. Please see page 5 for more information about this.

And finally, a huge well done to everyone for a brilliant Sports Day on Friday! The sun shone, the races were fun, and the team spirit was amazing. Thank you to all the families who came along to cheer us on—it really made the day extra special.

Thank you for your continued support. It's a joy to share these moments with you all.

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 96%**

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

**There were 139 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?**

## Weekly Attendance

Whole School	96.3%
Reception	100%
Year 1	99.3%
Year 2	94.3%
Year 3	97.3%
Year 4	89.2%
Year 5	97.3%
Year 6	97.5%



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# 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....



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### Whole School events Summer 2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
07/07/2025	Transition Week (further information to follow)
08/07/2025	Judo club 8.00am
09/07/2025	Year 4 Swimming
10/07/2025	Year 5 and Year 6 Ultimate Frisbie
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

### **Term Dates**

#### **2025-2026**

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



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### **Transition Week/STEM Week Arrangements:**

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### **Transition Week Arrangements:**

Next week (Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of July) are our whole school transition days where your child will spend time with their new teacher(s) in their new classroom.

On Monday morning, the children should come into school as normal. Monday home time and on Tuesday and Wednesday (morning and at home time) the children will enter/exit school via their new classroom doors. Staff will be around to direct you. On Thursday and Friday the children will return to using their usual classroom doors.

Across the three days, classes will be completing a wide variety of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths [STEM] activities all themed around the theme Blue Planet. This will be a fun-filled week with endless learning opportunities, workshops and fun. Across all three days, your child is able to wear their P.E kit with outdoor learning opportunities taking place.

#### **Staffing 25/26:**

Below are the staffing arrangements for September 25:

	<b><u>Class Teacher(s):</u></b>	<b><u>Supported by:</u></b>
Reception	Mrs Bibby	Mrs Robinson and Mrs Boardman
Year 1	Mrs Lister	
Year 2	Mrs Atherton	Miss Hunter and Mrs Evans
Year 3	Mrs Battersby	Mrs Marsden
Year 4	Mr Hatton	Miss Slinn and Miss Hunter
Year 5	Miss McDonald	Mrs Evans and Miss Slinn
Year 6	Mr Moon	Mr Pennington

We are happy to share that Mr Hatton will be continuing as a member of the teaching team next academic year.

Sadly, as you know, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Conant. We wish her the very best of luck and thank her so much for all she brought to school. Miss McDonald has been appointed as our new Intervention and Inclusion Leader (including being school SENCO) and she will commence this role fully from September.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to working with you as we move into the final weeks of this academic year and beyond.

Kind regards

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

# Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

### Keeping Our Children Safe – What Parents Can Do

#### 1. Talk to Your Child

Let them know they can always talk to you if something is worrying them. Teach them about safe and unsafe touches, and that it's okay to say "no."

#### 2. Know the School's Safeguarding Team

Find out who the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is at your child's school. If you're worried about something, speak to them.

#### 3. Keep Them Safe Online

Use parental controls on devices. Talk about what's okay to share online and what's not. Remind them not to talk to strangers on the internet.

#### 4. Watch for Changes

If your child seems upset, scared, or different, ask them gently what's going on. Trust your instincts—if something feels wrong, it's okay to ask for help.

#### 5. Know Who They're With

Get to know your child's friends and their families. Make sure you know where your child is and who they're with, especially outside school.

#### 6. Ask for Help if You're Worried

You can talk to the school, your GP, or your local council's children's services. You're not alone—there are people who can help.



## Online Safety Tip of the Week



### Apple iPads

iPads are a familiar fixture in many households and classrooms, offering access to educational tools, entertainment, and the internet in one sleek package; however, with great versatility comes notable risk. From accidental spending and data privacy breaches to excessive screen time, there's plenty for parents and educators to consider before handing over the device. While Apple offers built-in safeguards such as 'Screen Time' and 'Family Sharing', these features must be correctly set up and actively managed to be effective.

This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide walks you through these options and highlights some of the more surprising ways children can get around restrictions – including with Siri – while offering practical advice on how to help keep young users safe and healthy 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 [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

#### COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

#### DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

#### BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

#### SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

#### REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

#### FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

#### USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

#### PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

#### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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#SmallReadsBigDreams



**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# READING FOR PLEASURE

Fun for the whole family with weekly themes  
focused on reading for pleasure.

Enjoy games, get advice from the library  
outreach team, and borrow books for all.

**Holy Spirit Primary School**  
**Wednesdays, 3:15pm - 4:15pm**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September until 8<sup>th</sup> October**



**Parish Church Primary School**  
**Thursdays, 3:30pm - 4:30pm**  
**11<sup>th</sup> September until 9<sup>th</sup> October**



@STHLibraries



@sthlibrariesandarts

Booking is essential email  
[paulineglover@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:paulineglover@sthelens.gov.uk) or  
[katestephenson@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:katestephenson@sthelens.gov.uk)

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## Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

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



Dear God,

Thank You for our big, beautiful world,  
Full of different people, places, and cultures.

Help us to show respect to everyone we meet—  
To listen kindly, speak gently,  
And treat others the way we want to be treated.

Thank You for the chance to learn about Africa this week,  
For the music, the colours, the stories, and the smiles.  
Help us remember Rashidah in Uganda,  
And all the children around the world who are part of our global family.

Teach us to care, to share, and to love—  
Just like You love us.

Amen.

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### **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'

<b>RECEPTION</b>	Kwamina Adabie III
<b>YEAR 1</b>	Joshua Hodgkinson
<b>YEAR 2</b>	Thomas Hunter
<b>YEAR 3</b>	Poppy Hind
<b>YEAR 4</b>	Nathanael Arthur
<b>YEAR 5</b>	Michael Inglis
<b>YEAR 6</b>	Demi Rattray



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### 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.

**Wednesday**- Football Club for Y5 and Y6 with Mr Moon

**Thursday**- Sports Club for KS2 with the

### 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 (4<sup>nd</sup> Jun – 16<sup>th</sup> July).



### St Helens Youth Open Art Competition

Some of our children have taken part in an competition. We are thrilled to announce that children from our Year 6 class have won prizes in the Colour and Sculpture categories.

The artworks, from all schools, will be exhibited in an open day on Saturday 5th July from 10.00am till 4.00pm. The open day will be held in the Assembly Hall at St Helens Town Hall. All are welcome to attend and there will be free art activities available for children to take part in.



CHAT &  
CHILL OVER  
A BREW

# JOIN OUR COFFEE MORNING

Do you have a question about the **Sleep Pathway** or want to learn more about what's available at the **Family Hubs** for children and young people with SEND and their families?

Join us for an **informal session** with **Family Hub Navigator**.



**Friday**  
**11th July**  
**10am-12pm**

**Wonderland**  
**Community Centre**  
**cic Canal St, Saint**  
**Helens**  
**WA10 3JQ**

**FREE**  
**PARKING**

**CONTACT US** ➔

Email  
[listen4change@outlook.com](mailto:listen4change@outlook.com)

Website:  
[listen4change.uk](http://listen4change.uk)

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players wanted  
Haydock Lightning u12s

Rob - 07895654055

keith - 07717772999

Training  
wednesdays

games  
saturdays

warrington  
jfl.





# BLACKBROOK MUNCHKINS

**JOIN BLACKBROOK MUNCHKINS TAG  
RUGBY TEAM 🏈  
AGES 4-5 (RECEPTION)**



**KATIE ~ 07546304197**



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