

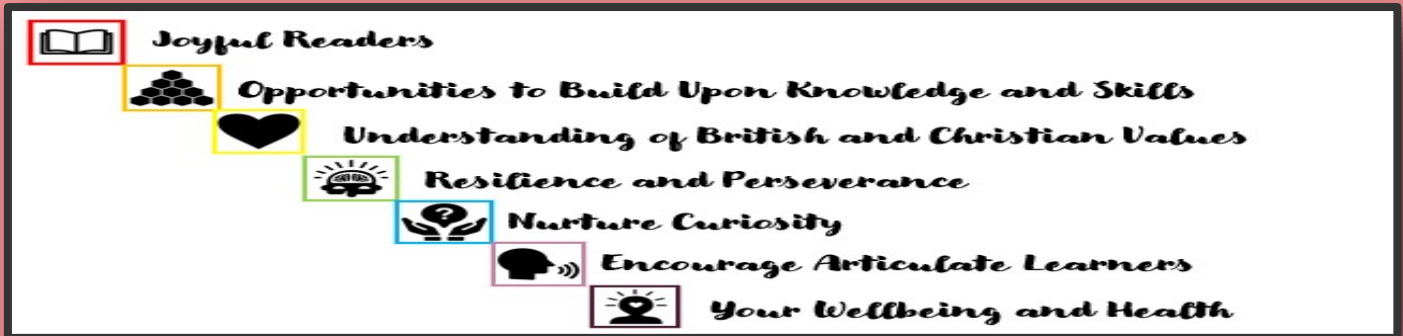


# NEWSLETTER

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

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

*Learn, Laugh and Live with the Love of God*



2023-2024 Issue Number 18 Friday 2nd February 2024

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have enjoyed celebrating National Storytelling Week across school. Children have enjoyed virtual author visits, reading buddies, secret teacher storytelling visits and more. I have loved seeing the photos some of you have shared on Twitter/X with us - what a real community of 'joyful readers' we have here at school!



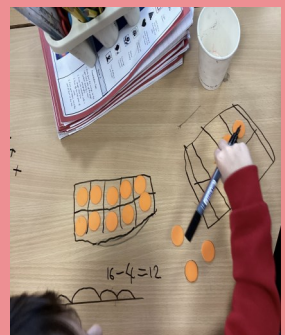
Today we enjoyed a Candlemass service at church - thank you to Father Michael as always for welcoming our school community to share in worship together.

Next week we enter the final week of the half term and start it off with our Times Table Rockstars Relaunch Day - Rock on!

Tuesday we shall be celebrating Safer Internet Day and Miss McDonald, our Computing Lead, has lots of informative and fun activities planned to share with the children.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Young



# School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## Attendance

Whole School	91.9%
Reception	91.1%
Year 1	93.2%
Year 2	92.0%
Year 3	96.8%
Year 4	85.4%
Year 5	98.9%
Year 6	90.0%



**Be In SCHOOL**  
**Be On TIME**



**135**

**pupils**

**with perfect attendance this week.**

**Can we beat this next week?**



## Attendance Matters



## Attendance Update

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 attendance this week is:**

**94.8%**





## The Bumper Breakfast Attendance Bonanza!

To celebrate 'National Hot Breakfast Month' being in the month of February, we are launching an exciting competition!

Come to school each day from 29th January to 9th February (10 school days) and you will be in with a chance of winning a luxury breakfast hamper to enjoy with your family over the half term break.

Breakfast items will include all of the essentials to make a delicious hot breakfast plus lots of luxury added extra treats for you to enjoy! Drink items to wash down your yummy hot breakfasts will be included too!

Good Luck!



## 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.

# AWARD WINNERS

## Journey Driver Focus:

Understanding British

and

Christian Values

RECEPTION	Shaye Finch
YEAR 1	Andra Varga
YEAR 2	
YEAR 3	Grace Lea
YEAR 4	Florence Davies
YEAR 5	
YEAR 6	Lilly-Mae McKenzie

CONGRATULATIONS  
TIME TO  
**Celebrate**  
WELL  
DONE!



### PE Days Spring 2

**Children are to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days.**

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

### Collection From School

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.

Furthermore, we will only hand over pupils to older siblings provided they are 14 years old or above (however, if the professional judgement of the adult at school deems the older sibling not to be suitable, they will not hand the child over).

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.



### Clubs

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

Booking is now available on the app

- **Monday**-Fun Fusion Club for KS2 with the Sports Coach
- **Tuesday**-FAB Club for KS1 with Miss Barratt
- **Friday**-Book Club for Reception with Mrs Briers

In addition to these clubs, Y1 children are also invited to attend Mrs Lister's Phonics on Thursdays after school.





### Whole School events Spring 1

Date	Event
6/01/24	School re-opens for Spring Term 1
12/01/24	Science Coffee Morning 9.00am
22/01/24	No Seashells Afterschool Club
22/01/24	B-Tales Drama Workshop - Reception
26/01/24	Year 5 Class Assembly - 9.00am
29/01/24	Start of National Storytelling Week
30/01/24	Year 6 Football Competition
02/02/24	Candlemass Eucharist - St James' Church 9.30am
05/02/24	Times Tables Rockstar/Numbots Day
05/02/24	Start of Whole School Safety Week 2024
06/02/24	Winter Warmer - Year 4
08/02/24	Year 5 Football Competition
07/02/24	Winter Warmer - Year 4
09/02/24	School Closes for half term

### **Numbots and Times Table Rockstars Relaunch Day:**



To celebrate our relaunch, on Monday 5th February, your child is invited to:

Reception and Y1 – Attend school wearing an item of clothing with a number on this day. This can be accompanied by children wearing their own clothes with uniform not required.

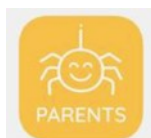
Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 - Attend school for the day dressed as a 'Rockstar.' There is no expectation that a 'costume' has to be bought or made- this could be any bright or musical themed clothing although creativity as always is welcome!



## School Spider

As you will be aware, our main channel of communication is via our parent app. Using the parent app enables school to keep parents up to date with information and events, not to mention help us to reduce our carbon footprint.

On Wednesday 31st January we switched to a new app called, "School Spider". The Parent Connect App is no longer be available. Please look for this symbol in app store or in google play and follow guide below to get started.

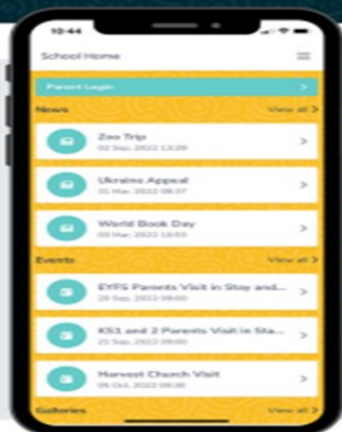
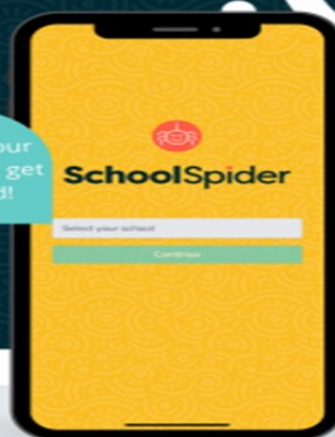


## Guide to our app for parents & carers

School Spider allows you to receive and return information directly to and from the school. Receive instant messages, complete surveys, book your parents' evenings and report absences.



Select your school to get started!



## How to get started

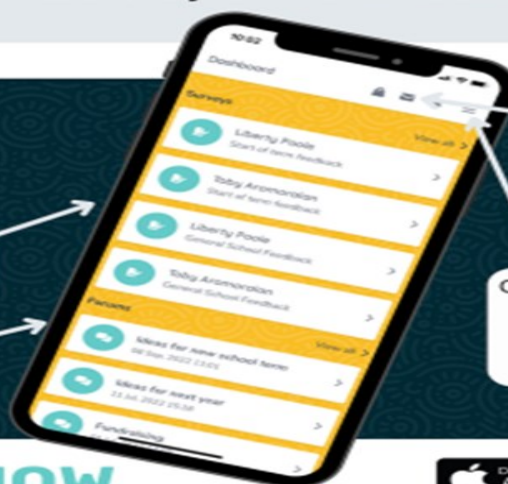
Once you have selected the school, you will see posts from the school website. Click parent dashboard to login or create an account. Create an account by pressing "create account" and enter your email address.

**You must have your email linked with the school!**

## Take a look around...

See all action items on your dashboard

Click to respond or book for each child



Click the envelope to see your recent messages

Click these 3 lines to:

- Switch between areas
- Edit your profile
- Logout

**DOWNLOAD NOW**





# National Storytelling Week





## **Safeguarding Tip of the Week**

### **Monitoring online safety**

This week, we are focusing on the importance of online monitoring. Take time to talk to your child about the dangers they may face online - be honest and open with them. Ensure that they have the correct privacy settings on their devices and that you have parental controls on. Children should be aware that a person they think of as a friend online could in fact be a complete stranger. Online abuse takes many forms which include; bullying, blackmail and general trolling. Remind children that social media apps have age restrictions designed to keep them safe. Encourage your child to report to an adult if they feel uncomfortable with anything that they access online.



## **Online Safety -Tip of the Week**

### **Persuasive Design Online**

Apps and sites are all competing for our attention. Over the years, numerous strategies have been developed which are intended to influence users' behaviour – making us more likely to remain on a site, game or platform for longer periods of time. These techniques are known as 'persuasive design' and can have a particularly profound effect on children and young people.

Despite these tactics' evident effectiveness, there are still plenty of ways to help prevent yourself (and your child) from being psychologically swayed. This week's

**#WakeUpWednesday** guide breaks down the potential risks posed by persuasive design online – and offers some top tips for recognising and reducing its impact on young people's decision making.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about PERSUASIVE DESIGN ONLINE

'Persuasive design' refers to the techniques that companies employ to influence our thoughts and behaviours when we're on the internet. These approaches can be spotted on websites, in apps and even as part of some video games. Persuasive design means that this content has been deliberately presented in a way that's intended to encourage you to spend your time or money (or both). These methods often prove highly effective at keeping people engaged and invested for longer than we might expect.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### POTENTIAL ADDICTION

In the digital world, persuasive design can make certain activities more addictive and harder to walk away from: some people may begin to feel anxious or irritated without access to their device or their favourite app, for example. It can also often leave users feeling isolated, as – if they spend most of their time on social media – they may start to find it difficult to talk to other people in real life.

### MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Scrolling online or gaming without regular breaks is proven to be harmful to our mental health. The constant bombardment of news stories (many of them negative), images and influencers' posts can create sensations of unease, uncertainty and FOMO (fear of missing out). Young people can get so immersed in this environment that they become less likely to spot misleading posts.

### PROLONGED SCROLLING

Social media can draw any of us – regardless of age – into a continuous pattern of refreshing our screen, following posts and links down rabbit holes or reading countless comments made by others. This aimless scrolling can eat up time which could have been spent on more productive activities. It could also lead younger users into areas of the online world which aren't age appropriate.

### SENSORY OVERLOAD

Repetitively scrolling, clicking on links or playing games can create an unending stream of new information and visual stimuli. Put it this way: social media isn't exactly renowned as a carefree, chilled-out environment. Such overstimulation can become too much for young people to handle, resulting in sensory overload and causing them to feel stressed, overwhelmed and exhausted.

### COSTLY ADDITIONS

Video games sometimes display offers for downloadable content or loot boxes which can be bought with real money. While these 'microtransactions' temptingly promise to improve a player's gaming experience, most of the time they are money sinks. Young people in particular, excited by the chance of enhancing their game, could spend quite a sizeable sum very quickly indeed.

### PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES

Hours spent sitting and scrolling means far less time moving around and getting exercise: hardly ideal for a young person's physical health. Additionally, prolonged exposure to the light given off by a phone's screen can lead to eye fatigue and discomfort, especially if viewing it in the dark. Extended phone use before bed can also impact on sleep quality, affecting mood and energy levels over the following days.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ESTABLISH LIMITS

Talk to your child about setting some time limits on how long they can use their phone, tablet or console in the evenings or at weekends – or perhaps how often they can go on a specific app, game or website. You could also decide to involve the whole family in creating this shared screen time agreement, making things fair (and healthier) for everyone.

### NIX NOTIFICATIONS

Stop knee-jerk responses at the source by turning off push notifications and alerts. Whether it's a gaming notification or a social media update, these not-so-gentle reminders are designed to catch our attention and lure us back to our device. Switching them off – or even deleting any particularly intrusive apps – can help prevent your child from being reeled back into the online world.

### ENCOURAGE MINDFULNESS

Acknowledging any addiction is key in overcoming it – and compulsive scrolling is no different. If anything mentioned in this guide sounds familiar, it could help to have an honest, open chat with your child about how much time they spend online. Get them to think about how often they scroll through social media aimlessly or habitually open it up whenever they have a spare moment.

### MAKE A CHECKLIST

Considering a list of relevant questions can be an effective way of helping children figure out why they're scrolling on certain sites or consuming particular pieces of content. A checklist can prompt young people to ask themselves if they're learning anything or benefiting from this activity – or if they're wasting their time. Taking a step back can sometimes help us to see things more clearly.

## Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). As well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and schools, she is also a subject matter expert on RSHE for the Department of Education.



The National College



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

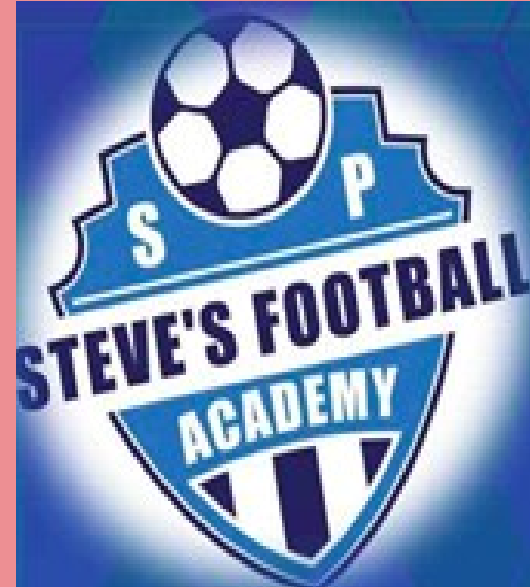
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@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

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## FEBRUARY HALFTERM FOOTBALL CAMP

Book now to avoid disappointment.

For more information  
on prices and availability contact:

Steven Pagendam on 07492091999

Or message me on  
Facebook STEVEN PAGENDAM



Lunch, Drinks and shin pads essential

Thatto Heath Rugby Club

The Barn

Thatto Heath

St Helens

WA9 5JA

I am DBS approved and an FA qualified coach. I have over 13 years experience in coaching both in the UK and overseas.

Steves half term holiday football camps are a great way for your child to learn new skills, have fun, make new friends and much more. matches are played and prizes awarded.

### CLASS DATES AND TIMES:

**12TH FEBRUARY**  
**1030AM - 130PM**  
**AGES 5-8 YEARS**

**15TH & 16TH**  
**1030AM - 130PM**  
**AGES 9 YEARS +**



# Computer Xplorers

Leading the way in  
providing tech-based  
activities that are both  
inspirational and  
educational!

## FEBRUARY HALF TERM TECH CLUBS

### ST HELENS



**Rainford High School**

Higher Lane, Rainford, Warr BNY



14th & 15th Feb 2024



9am-3pm

half days available

Providing fun, educational activities-

**Wednesday** - Lego Robotics & Minecraft Education

**Thursday** - Digital Video Creator & Minecraft Education

Both paid and funded places are available to book for kids aged 5-15.

Supported by



\*FREE places available to eligible Warrington borough resident children who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals



**BOOK!** Visit the link or scan the code-  
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ACCEPTED ✓

FEBRUARY

# MULTI SPORTS CAMP



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CHILDREN'S FITNESS & SPORTS COACHING



Fun filled, action packed multi sports camp for ages 5 - 11 with enough options to keep your child happy and entertained. Run by FA qualified coaches. Includes Football, Dodgeball, Gym, Dance, Basketball, Cheerleading, Fun games, Craft, NERF Zone, Glow Sports, Party games, Athletics and Obstacle courses.

Bookings can be made via our website  
[www.fullofbeansfitness.co.uk](http://www.fullofbeansfitness.co.uk)

Email: [camps@fullofbeansfitness.co.uk](mailto:camps@fullofbeansfitness.co.uk)

Telephone: 0151 374 0454

Facebook: FOBWirral Twitter: FullOfBeansFit



## COST

£25 Standard day 9am-4pm

£32 Extended day 8.30am-5.30pm



## LOCATION

Birchley St Mary's Primary School  
Birchley Road, Billinge, Wigan



## DATE

Monday Feb 12th - Fri Feb 16th

EARLYBIRD Discount 10% until Monday 9th  
October

Sibling Discount throughout 10% off second child  
Both Discounts automatically applied at checkout



Our coaches all hold professional qualifications and an enhanced DBS. Expert and qualified instruction in a safe, non-competitive environment. We go out of our way to ensure a personal and special day.







# FEBRUARY FOOTBALL ACADEMY



Fun filled, action packed football camp for ages 5 – 11 with enough options to keep your child happy and entertained. Run by FA **qualified coaches**. Includes: A feel for a day of training like a professional player, **Football** Small Sided Games, **Football Dodge**, Skills from around the World, Keepy up competitions & Challenge Zones.

Bookings can be made via our website  
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Email: [camps@fullofbeansfitness.co.uk](mailto:camps@fullofbeansfitness.co.uk)

Telephone: 0151 374 0454

Facebook: **FOBWirral** Twitter: **FullOfBeansFit**



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**Ofsted**  
Registered

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