



NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

Learn, Laugh and Live 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

2023-2024 Issue Number 5 6th October 2023

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,



What a lovely Autumnal week we have had together this week!

Our Harvest Donation table is filling up beautifully - thank you! We will be continuing to collect items right up until we close for half term on 20th October. All food donated will be given to St Helens Foodbank in support of those in need at this time across our community.

It was lovely to come together as a school family on Thursday for our Harvest Service which was led by Y4. A beautiful reminder at this time of year to take the time to be thankful and to show love to others.

Thursday we celebrated National Poetry Day across school - there were some lovely tweets about this and I do encourage you to join us on Twitter (or 'X' as it's now known) to see all of the lovely things that the children get up to in classes.

Our 'Amazing Artist' leadership group worked this week with our Artist in Residence Mr Corcoran on finishing a bespoke new piece of artwork for our entrance area - watch this space for that being with pride in coming weeks.

Have a lovely weekend - apparently it's going to be a hot one so I hope enjoy the sunshine and the warmth on your skin before the colder weather inevitably starts to set in.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Young



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	97.1%
Reception	97.5%
Year 1	95.7%
Year 2	99.7%
Year 3	98.6%
Year 4	95.5%
Year 5	98%
Year 6	95%



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:

96.9%


164


pupils
with perfect attendance this week.

Can we beat this next week?

Attendance Steps to Success:



- ★ Ring the school office as soon as possible to explain any absence.
- ★ Be on time! Remember that gates close at 8:50am. Any absence after 9:20am is unauthorised.
- ★ Provide evidence for any medical appointments.
- ★ Speak to a member of the attendance team if you need support with your child's attendance - we are here to help!
- ★ Read any information and letters (including the newsletter) carefully.



10 Day Attendance Challenge

At St James we place huge importance on regular school attendance—the research speaks for itself and proves that those with the highest levels of attendance achieve great things!

We invite you to take part in our 10 day Attendance Challenge.

What do you need to do?

Come to school, on time, everyday for the last ten days of this half term.

Monday 9th October-Friday 20th October

How can you win?

Those that complete the 10 day challenge will have their name put in a prize draw to be carried out on the afternoon of Friday 20th October (the final day of the half term).

What can you win?

A family ticket to Martin Mere for 2 adults and 2 children (under 16)

Weekly Headteacher's Award

Winners

Journey Driver Focus:

Joyful Reader

RECEPTION	Dominion Udeh
YEAR 1	Sienna Deluce
YEAR 2	George Braithwaite
YEAR 3	David Varga
YEAR 4	Boo Goulding
YEAR 5	Jessica Abah
YEAR 6	Adrian Amadi

Reading Coffee Morning

Please join us at 9am next Friday morning (Friday 13th October) for our Reading Coffee Morning. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how we teach reading and foster a love of reading in school. As usual, there will be the opportunity to join the children's classes after this to work with your child.



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

PE kit

It is important that the P.E kit is seen as an extension of our school uniform, therefore our high standards should be kept. All children require LABELLED:

- black tracksuit/red shorts
- plain white T-shirt (logo optional)
- Black Slip on pumps or trainers.

THERE SHOULD BE NO SLOGAN/BRANDED T SHIRTS OR BRIGHT COLOURS.
THIS IS PART OF OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM AND EXPECTATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED.



Snack

Children in years 1-6 can bring in their own healthy snack to eat at breaktime.

Please ensure that this is not chocolate, crisps or a sugary cereal bar. Water bottles are permitted but these must only be filled with water.

Harvest

Thank you so much to Year 4 and Father Micheal for their wonderful Harvest Service on Thursday and thank you to all of our families who have donated food. We will continue to accept donations up to the end of the half term.

After this, the food will be taken to St Helens Foodbank.



Admissions

APPLYING FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

If your child turns 4 between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024, he or she will transfer to primary school in September 2024. From Wednesday 27th September the website www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions is open for parents who wish to apply online. You will be notified on 16 April 2024 confirming your child's school place.

The closing date for you to submit your application is 15 January 2024.

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

If your child turns 11 between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024, he or she will transfer to secondary school in September 2024. From Wednesday 27th September the website www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions is open for parents who wish to apply online. You will be notified on 1 March 2024 confirming your child's school place.

The closing date for you to submit your application is 31 October 2023.

Clarify any issues you are not sure about with staff in the school admissions team on 01744 671030 or email schooladmissions@sthelens.gov.uk.



Open Days

Reception 2024

St James CE Primary School

Are you a parent or a carer with children starting school in September 2024 and beyond?

If so, come and see St James Church of England Primary School in Haydock, St Helens. We are a distinctly Christian one form entry school offering an excellent curriculum, a nurturing approach and wide ranging activities and opportunities for all of our children. We were judged to be 'GOOD' in 2023 by Ofsted.

You will have the chance to see the school and the classrooms in action, and speak to the children and staff. Please telephone the school office on 01744 678545 or email stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk

Dates

Tuesday 14th November—10am

Thursday 16th November—
4:30pm



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Online Safety - Monitoring Systems

As a school we have a number of systems and processes that we use to keep pupils safe online. We use a filtering and monitoring system in school called Sophos I which identifies any searches that may contain inappropriate information. This system works on any device in school and helps us to ensure that the children are safe online.

Online safety is included in our curriculum as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum. Remember to encourage your children to always tell a trusted adult if they do not feel safe online and to never share passwords or important information.



Online Safety

Tip of the Week

TikTok

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17. In this week's guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as age-inappropriate content, dangerous challenges and contact with strangers.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



Whole School events Autumn 1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
5/9/23	School Re-opens for Autumn 1
13/9/23	Y4 Clarinet Lessons Start
15/9/23	Democracy Day
18/9/23	Y1, Y3, Y5 Meet the Teacher 3.30pm
19/9/23	Y2, Y4, Y6 Meet the Teacher 3.30pm
21/9/23	Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital Health Day
21/9/23	Y6 DWP - Employability Skills Workshop
22/9/23	Behaviour and St James' Way Coffee Morning 9.00am
26/9/23	European Day of Languages 2023
26/9/23	Y6 Football Competition
26/9/23	Reception Welcome Assembly 9.30am
02/10/23	Y5 Football Competition
4/10/23	Joe Heyes Assembly
5/10/23	Harvest Prayer Space Event
5/10/23	Y4 Harvest Eucharist 2.15pm (St James' Church)
10/10/23	World Homeless Day
13/10/23	Reading Coffee Morning 9.00am
16/10/23	Black History Focus Week
17/10/23	Reception - Y6 Flu Vaccinations
19/10/23	Y4 Football Competition
20/10/23	Y6 Class Assembly
20/10/23	Non-Uniform Day - Information to follow
20/10/23	School Closes

St Helens Immunisation Team

We will be attending your child's school between September and December.

All children in nursery to year 11 will be offered a Flu Nasal Spray to protect them against Flu this winter!

We will be in your child's school on: **TUESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2023**

Contact details

St Helens Immunisation Team - Telephone: 01744 415 645
(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Flu: 5 reasons

to vaccinate your child

1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare



YEAR 6 TRANSITION FREE ONLINE PARENT / CARER SESSIONS

If your child has an SEN or significant worries and is due to transition to secondary school in September 2024, we would love you to join us on our online sessions to share preparation tips and advice.

By 31st October 2023 you will have submitted a secondary school application to name your 3 preferred schools.

We are delighted to offer you some advice and support to be able to effectively plan the next steps of your child's journey.

Many of the strategies will work for most children who require that little bit of additional support.

Sessions will be delivered online through TEAMS directed to parents/carers (not to children); if you can attend all four it would be more beneficial.

For further information please email us on LASCSttransitions@sthelens.gov.uk so we can send you a TEAMS link to the sessions

Session One - The Year Ahead	Friday 1 st December 2023 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences between Primary & Secondary • Independence & Preparation • Travel to school • Next Steps
Session Two - Building Blocks	Friday 2 nd February 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a transition? • Managing change • Developing independence
Session Three - A Helping Hand	Friday 22 nd March 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing worries & nerves • Emotions Scales • Looking for the positives
Session Four - The Finish Line is in Sight!	Friday 10th May 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being Prepared • One Page Profiles • Communication • Preparation & Practice



HELP OUR SCHOOL AND JOIN THE PTA

We are looking to start a brand new PTFA at St James – can you help?

Our focus this year is raising money to enhance our woodland area and fund resources and experiences in school.

There are 3 main ways to get involved – complete and return the relevant slip overleaf and let's help St James continue on its journey!

Why get involved?

	1. CHILDREN BENEFIT Research shows that participating in your child's school and showing engagement helps them perform better academically
	2. THE SCHOOL BENEFITS PTA performs support for school teachers and administration which in turn creates a positive & caring atmosphere in the school.
	3. MAKE CONNECTIONS Get to know the teachers & staff better and make lifelong friends with other parents at the school!
	4. IT'S GOOD FOR YOU Socialising with other parents and volunteering to do good for your child's school is fun, healthy and rewarding!

THANK YOU!!!!



St Helens Carers Centre is an independent registered Charity (1089663) that supports unpaid carers looking after someone who lives in the St Helens area.

The centre aim to support both Young and Adult Carers to recognise their own needs, have their voices heard, help with their physical and mental well being and ensure they are fully understood, valued and supported in their caring role. For more information visit:

<https://www.sthelenscarers.info>

Friends – Play for Disabled Children

Friends-Play for Disabled Children are a registered charity supporting families in St Helens and the surrounding areas. The charity was set up in October 2012 by two parents with disabled children.

The charity aims to bring families of disabled children in St Helens & the surrounding area together to play through events, trips, days out and to provide a support network for those families to help prevent isolation.

For more information visit:
<https://friendsplay.org.uk>



CARERS CARD UK

A national carer card and app that supports you when caring for someone. The card is for anyone that looks after someone that needs help and support. It provides reassurance by including your Emergency Contact details (ICE), whilst unlocking Discounts, Wellbeing Hub, our Carer Circle tool, and so much more through our app.

For more information visit:

<https://www.carerscarduk.co.uk/>