





# NEWSLETTER


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


Twitter:


*Learn, Love 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 12 Friday 8th December 2023**

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well I think it's fair to say that Christmas has well and truly arrived at St James!



Thank you for your support with Save the Children, Christmas Jumper Day yesterday. It was wonderful seeing the children looking so festive, shiny and fun! We will let you know the total amount raised for the charity asap.

We are looking forward to our other upcoming Christmas events such as our nativities and Christmas Party Day - it's always such a special time at school!

The Ethos Team along with Miss Barratt have been busy creating prayer stations around school over the last few weeks - please ask your child to tell you about those and our interactive class advent calendars too!

We have loved seeing so many families join in with our Kindness Advent Calendar! It has filled our hearts with joy. Be sure to share what you are completing on our Twitter page as all children who we know have participated will receive a certificate.

Some lovely news to finish with this week - Mrs Atherton, our Y6 teacher, who worked at Parish for many years before joining us at St James in September, is expecting her first baby - a little girl - in April! We are delighted for her and her husband and I'm sure you'll join us in sending them lots of love and good wishes. *More information will follow nearer the time as to which teacher will lead the class for the final term once Mrs Atherton commences her maternity leave.*

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Young





# AWARD WINNERS

## Journey Driver Focus:

### Opportunity to Build New Knowledge and Skills

RECEPTION	Alijah Finch
YEAR 1	Thomas Hunter
YEAR 2	Jersie Adamson-Roberts
YEAR 3	Andre Welding
YEAR 4	Boo Goulding
YEAR 5	Zoe
YEAR 6	Gracie Glover

# School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	92.8%
Reception	86.3%
Year 1	94.1%
Year 2	99.7%
Year 3	91.4%
Year 4	91.8%
Year 5	96.85%
Year 6	90.4%



## 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:

**94.0%**

**137**
  
**pupils**
  
**with perfect attendance this week.**

**Can we beat this next week?**



## 12 Days of Christmas 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 therefore now invite you to take part in our 12 Days of Christmas Attendance Challenge.

### What do you need to do?

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

Wednesday 6th December-Thursday 21st December

### How can you win?

Those that complete the 12 days of Christmas challenge will have their name put in a prize draw to be carried out on the afternoon of Thursday 21st December (the last full day of the half term).

### What can you win?

A Super Secret Santa Surprise

12 to be won!

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS!

MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR
5 MINUTES PER DAY =	3.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES PER DAY =	6.9 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES PER DAY =	10.3 DAYS MISSED 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES PER DAY =	13.8 DAYS MISSED 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES PER DAY =	20.7 DAYS MISSED 89.2% ATTENDANCE



## Food Bank Vouchers



We have recently registered with St Helens Foodbank and are now 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 Mrs Briers and Mrs Conant .

## 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](http://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.**



## Clubs

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

**Booking is now available on the school app**

- **Monday**-Sports for Y3 and Y4 with the Sports Coach
- **Tuesday**-FAB Club for KS2 with Miss Barratt
- **Thursday**-Board Games Club for Y1 and Y2 with Miss Hunter
- **Thursday**-Computing Club for Y1 and Y2 with Miss McDonald
- **Friday**-Book Club for Y5 and Y6 with Mrs Briers

**Please note that there is an increase in the price of our clubs.**

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### PE Days Autumn 2

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

**Monday** Y2, Y3 and Y4

**Tuesday** Y4

**Wednesday** YR, Y1 and Y6  
(Swimming),

**Thursday** Y1 and Y5

**Friday** Y2, Y5 and Y6

### Snack



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

**This must not be chocolate, crisps or a sugary cereal bar.**

Water bottles are permitted but these **must only be filled with water.**

### Nativity 2023

Reception, Year 1 and Y2



The Nativity, this year, will take place on Thursday 14th December at 9:30am and 2:00 pm and on Friday 15th December at 9:30am. Tickets are now on sale and will be allocated on a first come first served basis with an availability of 2 tickets per family. Please return the letter received to school with payment to secure your tickets.



# Christmas at St James'

**Christmas Jumper Day**

Thursday 7th December—Please come in dressed in a Christmas Jumper for a £1 donation to 'Save the Children' (via School Money),

**Christmas Bingo**

Thursday 7th December 5pm-7pm.

Further information to follow.

**Nativity—Oopsy Daisy Angel**

Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December—3 performances of the Nativity for parents/carers to watch. Tickets will be on sale soon.

**YR, Y1 and Y2**

**Christmas Fair**

Tuesday 19th December-3.30pm start.

**Christmas Dinner**

Wednesday 20th December—If your child is in KS2 and normally has a packed lunch they can choose to have a Christmas Dinner. The cost of this is £2.50. Further information will be sent via the school app.

**Christmas Service**

Thursday 21st December—Christmas service in church 9.30am

**Christmas Party Day**

Friday 22nd December will be our Christmas Party Day! Crafts, dancing and more! Children are invited to wear their party clothes on this day.



## Whole School events Autumn 2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
6/11/23	School re-opens for Autumn Term 2
8/11/23	Swimming - Year 6 (first lesson)
13/11/23	Anti-Bullying week
14/11/23	St James' open day 10.00am
16/11/23	St James' open day 4.30pm
17/11/23	Year 3 Assembly 9.00am
22/11/23	Academy photography (siblings, individuals, and groups)
23/11/23	Height and Weight Reception and Year 6
23/11/23	Money Mentors Year 5 and Year 6
24/11/23	Non-uniform day (selection box)
24/11/23	World Science Day
28/11/23	Shakespeare North Playhouse - Year 6 school trip
7/12/23	Christmas jumper day
7/12/23	Christmas bingo 5pm - 7pm
12/12/23	Swimming - Year 6 (last lesson)
13/12/23	Nativity dress rehearsal
14/12/23	Nativity KSI 9.30am
14/12/23	Nativity KSI 2.00pm
15/12/23	Nativity KSI 9.30am
19/12/23	Christmas Fair 3.30pm
20/12/23	Christmas Dinner Day
21/12/23	Christmas Service, Eucharist - St James's Church 9.30am
21/12/23	Christingle Service, (children only)
22/12/23	Christmas Party Day
22/12/23	School Closes for Christmas 2pm



## Kindness Calendar

As we enter the festive period of advent, it is important to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world during Advent. Attached is our annual 'Kindness Calendar' with a variety of different daily kindness activity that your child can choose to complete.

The calendar explains what the activity is and why it has been chosen with all of the tasks free to complete. Once completed, please share your acts of compassion on Twitter (@StJamesCE) using #StJamescompassion or bring completed activities into school for display.

Across the month, certificates will be sent home to celebrate those children who complete a range of kindness activities during that week. I cannot wait to see the range of activities that children can complete alongside the kindness and compassion that is spread throughout the St James School Community.





If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.



# Our Kindness Calendar for Advent:

*"Learn, laugh and live with the Love of God."*



	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
<b>Hope</b> 				<b>1</b> With an adult, call/video call a friend or a relative to have a chat. Make them smile and give someone hope in this festive period.	<b>2</b> Safely with an adult, find a source of light (such as a torch). Together say/write a prayer for "Who needs light in their darkness?"	<b>3</b> With an adult, research 'Teardrops' (a local St Helens charity). Produce a poster all about how they give people hope.	<b>4</b> Make a small donation to our foodbank collection in school for Teardrops. Give real hope to someone this Christmas.
<b>Peace</b> 	<b>5</b> Design a Christmas decoration that symbolises 'peace' and add this to your Christmas tree.	<b>6</b> Have a day without using any digital devices. Have a peaceful day talking to your family.	<b>7</b> Listen to a piece of your favourite music. Stop, reflect and think about how this makes you feel.	<b>8</b> Do something to help look after our beautiful planet Earth— recycling is a great example.	<b>9</b> Explore the Christian value of 'Peace' means to you. Write an acrostic of what 'peace' means.	<b>10</b> Research Christmas traditions in different countries – having an interest in the lives of others brings peace.	<b>11</b> Write things that bring you peace within a 'dove' and hang it in your window at home as a Christian symbol of peace.
<b>Joy</b> 	<b>12</b> Our greatest gift can be to say thank you. What would you like to say thank you for? Write or explain this to a member of your family.	<b>13</b> Write a joke at home that you could bring into school and share with your class.	<b>14</b> Leave a positive message for someone in school or at home to find. Spread some joy this Christmas!	<b>15</b> Gospel means 'good news.' Share some good news in your life with your class.	<b>16</b> Make a Christmas card for someone you care about to bring them some joy. Give them the card.	<b>17</b> With an adult, go on a winter walk into God's world and appreciate the joy this brings. Take a photo of this.	<b>18</b> Listen and sing Christmas Songs - spread festive joy! ☺
<b>Love</b> 	<b>19</b> Pray for someone less fortunate than you this Christmas and show them your love.	<b>20</b> Our School vision is 'Learn, laugh and live with the Love of God.' Design a poster to share our school vision.	<b>21</b> Draw a heart and write the names of all the people who give you love in your life at this festive time.	<b>22</b> As we finish school for the Christmas holidays, watch a Christmas film with someone you love.	<b>23</b> With an adult, bake something festive. Spend time with the people you love.	<b>24</b> Be kind to yourself – do something that you love on Christmas Eve.	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas!

How many acts on our Kindness Calendar can you complete over the period of Advent? Remember to share them on Twitter (@StJamesCE) or bring them into school!

## **Safeguarding Tip of the Week**

### **Criminal Exploitation**

This week our safeguarding focus is criminal exploitation. Criminal exploitation is where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. They might be victims of violence or pressured into doing things like stealing or carrying drugs or weapons. They might be abused, exploited and put into dangerous situations, or find themselves as part of a gang, where through peer pressure illegal activity may take place. Some of the dangers of criminal exploitation are: being subject to threats, blackmail and violence; having their safety or the safety of family and friends threatened; risk of emotional harm or long term impact on education or employment prospects. For more information visit the NSPCC website.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>



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

### **Disney+**

More than 150 million subscribers worldwide! Disney+ has enjoyed a steady rise in popularity since launching four years ago: the platform's deep library of treasured old-school animated favourites, modern classics and original series means that it can offer a rich seam of engrossing content that caters for young and not-so-young users alike.

Of course, a consequence of this approach is the presence of the sort of age-inappropriate material one might not expect to find on the platform, given Disney's fabled status as a purveyor of family entertainment. There's useful advice in avoiding this pitfall (and more besides) in this week's #WakeUpWednesday guide, as Disney+ comes under the microscope.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

## LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.

## BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.

## PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.

## ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

## ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.

### TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

### ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hub are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

### ENJOY AS A FAMILY

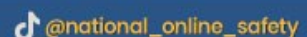
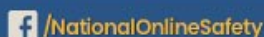
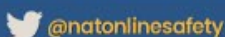
When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do some when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: [https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=esp\\_article\\_content&sys\\_kb\\_id=1f8b6dd3d0e49850f3e0c030637f110a](https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=esp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1f8b6dd3d0e49850f3e0c030637f110a) / [https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=esp\\_article\\_content&sys\\_kb\\_id=1956a1fd6441d03aff0a2c3b9f930](https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=esp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1956a1fd6441d03aff0a2c3b9f930) / [https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=esp\\_article\\_content&sys\\_kb\\_id=95924c6db1aac50585c0a9e989191717](https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=esp_article_content&sys_kb_id=95924c6db1aac50585c0a9e989191717) / [https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=esp\\_article\\_content&sys\\_kb\\_id=95924c6db1aac50585c0a9e989191717](https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?d=esp_article_content&sys_kb_id=95924c6db1aac50585c0a9e989191717)



ST HELENS WELLBEING

# Breathe Buddies Reindeer Workshop ★



Join us for our **Reindeer Workshop** to create some festive magic!

Children will enjoy a story, learn some Christmas themed breathing exercises and then make their very own flying reindeer!

All sessions are running from  
**Central Link Children's Centre, Peter St, St Helens,  
WA10 2EB**

**Friday 8th December- 9:30am**

**Tuesday 12th December- 1:00pm**

**Friday 15th December- 10:30am**

**Monday 18th December- 10:30am**

**Tuesday 19th December- 1:00pm**

No booking required, just turn up at start time advertised.

*Sessions are open to all ages, but most suited to ages 2-5 years. All children must be supervised throughout the session by an adult.*

For further information, please call 01744 371111 or visit our Facebook page @StHelensWellbeing

