



NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesprimary.co.uk

Twitter:

Learn, Laugh & 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 14 Friday 22nd December 2023

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

A message from Mrs Young

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that we have reached the end of the Autumn term - time has really flown!



We have had a wonderful time together since September with lots of lovely memories made alongside all of our learning of course!

Lots more to look forward to in 2024!

Have a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you on 8th January.



A Short Christmas Blessing:

*May the blessing of joy
abide within you;
May the blessing of peace
rest upon you;
May the blessing of love
flow out through you;
May all the blessings of the Lord
be yours at Christmas
and in the new year.*

With love

Mrs Young

AWARD WINNERS

Journey Driver Focus:

**Opportunity to Build New Knowledge
and Skills**

RECEPTION	Theo Plumpton
YEAR 1	Nate York
YEAR 2	Abdul
YEAR 3	Mason Cliffe
YEAR 4	Madison Frater- Hassett
YEAR 5	Demi Rattray
YEAR 6	Molly Jackson

Christian Value Focus:

Trust

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 'Trust'

RECEPTION	Mohammad Alsejnawi
YEAR 1	Elijah Smith
YEAR 2	Willow Butler
YEAR 3	Khloe-Mae Lee
YEAR 4	Donnie Bridge
YEAR 5	Briella Shaw
YEAR 6	Leo Sarsfield

CONGRATULATIONS
TIME TO
Celebrate
WELL
DONE!

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	93.0%
Reception	92.6%
Year 1	98.6%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	98.7%
Year 4	83.9%
Year 5	95.8%
Year 6	89.3%



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:

93.1%

132

pupils

with perfect attendance this week.

Can we beat this next week?

ATTENDANCE WINNERS!



Well done to all of those children who attended school everyday and on time for the last twelve days of this half term! Your names all went into the prize draw . We are pleased to announce that the 12 winners were:

Jersie Adamson-Roberts, Olivia Nelson, Joshua Hodgkinson, Sujatha De Silva, Kleopatra Lee, Roman McCabe, Taylen Baker-Wilson, Tyler Westhead, Joey Roscoe, Gracie Glover, Ben Jackson and Caspa-Troy Bridge.

Well done to all of those children who have 97% or above attendance.

The winner of the half termly class challenge is **Year 2**. They will enjoy a popcorn and movie afternoon during the first week back after half term. Well done!

Winter Reading Challenge

Hopefully Santa brings some new books this Christmas or you might have some precious, spare time to visit the library during this two-week holiday. What better way to celebrate our love of reading at St James than with a fun reading challenge. The children are invited to tick off as many of the challenges below during the Christmas break. They can present their Winter Reading Challenge however they prefer - as a collage or perhaps a little scrap book?

The winners will be awarded with a prize!

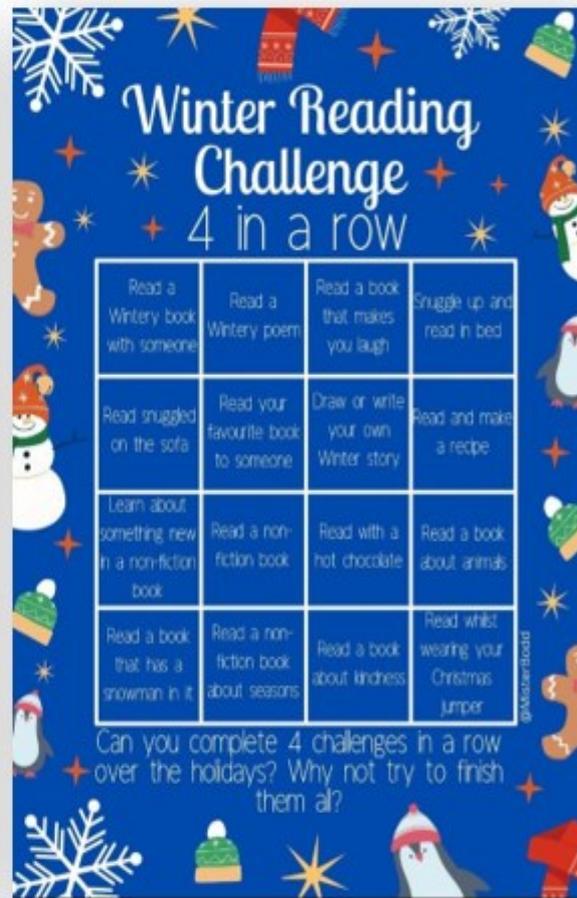


Christmas Reading Challenge
3 in a row

Read a Christmassy book with someone	Read a poem	Read a book that makes you laugh
Read next to your Christmas tree	Snuggle up and read in bed	Read your favourite book to someone
Read the lyrics to your favourite Christmas song	Read a non-fiction book	Draw or write your own Christmas story

Can you complete 3 challenges in a row over the holidays? Why not try to finish them all?

@MissMilesBooks



Winter Reading Challenge
4 in a row

Read a Wintery book with someone	Read a Wintery poem	Read a book that makes you laugh	Snuggle up and read in bed
Read snuggled on the sofa	Read your favourite book to someone	Draw or write your own Winter story	Read and make a recipe
Learn about something new in a non-fiction book	Read a non-fiction book	Read with a hot chocolate	Read a book about animals
Read a book that has a snowman in it	Read a non-fiction book about seasons	Read a book about kindness	Read whilst wearing your Christmas jumper

Can you complete 4 challenges in a row over the holidays? Why not try to finish them all?

@MissMilesBooks

Please tag us on Twitter in any photos you want to share, if you wish, using the #WinterReadingChallenge. But most importantly, I hope you enjoy sharing some special moments together reading this Christmas.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

PE Days Spring 1

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

Monday	Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5
Tuesday	Year 3 and Year 6
Wednesday	Reception, Year 1 and Year 6
Thursday	Year 2 and Year 5
Friday	Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4

Sports Clubs

If your child has a Sports After School Club, and it is not their PE day, please ensure that you send suitable kit for them to get changed into.

Uniform reminders

- School shoes should be black and not trainers.
- Jewellery is not to be worn. A watch and a small pair of studs is permitted. Studs must be removed or covered with a plaster during PE lessons.
- PE kit consists of a **plain black tracksuit** and **white t shirt** only.



Clubs

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

Booking is 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.



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
02/02/24	Candlemass Eucharist - St James' Church 9.30am
05/02/24	Start of Whole School Safety Week 2024
06/02/24	Winter Warmer - Year 4
07/02/24	Winter Warmer - Year 4
09/02/24	School Closes for half term



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 LASCstransitions@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 10 th May 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being Prepared One Page Profiles Communication Preparation & Practice



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 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.



Family Hub

MAKING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACCESSIBLE



Scan for everything you need to support children aged 0-19 (and up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in St Helens, including registration services, school & education advice, childcare, health and wellbeing and more.
Visit: sthelensfamilyhub.sthelens.gov.uk



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

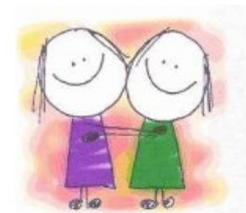
The centre aim to support both Young and Adult Carers to recognise their own needs, have their voices heard, help with their physical and mental well being and ensure they are fully understood, valued and supported in their caring role.

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 their app.

For more information visit: <https://www.carerscarduk.co.uk/>

Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Gangs

This week our safeguarding focus is gangs. The word 'gang' means different things in different contexts, and the government distinguishes between peer groups, street gangs and organised criminal gangs. It's not illegal for a young person to be in a gang, however, gang membership can be linked to illegal activity, particularly organised criminal gangs involved in trafficking, drug dealing and violent crime. Young people may become involved in gangs for many reasons, including: peer pressure and wanting to fit in with friends; they feel respected and important; they want to feel protected from other gangs or bullies or they want to make money and are promised rewards. For more information visit the NSPCC website.



Online Safety -Tip of the Week

There's no disputing how integral the digital world has become to modern life. It can prove difficult for many young people to stay off smart phones, tablets and other devices for a single day – even one as special as Christmas. In fact, according to a survey by e-commerce platform Groupon, almost 80% of parents and carers would prefer a festive period that's free from technology.

Going online, of course, is useful for checking in with friends and relations who we can't be with, or for arranging celebrations – but if we allow gadgets to dominate our Yuletide break, that precious time could pass in a flash. This [#WakeUpWednesday](#), has got suggestions for keeping a handle on device use over the holidays, so your family can be truly together this Christmas.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Get down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.12.2023

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

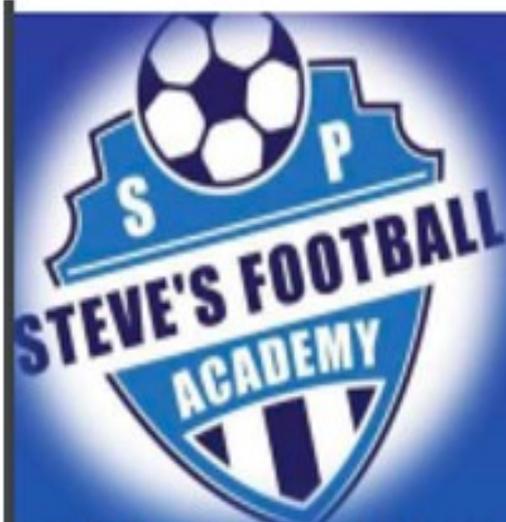
Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org



CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL CAMP 2023



Book now to avoid disappointment.

For more information
on prices and availability contact:

📞 Steven Pagendam on 07492091999
Or message me on
Facebook STEVEN PAGENDAM



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

Thatto Heath Crusaders

RLC

The Barn

Close Street

Thatto Heath

St Helens

WA9 5JA

Steve's Football Academy's
Christmas Football Camp is
a great way to build
confidence, keep fit, learn
new skills, make friends and
have fun.
Prizes for all children who
attend.

**PACKED LUNCH AND
PLENTY OF DRINKS IS
ESSENTIAL.**

**TRAINERS AND SHIN
PADS ESSENTIAL (NO
BOOTS)**

CLASS DATES AND TIMES:

Ages

5-8 Years

1030am - 130pm

28th December 2023

Ages

9-12 years

1030am - 130pm

29th December 2023

Mental Health Support Team

WELLBEING WEBINARS



Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Your MHST is running a series of webinars one Friday a month on a number of topics relating to mental health and wellbeing.

TOPICS AND DATES

- Worry Management - 19 January
- Parenting for Anxiety - 23 February
- Low Mood - 22 March
- Neurodiversity - 26 April
- Parent Skills for Behaviour - 17 May
- LGBTQ+ - 21 June
- Emotional Regulation - 19 July



WHEN

4pm to 4:45pm



WHERE

Zoom

(link will be emailed)



To register please email which webinar you want to attend to events@merseycare.nhs.uk

Webinars will be recorded.
No chat function will be available
for safety purposes.