





# 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*


 **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**

2024-2025 Issue Number 3 Friday 27th September 2024

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

## This week at St James

As we continue our journey to live, learn, and laugh with the love of God, it's been another busy and fulfilling week here at school. We're excited to share some of the highlights with you.

This week, our Year 6 children enjoyed a fantastic visit to the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool. The stunning architecture left everyone in awe, and it was a truly memorable experience. We're already looking forward to returning for the Year 6 Leavers' Service later in the year—a special moment in their school journey.

We've also been celebrating the *European Day of Languages*, where pupils explored the beauty of different languages and cultures. It was wonderful to see the excitement as they learned new words and phrases from around the world!

Our collective worship continues to be a joyful part of the week. The children love singing with Mrs. Devany, and their enthusiasm fills our school with warmth. Hearing their voices during hymn practice is always uplifting.

I've had the privilege of visiting Key Stage 2 lessons and was thrilled to see the excitement in their Opening Worlds classes. The children's curiosity and engagement are remarkable, and I'm proud of how much they're growing in their learning.

Looking ahead, we're excited for Reception's *Welcome Service* in church next Tuesday. This is a special opportunity to officially welcome our youngest pupils into the school community.

As October approaches, I want to thank you for your continued support. I hope you all have a restful weekend, ready for the adventures to come!

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 **96.6%**

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Y2

There were **142** pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance	
Whole School	96.6%
Reception	98%
Year 1	97.5%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	93.5%
Year 5	90.8%
Year 6	98.5%



## Term Dates

2024-2025

Autumn Term		Days
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	33
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	34
Spring Term		Days
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	30
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	33
Summer Term		Days
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025	23
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025	37
		<b>190</b>



# 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.

## When should my child return to school?



<b>Chicken Pox</b> When all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> None*	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> None*	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> None*	<b>Impetigo</b> When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> After first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> None*	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> None*	<b>Threadworms</b> None*	<b>Tonsillitis</b> None*	

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

# Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Welcome to our series of safeguarding tips, designed to help keep our children safe and supported.

Parental involvement is vital in keeping your child safe at home and online. The How Parents Can Support Safeguarding:

- **Stay Engaged:** Attend safeguarding workshops and events.
- **Know Who to Contact:** Familiarise yourself with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Team.
- **Talk to Your Child:** Keep an open dialogue about their experiences.
- **Reinforce Policies:** Ensure your child understands and follows the school's rules on safety, bullying, and online behaviour.

Together, we can create a safe environment for all pupils. For more information, please contact a member of the Safeguarding Team.



## Online Safety Tip of the Week

As of 2024, social media giant Instagram has over two billion active users, with 8% of those (approximately 1.6 million) being under-18. That's a lot of children and young people making use of this platform, exploring its features ... and being exposed to its risks – from influencer marketing to contact with strangers and plenty more.

As parents and educators, it's important to understand how to keep children protected as they discover new regions of the digital landscape – and this is no different for Instagram. Fortunately, this week's updated guide tells you all you need to know about potential safety concerns around Instagram and offers advice on how to safeguard children and young people as they use this platform.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

## ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

## UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

## GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

## INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

## PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

## EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

### HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

### MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

### USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called Moderators, meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

### FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

### BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

## Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-2022>

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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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”**



*Mrs Young's favourite bible verse is:*



*'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today  
and forever' Hebrews 13:8*

*Mrs Young says:*



*'This verse brings me so much comfort. It reminds me  
that no matter how chaotic and turbulent life may be,  
there will always be one constant that I can take  
reassurance from – Jesus will always be there, loving me  
and guiding me in the same way, no matter what.'*



### Joyful Readers

*"And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."*

**[1 John 1:4]**

Well done to this weeks Headteacher's award

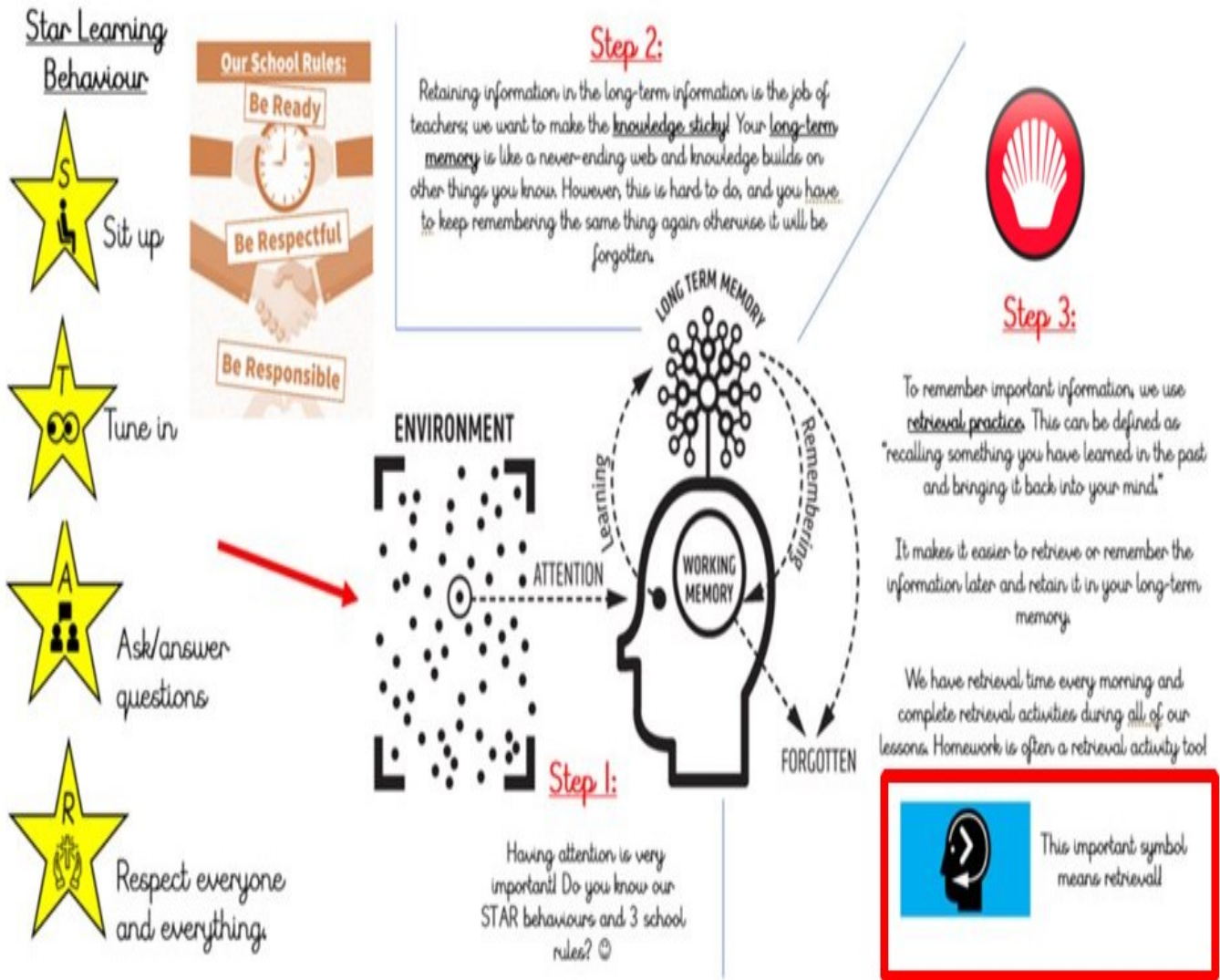
winners who have lived our Journey driver of being a 'Joyful Reader'.

<b>RECEPTION</b>	Lily Paton
<b>YEAR 1</b>	Syler Angeles
<b>YEAR 2</b>	Andra Varga
<b>YEAR 3</b>	Daniel Udeh
<b>YEAR 4</b>	James Hunter
<b>YEAR 5</b>	Joshua Nelson
<b>YEAR 6</b>	Shaun Johnson

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

## How do we learn in school?

This diagram is a model for the process of how we learn new information. Discuss this with your child and ask them about their learning in school.



### School Bags and Home/School Diaries

To manage classroom space effectively, please ensure your child brings only their school book bag to school each day. Large rucksacks are not permitted. Additionally, make sure your child packs their Home/School Diary in their bag daily. These diaries are crucial for communication and support our approach to learning and independent study.



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### PE Days

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

### Clubs

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

- **Tuesday**– FAB Club for Y1 and Y2 with Miss Barratt
- **Wednesday**-FAB Club for Y3 and Y4 with Miss Barratt
- **Thursday**– Basketball for Y5 and Y6 with the Sports Coach

If your child is in Y5, you may receive a letter inviting them to attend a Reading Booster Club.

### Whole School events Autumn 1



Date	Event
26/09/24	Year 2 St James' the Great Visit
01/10/24	Reception Welcome Service
03/10/24	Year 1 St James' the Great Visit
08/10/24	St Jame' Harvest Service lead by Year 5
09/10/24	Debt Awareness Sessions Year 5 and Year 6
10/10/24	Year 6 Assembly 9.00am
11/10/24	Year 3 Football
14/10/24	Safety Week
15/10/24	Year 6 - Bike Right
16/10/24	Year 6 - Bike Right
16/10/24	Fire brigade visit
17/10/24	Year 6 Bike Right
17/10/24	Reception St James' the Great
18/10/24	School Closes for half term 3.20pm

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT



### **APPLYING FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

If your child turns 4 between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025, he or she will transfer to primary school in September 2025. From Monday 16 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 2025 confirming your child's school place.

**The closing date for you to submit your application is 15 January 2025.**

### **APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

If your child turns 11 between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025, he or she will transfer to secondary school in September 2025. From Monday 2 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 3 March 2025 confirming your child's school place.

**The closing date for you to submit your application is 31 October 2024.**

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT



# Open Days

## Reception 2025

### St James CE Primary School

**Are you a parent or a carer with children starting school in September 2025 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 our beautiful school environment and meet some of our amazing staff. Please telephone the school office on 01744 678545 or email [stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk](mailto:stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk) to book onto your preferred date.

*Also visit our X page @StJamesCEsth and school website:*

*<https://www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk/>*

#### Dates

**Wednesday 6th November -  
4:30pm**

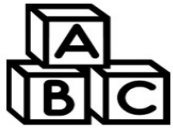
**Thursday 7th November—  
4:30pm**



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



# Coming Soon!



## Love Learning Childcare



We will be offering both Funded and Non Funded places, for children aged 12 Months – 4 Years Old.

Holiday Club!  
Children Aged 2 – 11 Years.

Opening Hours  
7.30am – 6.00pm



Contact Information:  
Lisa.lovelearning79@gmail.com

07749873295



### Breakfast with Santa!

**£10**  
Per Child



Price Includes:

- Fun Festive Breakfast!
- Visit to Santa in his Grotto,
- Gift from Santa!

**Location:**  
St James Church,  
Haydock,

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**December**  
**10am – 11.30**

Suitable for Children aged  
2-11 Years