





NEWSLETTER


Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk


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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 7 Friday 8th November 2024

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

This week at St James

We've had a fantastic start to this half-term, and there are so many exciting things happening over the next few weeks!

First and foremost we were delighted to receive SIAMs report and share this with you at the beginning of the week. This report rightly recognises that our school is a school 'built on love', with caring, compassionate relationships amongst our school family and our Christian vision lived out by all. We should all be so proud.

On Tuesday, we had a blast at our Light Night Parties in each class! On Wednesday, Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their interactive Hinduism Workshop, while some of Year 6 made a splash with their first swimming lesson of the year! The rest of the school had the pleasure of Sean Perkins visiting to promote his new book and to do illustration workshops in Reception, Year1 and Year 2. Don't forget if you want to order signed copies of his books, you can do up until Monday.

It was also a pleasure to welcome prospective parents for our open events on Wednesday and Thursday. We're incredibly proud of St. James, and we love showing off all the wonderful things we have here for children!

Next week is packed with activities! It's Anti-Bullying Week, an important time to discuss the impact of bullying, the value of kindness, and the joy of celebrating differences. This year's theme is "Choose Respect," and we'll be hosting assemblies, performances, and even taking part in *Odd Socks Day* on Tuesday to celebrate our unique qualities!

Tuesday will also be a special day as we visit the church to honour Remembrance Day. Poppies and other items supporting the Royal British Legion are on sale at the school office, and our Head Boy and Head Girl are also selling these during playtimes.

Parents' Evening is on Monday and Tuesday. Year 4 will hold theirs a little later in the term.

We're also excited to host the Book Fair, open from Monday to Thursday after school in the hall. It's a great chance to find some new books for cozy reading this season. You will be able to pay via cash or card.

Finally, join us for our *Opening Worlds Coffee Morning* next Friday. It's a wonderful way to connect with other parents and learn more about what's happening in our school community.

Thank you for being part of all the wonderful things we're doing at St. James. Here's to a great week ahead!

Mrs Briers x



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 95.8%

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Year 3

There were 135 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance	
Whole School	95.9%
Reception	97.3%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	95.0%
Year 3	98.7%
Year 4	94.8%
Year 5	96.4%
Year 6	92.0%



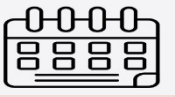

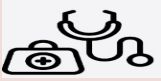






Parents Role in Attendance

School attendance is a national priority. At St James, we recognise that positive behaviour and good attendance are essential for pupils to get the most of their school experience including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances.

Each week, we provide an attendance update on our newsletter including the class attendance. Below is further information about our attendance approaches at St James in line with updated National Guidance. More detailed information is located within our 'Attendance and Punctuality Policy' which is located on our school website under policies.



Further government guidance on information around potential fines for missing school are provided through the following link: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>

 <p>Make sure your child attends every day! 97% is our whole school target!</p>	 <p>Notify the school as soon as possible on the first day of absence (by phoning the school office). This will be followed by a phone call if a voicemail is left.</p>	 <p>Try to make all medical appointments (doctors, dentist, and hospital) out of school time.</p>
 <p>Discourage your child from staying overnight with friends during the week. This sometimes leads to them both being late (or not attending at all) the next day.</p>	 <p>Talk positively about going to school. Encourage your child to take responsibility for being on time for school ensuring they have a realistic bedtime and will not be too tired to get up in the morning for school.</p>	 <p>Work with the school and local authority to help them understand their/your barriers to attendance. Proactively engage with the support offered to prevent the need for more formal support.</p>
 <p>If invited to attend a meeting, come, and speak to us. If your child is on an attendance support plan /attendance contract, ensure they undertake the actions that have been agreed.</p>	 <p>Monitor your child's internet and social media use to ensure they are not experiencing any difficulties that may prevent them from wanting to attend school.</p>	 <p>Leave of absence during term time is not a parental right. If there are special or exceptional circumstances, please contact the Executive Headteacher and complete the correct school documentation and a decision will be made if the absence can be authorised or not.</p>

Term Dates

2024-2025

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



Whole School events Autumn 2

Date	Event
4/11/24	School re-opens 8.40am
5/11/24	Light Night Party in school
6/11/24	Year 3 Hinduism Workshop
6/11/24	Flu Vaccinations
6/11/24	Year 6 Swimming begins
6/11/24	Sean Perkins Author Visit
6/11/24	St James' Open Evening 4.30pm
7/11/24	St James' Book Fair
7/11/24	School Photograph Day
7/11/24	St James' Open Evening 4.30pm
11/11/24	Remembrance Day
11/11/24	Fencing Club begins
11/11/24	Parents' Evening
12/11/24	Remembrance Service in church 9.30am
12/11/24	Parents' Evening
13/11/24	World Kindness Day
15/11/24	Own Clothes Day - in exchange for selection box
15/11/24	Coffee Morning - Opening Worlds 9.00am
25/11/24	Reception B-Tales Workshop
27/11/24	Christmas Bingo
29/11/24	Own clothes Day - in exchange for gift
4/12/24	Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight checks
5/12/24	Christmas Fair
16/12/24	Christmas Dinner Day
17/12/24	Nativity Afternoon
18/12/24	Nativity Morning and Afternoon
19/12/24	Christmas Party Day
19/12/24	School Closes for Christmas

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Understanding Physical Abuse and Keeping Our Children Safe

In line with the guidance from *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024*, we want to ensure all parents, carers, and children understand what physical abuse is, how it affects children, and where to go for help. Physical abuse involves intentionally causing harm to a child, including hitting, shaking, burning, or any other action that causes physical pain or injury. It is vital for our school community to recognize that physical abuse is never acceptable, and every child has the right to feel safe, secure, and supported.

We encourage parents and carers to talk openly with children about safe and healthy boundaries, and to reach out if they have concerns. Staff at our school are trained to spot the signs of physical abuse and know the steps to take if they suspect a child is being harmed. We work closely with children's social services and safeguarding partners to act in the best interests of all children.

If you or someone you know is concerned about a child's safety, there are several agencies that can help:

NSPCC: For support or to report concerns, call 0808 800 5000 or visit [nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).

Childline: A free, confidential service for children and young people at 0800 1111 or at [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk). St Helen's Children's Services team can provide guidance and support. Contact information can be found at <https://www.sthelenssafeguarding.org.uk/>

Together, let's work to keep all our children safe, protected, and empowered. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team.



**National
Online
Safety**

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Top Tips for Children to Choose Respect

Even among adults, it can be all too common to see disputes and differing opinions grow extremely heated, which is rarely helpful to anyone. When emotions run high, it can be easy to forget yourself and perhaps even say something you didn't mean, hurting feelings or escalating the situation further.

For children, it's just as important to avoid this kind of behaviour whenever possible; without the necessary guidance, however, they could struggle to identify any disrespectful behaviour, let alone recognise what they can do differently. This guide offers you expert advice on teaching children and young people to choose respect when interacting with their peers, helping to create an environment based on empathy and tolerance.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each another.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at:



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We are pleased to announce that during our Keeping Safe Week, St James achieved the following accreditations.



SUN SAFE SCHOOLS
CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

★★★★★

GRANTED TO: ST JAMES C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

For completing their Sun Safe Schools Accreditation which shows their commitment to:

- PROTECTION: providing an environment that enables children and staff to stay safe in the sun.
- EDUCATION: learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.
- COLLABORATION: working with parents, the management structure and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and skin cancer prevention.
- Committing to renew their Sun Safe Accreditation annually to ensure best practice is maintained.

St Andrew
Accreditation Committee

DATE ISSUED 13/10/24 - EXPIRY DATE 13/10/25



Skcin
www.skcin.org



BRONZE
RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY
RSF

CERTIFICATE
OF ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations on achieving your Bronze Rail Safe Friendly award.

Thank you for educating your young people about Rail Safety and keeping them safe.

Stuart Heaton
Stuart Heaton
Managing Director

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

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

**“Journeying together to Live,
Learn and Laugh with the Love of
God”**

DO
EVERYTHING
in love
1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

Mrs Bibby's favourite bible verse is:



'Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble'
Matthew 6:34

Mrs Bibby says:



It reminds us to be present in today and reminds us that God gives us strength to face each day as it comes, and he will do it again tomorrow. We should not waste the memories today worrying about the future.



Journey Driver Focus:

COMPASSION

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 'Compassion'

RECEPTION	Harry McInroy
YEAR 1	Oakley Passey
YEAR 2	Alexis Hodgkinson
YEAR 3	Joseph Webb
YEAR 4	Khloe-Mae Lee
YEAR 5	Roman McCabe
YEAR 6	Demi Rattray

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

PE Days

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



Clubs

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

- **Monday (8am)**-Fencing with Coach Phil (see letter sent)
- **Tuesday**-Golf for Y3 and Y4 with Mr Moon and Mr Ratcliffe
- **Wednesday**-Lego Club for Y1, Y2 and Y3 with Miss Hunter
- **Thursday**- Multi skills for Y1 and Y2 with the Sports Coach

If your child is in Y2, you may receive a letter inviting them to attend a Reading Booster

SWIMMING

Y6 have Swimming Lessons this half term. Their lessons are on Wednesday afternoons.

Remember:

- Full PE kit on PE days.
- PE kits: Black tracksuit/shorts and plain white T.Shirt (logo optional) and black trainers,
- No slogan/branded TShirts or Tracksuits or bright colours.
- Earrings must be taken out or covered with plasters.

THIS IS PART OF SCHOOL UNIFORM AND EXPECTATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED.



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 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.

Dear Parents/Carers,
**WOOHOO... TUESDAY
12TH NOVEMBER IS
ODD SOCKS DAY!**

WHAT IS ODD SOCKS DAY?
Odd Socks Day is part of Anti-Bullying Week! To celebrate that we are all unique, we ask that children wear odd socks to school on Tuesday 12th November. Last year over 13,000 schools took part in Odd Socks Day. Andy Day (CBeebies/ CBBC) and his band Andy and the Odd Socks are partnering with the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help bring Odd Socks Day to life again this year. Have a listen to the brilliant song they have recorded especially for Anti-Bullying Week, 'Choose Respect'.

WHY IS ODD SOCKS DAY IMPORTANT?
The day sends an important message to pupils that they should be allowed to be themselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?
It's so easy! 😊 Here's what you do:

1. Make sure your child wears odd socks to school.
2. Donate £1 (or whatever you can afford) to help the Anti-Bullying Alliance carry on important work.
3. If you want to, you can share a photo or video online and feel free to add the 'Choose Respect' audio to your posts! Don't forget to tag us using #OddSocksDay #AntiBullyingWeek and tag @ABAonline and @AndyOddSock on X. Or @AntiBullyingAlliance and @AndyandtheOddSocks on Instagram.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
Every penny goes to the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help continue all their work. We can't wait to see all the odd socks on Tuesday 12th November ...

If you have any questions please ask:
.....

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE
ORGANISER

CHOOSE RESPECT
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Andy and the Odd Socks
PARTNER

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**Tuesday
12TH
November**

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



Winter Menu 2024/25



Week 1

w/c 25/11/24 • 16/12/24 • 06/01/25 • 27/01/25 • 17/02/25 • 10/03/25 • 31/03/25

Monday

Spaghetti Bolognese
Choice of Sandwich
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Broccoli & Cauliflower
Pineapple & Ice-cream

Tuesday

Chicken & Ham Melt
Sausage Roll
Choice of Barmcake
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Wedges & Garlic Butter Corn
Chocolate Brownie

Wednesday

Roast Chicken
Sausage
Choice of Tortilla Wrap
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Roast Potato, Carrot & Swede, Gravy
Homemade Cookie

Thursday

Mini Ham Pizzas
Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake
Choice of Sandwich
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Pasta & Carrots
Sponge Cake & Custard

Friday

Breaded Fish Star
Southern Style Chicken Burger / Battered Nuggets
Choice of Tortilla Wrap
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Chips & Peas
Chocanana Pot

Week 2

w/c 02/12/24 • 23/12/24 • 13/01/25 • 03/02/25 • 24/02/25 • 17/03/25

Monday

Beef & Cheese Filled Flatbread
Homemade Curry
Choice of Sandwich
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Rice & Seasonal Vegetables
Peaches & Custard

Tuesday

Pork Sausage
Sausage
Choice of Barmcake
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Crispy Potatoes & Baked Beans
Cooks Muffin

Wednesday

Roast Chicken
Savoury Mince
Choice of Tortilla Wrap
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Roast Potato, Carrot & Swede, Gravy
Chocolate Brownie

Thursday

Warm Ham & Cheese Roll
Winter Cheese Pasta Bake
Choice of Sandwich
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn
Caramel Apple Tart

Friday

Battered Fish
Battered Fish
Two Cheese Pizza
Choice of Tortilla Wrap
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn
Shortbread

Week 3

w/c 09/12/24 • 30/12/24 • 20/01/25 • 10/02/25 • 03/03/25 • 26/03/25

Monday

Meatball Sub
Two Cheese Pizza
Choice of Sandwich
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Pasta, Peas & Sweetcorn
Fruit Crumble & Ice-cream

Tuesday

Chicken (in a Creamy sauce - Swedish Style)
Sausage
Choice of Barmcake
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Mashed Potato, Peas & Cream Sauce
Winter Berry Cheesecake Crumble

Wednesday

Roast Chicken
Quorn Fillet
Choice of Tortilla Wrap
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Roast Potato, Carrot & Swede, Gravy
Strawberry Mousse

Thursday

Beef Chilli
Homemade Curry
Choice of Sandwich
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Rice & Seasonal Vegetables
Homemade Cake & Chocolate Custard

Friday

Fish Fingers / Salmon Bites
Sausage Roll
Choice of Tortilla Wrap
Filled Jacket Potato
Served with Chips & Beans
Homemade Flapjack

In addition to the above, White & Brown Bread, Yoghurt and Fruit will be available daily alongside a variety of salad bar items. Choice of Milk, Water & Fruit Juice across the week. Did you know some of our dishes are also Vegan Friendly.
Changes to published menu - The menu may be subject to change to ensure ingredients are used to the optimum quality or to meet the needs of an individual school.
Dietary requirements - Alternative dietary specific menus available by request following the Special Diets Procedure. Allergen and carb information also available upon request and via the council's website.



ST HELENS
COUNCIL

Christmas Card Competition:

'Liverpool Diocesan School Trust' need you! Please design a Christmas card and bring your design back into school by Friday 22nd of November. This could be in any form but must be able to be scanned and printed to send widely or electronically.

The winning design will be sent out on behalf of Parish and St James across the Liverpool City region!

Learn, Love and Achieve, Together with Jesus

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



Food banks provide emergency food and compassionate, dignified support to people locked in crisis. There are 10 food banks available to residents in St Helens Borough, five of which are managed by The HOPE Centre charity in St Helens and require a voucher from a relevant local agency.

St James are registered with St Helens Foodbank and are 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 Miss Moore, Mrs Briers and Mrs Conant organise.

Community food pantries

Pantries operate as a member-led neighbourhood hub and are just like a shop, in that you choose the food you want from the shelves. Members pay a small subscription each week they visit, and in return can choose groceries worth many times more, often saving up to £1,000 a year on shopping bills.. How it works.:

Step one: Find your nearest pantry (you must live in the area in which it is based).

Step two: Go along and join on the day it is open, remembering it is open to everyone in that community.

Step three: Pay your £5 membership each time you visit. Sit and have a cuppa while you wait for your turn.

Step four: Choose your shopping, which will always be worth more than your weekly membership fee.

Step five: Tell your neighbours and get them to join too.

For more information please see <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/6987/Food>