

# NEWSLETTER

Email: www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @StJamesCEsth

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



OUR VALUE THIS

HALF TERM IS:

COMPASSION

Jug Th/Ii Ji Kk

Joypul Readers Joypul 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 11 Friday 6th December 2024

### This week at St James

Well, I think it's fair to say that Christmas has well and truly arrived at St James! The festive spirit is in the air, and we are all excited about the wonderful events and activities planned for this special season.

On Monday, we welcomed some of our Governors into school. They observed lessons and spoke to children from the School Council and the Ethos Team. The Governors were very impressed with how well the children were taught and how articulate our children were. It was a proud moment for all of us!

On Wednesday, Year 4 had a fantastic time making burritos with Apple of My Eye. The children enjoyed learning about different ingredients and cooking techniques. It was a delicious and educational experience

Next week is another jam-packed week. All classes will be preparing for their Christmas performances for parents. We can't wait to see the wonderful shows the children have been working hard on. On Wednesday, we will have our Christmas Movie Night. It's a perfect opportunity for the children to relax and enjoy a festive film with their friends. On Thursday, it's Christmas Jumper Day! We encourage everyone to wear their most festive jumpers to school. It's always a fun and colourful day and a good way to help raise money for 'Save the Children'. Also on Thursday, we will be delivering the Christmas Service for the whole of the LDST which is very exciting.

Thank you to all the families who joined us at our Christmas Bingo last night. It was a fantastic evening filled with fun and laughter. We raised a significant amount of money that will help us continue to improve our school environment. Your support is greatly appreciated! We are looking forward to our other upcoming Christmas events, such as our nativities, Christmas Party Day and church service. These events are always such a special time at school, bringing joy and excitement to everyone.

We have loved seeing so many families join in with our Kindness Advent Calendar! It has filled our hearts with joy to see the acts of kindness being shared. Be sure to share what you are completing on our X page, as all children who participate will receive a certificate.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we live, learn, and laugh with the love of God..

Have a lovely weekend.,

Mrs Briers



# **Attendance Updates**

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our <u>97%</u> target—this will help us to succeed!

Our Whole School attendance to date is 95.4%

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Year 4

There were 133 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

		Attendan	ce Matte	rs
Weekly Attendance		10 A	-	20038-
Whole School	94.7%	Every Day	Counts	
			6-A	Re In SCHOOL
Reception	90.0%		Q	Be In SCHOOL Be On TIME
Year 1	97.5%			
			100%	PERFECTION
Year 2	97.0%	Equates to:		
		4 DAYS off each year	98%	IMPRESSIVE
Year 3	93.3%	7 SCHOOL DAYS off each year	96%	>>> GOOD
Year 4	98.8%	9 SCHOOL DAYS of rect-see	95%	NEARLY THERE
Year 5	90.9%	11 SCHOOL	94%	NEEDS TO
	30.370	DAYS off each year	94%	IMPROVE
Year 6	93.0%	20 SCHOOL DAYS of each year	90%	CONCERNS (referred to Educational Websare / Persistant abanetare
		30 SCHOOL DAYS of each year	85%	
		CH each year		22 CONCERNS



Being in school and on time is good for you. 90% attendance may look impressive but it means missing 19 days of education in a year. Don't be one of the few to miss school and miss out! If you need help with school attendance, please talk to your school for advice

### Why We Want Excellent Attendance

**Being Safe in School**: The best way for us to ensure a child's safety is by seeing them regularly.

Access to the Full Curriculum: We offer an extensive and engaging curriculum at St James. By law, all students are entitled to a full-time education, and regular attendance ensures they benefit from a broad range of subjects. Consistent and punctual attendance allows us to support them in all aspects of their schooling.

**Sense of Belonging**: School is more than just a place to learn. We strive to make every child at St James feel part of our school family. From Reception to Year 6, there are numerous activities throughout the year that help the children try new things and feel included. Every student matters.

**Life Skills**: Good attendance and punctuality are essential life skills. We emphasise these qualities to prepare your child for the future, discussing the importance of commitment, work ethic, and reliability.

**Friends**: Regular attendance helps strengthen friendships. Children who miss school often find it harder to maintain positive relationships. Friendships are crucial for school-aged children, especially as they develop.



If you're not going to school you will miss out on...

**Wider School Participation**: We offer a variety of clubs and activities, there's something for everyone. These activities enrich students' school experience and future opportunities.



Thank you for supporting your child's attendance and helping us provide a safe, engaging, and enriching environment for all children.









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 first 12 school days in December

Monday 2nd December-17th December

How can you win?

Those that complete the 12 day challenge will have their name put in a prize draw to be carried out on the afternoon of Wednesday 18th December

# <u>What can you win?</u>

A Super Secret Santa Surprise...

12 to be won!



<u> Whole School events Autumn 2</u>

Date	Event
4/12/24	Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight checks
5/12/24	Christmas Bingo 5pm -7pm
11/12/24	Christmas Movie Night 3.20pm -5.30pm
12/12/24	Christmas Jumper Day
13/12/24	Carols and Mince Pie KS2 - 9.00am
16/12/24	Christmas Dinner Day
17/12/24	Nativity Performance Reception, Year I and Year 2 – 1.30pm
18/12/24	Nativity Performance Reception, Year I and Year 2 - 9.30am
s	and 1.30pm
19/12/24	Christmas Party Day and service in church - 1.00pm
19/12/24	School Closes for Christmas at 2.00pm



# Christmas Bingo

Christmas Novie Night-A Nuppets Christmas Carol Christmas Jumper Day

Carols and Mince Pies-KS2 led

Christmas Dinner

Nativity-Nidwije Crisis YR, Y1 and Y2

Christmas Party Day

Christmas Service

Christmas at St

James

Thursday 5th December 5pm-7pm. Tickets are on sale from the school office. Wednesday 11th December. 3.30pm-5.30pm. Tickets available from the Office

Thursday 12th December—Please come in dressed in a Christmas Jumper for a £1 donation to 'Save the Children' (via School Money),

Friday 13th December Jam. Tickets available from the school office. Monday 16th December-If your child is normally has a packed lunch they can choose to have a Christmas Dinner. The cost of this is £2.95. Please let the office know if a dinner is required.

Tuesday 17th December and Wednesday 18th December-3 performances of the Nativity for parents/carers to watch. Tickets available from the Office.

Thursday 19th December will be our Christmas Party Day! Children are invited to wear their party clothes on this day.

Thursday 19th December-Christmas service in church 1pm.



#### **Safeguarding Tip of the Week**

#### Peer on Peer Abuse

What is Peer-on-Peer Abuse? Peer-on-peer abuse occurs when a child is harmed by another child. This can take many forms, including physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual violence, harassment, and online abuse. It is important to recognise that this type of abuse can happen both inside and outside of school, and it can have serious and lasting effects on the well-being of children.

**How is Peer-on-Peer Abuse Addressed?** According to the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2024 guidelines, schools have a responsibility to create a safe environment for all students. Here's how we address peer-onpeer abuse:

**Prevention**: We educate students about respectful relationships and the importance of kindness. This includes lessons on recognising and reporting abuse.

**Reporting**: We have clear procedures for students to report any incidents of abuse. Students are encouraged to speak to a trusted adult if they or someone they know is being harmed.

Response: When an incident is reported, we take immediate action to support the victim and address the behaviour of the perpetrator. This may involve working with parents, social services, and other professionals.

**Support**: We provide ongoing support to victims of abuse to help them recover and feel safe. This includes counselling and other resources as needed.

**Training**: All staff receive regular training on how to identify and respond to peer-on-peer abuse. This ensures that everyone is equipped to handle these situations effectively.

By working together, we can help ensure that our school is a safe and supportive environment for all students. If you have any concerns or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



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

What you need to know about Mental Health and Well-being Apps

According to findings from the NHS, 1 in 5 children in England suffer from a probable mental health issue, with 420,000 treated for such problems every month. With such high numbers of young people in need of mental health support, it's perhaps unsurprising that plenty of them have turned to using apps intended to help them through these kinds of challenges.

Unfortunately, there are plenty of risks associated with these services from data collection to a potentially unhelpful, impersonal experience. It can be difficult to know how to keep young users safe as they navigate these services, but this week's free guide provides expert advice on how to do exactly

# At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be

### QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute. Information on the quality of some of these apps is scarce. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Buthermore do they have reserve to back up Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

#### PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will speak to the parent directly, saying something along the lines of "Your child is good to go. Let them take it from here". It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-his are recommended check-ins are recommended

#### DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's neip, while this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.

# LACK OF PERSONALISATION



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Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful habits to manage their condition – such as keeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extremely generic advice. 

### DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – not just those for mental health and wellbeing – it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with bit of article (applications may share data with Some of these applications may share dura third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is sharing personal and sensitive information within the app, they probably don't want it realized advertise without the sensent ending up elsewhere without their consent

### **IN-APP PURCHASES**

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a more tailored experience or aspects - such as a more failored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required. Is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

# **Advice for Parents & Educators**

### CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate Before you download a mental nearth and weinbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is affiliated with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

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### READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.



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#### 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: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps

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### SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP - or Childline, who can be contacted by calling 08001111.

# ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary - such as a child getting stressed about approaching exams - or if you're currently walting for professional support. Nonetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.



### Dear Parent/Carer,

As we enter the festive season of Advent, it's a wonderful opportunity to spread kindness to those around us. December is the perfect time to ensure that everyone at St James experiences hope, peace, joy, and love as we celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world.

Attached, you will find a 'Kindness Calendar' filled with a variety of daily kindness activities that your child can choose to complete. Each activity is explained on the calendar, including why it was chosen, and all tasks are free to complete. We encourage you to share your child's acts of compassion on Twitter or bring completed activities into school for display. Please use the hashtag @StJamesCEsth.

Throughout the month, we will be sending home certificates to celebrate the children who complete a range of kindness activities each week. I am excited to see the wonderful activities our children will complete and the kindness and compassion that will spread throughout the St James School Community.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Lister

	Jour	Journeying together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God	r to Live, Lean	Journeying together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God	with the Love of	God	Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust
	Sunday	Monday	Inesday	Wednesday Thursday	Thursday	Friday	Saturnday
Hope	1	2	e	4	5	9	4
≪⊡	To start the Christmas season, read Dor watch a short video about what happened when Jesus came to Earth.	Design a Christmas card that you can send to a member of the family or a friend	Pick your favourte Christmas carol and sing ti for someone you love.	With an adult, call/video call a friend or a relative to have a chat. Make them smile and give someone hope	Donate ar unwanted toy to charty.	Decorte your house ready for Christmas or help a relative to decorte theirs.	Have a day digital free with no devices, play a board game with the family.
2				in this festive period	-		
Perce	\$	6	10	И	12	13	14
3-	Design a Christmas decoration that symbolises 'peace' and add this to your Christmas tree.	Have a day without using any digital devices. Have a peaceful day talking to your family.	Listen to a piece of your favourite music. Stop, reflect and think about how this makes you feel.	Write a prayer acking for peace in situation eg friends or around the world.	Our Christian value is Compassion think of a way to show compassion to someone new.	Make a Christmas decoration that symbolises peace on earth.	The dove is a symbol of peace make your our dove and share it with someone to share peace.
hof	15	16	41	18	61	20	21
≪⊡	We rrup bells at Christmas to symbolise the joy of Jesus's birth. Draw a bell and write on ti all things that give yow joy.	Bake a cake for the family or a friend to give them joy.	On the playground do something that will brings someone else joy.	Share joy around your home by tudying up or helping around the house.	On the last day of the term. Wish as many people as you can a Meny Christmas'.	With an adult, go on a winter walk into God's world and appreciate the joy this brings. Take a photo of this.	Listen and sing Christmas Songe - spread festive joyl ©
■ •	<b>22</b> Write an acrodic poem using the word love and send it to someone you love.	23 Our School vision is Journeying together Learn, laugh and live with the Love of Godi Write a list of ways that you will live out our vision rest year.	<b>24</b> Wear your favourte Christmas jumper and sruggle up with a Christmas film	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas and say than's you for the greatest gift of all Jesus'.			



# **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	Tommie Long	
YEAR 1	Joshua Hodgkinson	
YEAR 2	Harry Major	
YEAR 3	Alex Karol	
YEAR 4	Matilda Smith-Pilling	
YEAR 5	Michael Inglis	
YEAR 6	William Gartside	



### PE Days

Monday	Year1, 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		



### <u>Clubs</u>

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

### Winter Holiday and Food Programme 2024



The Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) will be running from Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January

2025fro all eligible children, young people and families (click here to see if your child is eligible).

<u>Winter 2024 HAF Programme - full list of venues and activities</u> with Christmas activities included and details of food pantries available across St. Helens.

Booking form (please note not all activities will show up until they go live for bookings to be taken)

All activities are bookable from 1pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Chris Cunningham Holiday Activities and Food Project Officer 01744 675934 (christophercunningham@sthelens.gov.uk)



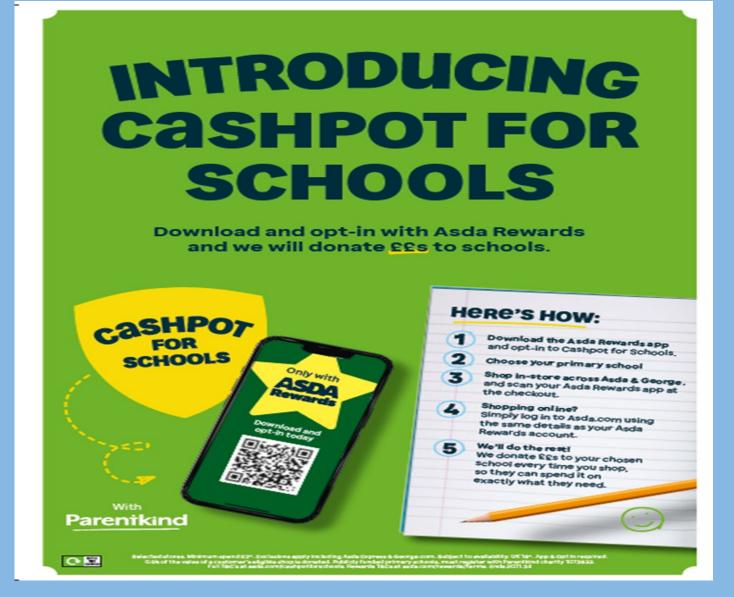


### **APPLYING FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

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 <u>www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions</u> is open for parents who wish to apply online.

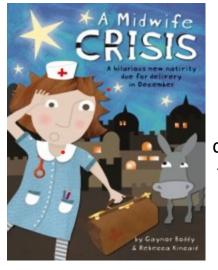
You will be notified on 16 April 2025 confirming your child's school place.

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









Nativity 2024 Reception, Year 1 and Y2

The Nativity, this year, will take place on Thursday 17th December at 13:30pm and on Wednesday 18th December at 09:30am and 13:30 pm. 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 school with payment to secure your tickets.

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

to





THE WORLD OF GLASS WARMLY INVITE YOU TO A CREATIVE ROOTS EXHIBITION:



AT THE WORLD OF GLASS MUSEUM, CHALON WAY E, ST HELENS, WA10 1BX ON SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER AT 12.00PM - 1.00PM.

FROM OLD PRINT HOUSES AND NEWSPAPERS OF ST HELENS, THE WORLD-RENOWNED RAILWAY PRINTERS MCCORQUODALE, TO THE MUCH-LOVED CECIL DROMGOOLE STATIONERS, THIS EXHIBITION WILL BRING INTO FOCUS TRADITIONAL PRINTING METHODS, WILL HIGHLIGHT THIS AGE-OLD CRAFT AND ITS HISTORY IN ST HELENS!

CREATIVE ROOTS: ABOVE THE FOLD IS FUNDED BY NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND AS PART OF THE 'CREATIVE UNDERGROUND' PROJECT, COORDINATED BY ST HELENS ARCHIVE SERVICE (ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL).







# ST HELENS LIBRARY SERVICE

# Haydock Library What's On in December 2024

Speak to library staff for more information.

Festive Read and Rhyme sessions. Mondays 10.30am Thursdays 2.15pm	A Very Merry Storytime & Christmas Bauble Craft Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December 10.00-11.30am	Christmas Crafts Tuesday 16th December 3.30pm
Join us for our regular sessions with a festive story and rhymes for the season during December Suitable for preschool children. Stay and Play Monday at 11.00am	Make your own Christmas Eve Bauble and reindeer food and enjoy a festive tale. Suitable for ages 4–10 years *Booking only, limited places Part of HAF funded by the department of education	Join in the fun with our special Christmas Craft Session.
Drop in	Drop in	Drop in
Christmas Carol Concert with Haydock English Martyrs Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30am	Police Surgery Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 3.00- 4.00pm	Winter Warmer Coffee morning Every week on Thursdays 10.30 – 11.30am
Festive Coffee Morning and Quiz	An advice and help session.	Escape the cold and get warm and cosy at our weekly event, free hot drinks, and biscuits. Browse our books, bring a craft hobby with you
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30 am.		or simply relax and chat with other.







# Saturday 7 December 4pm, Market Street

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# Join us in lighting up Earlestown Town Centre this Christmas

Make your own lantern at home, dress up in fairy lights or bring glow sticks!

Scan the QR code to register







sthelens.gov.uk/Christmas











