



NEWSLETTER

Email: 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 12 Friday 13th December 2024

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

This week at St James

What a wonderful week we've had here at school, filled with festive cheer and exciting activities!

We began the week with a special assembly for our children in Years 4, 5, and 6. It was a fantastic start to the week and gave us lots more information about what the Sea Cadets are and how to become a member. Please refer to the leaflet sent home for more details.

Our school is now in full festive swing! On Wednesday, we hosted a Christmas Movie Night after school, where the children enjoyed watching "A Muppet Christmas Carol." The hotdogs and snacks were a big hit, and it was a delightful evening enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to all the staff who made this event possible.

Thursday was particularly special as we hosted the LDST Christmas Worship for the other schools in our trust. Our performance was spectacular, and we owe a big thank you to Miss Barratt for her excellent organisation. Special thanks also go to the Ethos team and the Year 6 children who read the Christmas Story, wrote and read prayers, and to all our children for their wonderful singing.

Today was amazing! Key Stage 2 performed their carols and Christmas hits to parents, really getting us all in the mood for Christmas. We are now looking forward to the KS1 and Reception nativity plays next week. The children have been practising hard, and we can't wait to see their performances.

Next week promises to be just as exciting with Christmas Dinner Day, Party Day, and our service in Church at 1pm on Thursday.

Have a lovely weekend,

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 95.5%

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

There were 140 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance	
Whole School	96.6%
Reception	96.3%
Year 1	97.9%
Year 2	92.2%
Year 3	99.0%
Year 4	97.1%
Year 5	97.3%
Year 6	95.5%





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.

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.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



12 Days of Christmas Attendance Challenge

At St James we place huge importance on regular school attendance—the research speaks for itself and proves that those with the highest levels of attendance achieve great things!

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

What do you need to do?

Come to school, on time, everyday for the 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

What can you win?

A Super Secret Santa Surprise...

12 to be won!



Whole School events Spring 1

Date	Event
6/1/2025	School Re-Opens
20/1/2025	World Religion Day
21/1/2025	Year 6 Football Competition
27/1/2025	Holocaust Memorial Day
30/1/2025	Year 5 Class Assembly 9.00am
30/1/2025	Year 5 Football competition
3/2/2025	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
4/2/2025	Year 4 Winter Warmer Day 1
4/2/2025	Coffee Morning Attendance and Mental Health 9.00am
4/2/2025	Year 5 Manchester Synagogue Trip
4/2/2025	Candlemass Service 1.00pm St James' the Great
5/2/2025	Year 4 Winter Warmer Day 2
14/2/2025	School Closes

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Christmas at St James'

Christmas Bingo

Thursday 5th December 5pm-7pm.

Tickets are on sale from the school office.

Christmas Movie Night-

Wednesday 11th December, 3.30pm-

A Muppets Christmas Carol

5.30pm. Tickets available from the Office

Christmas Jumper Day

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

Carols and Mince Pies—KS2 led

Friday 13th December 9am. Tickets available from the school office.

Christmas Dinner

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.

Nativity—Midwife Crisis

Tuesday 17th December and Wednesday

YR, Y1 and Y2

18th December—3 performances of the Nativity for parents/carers to watch.

Tickets available from the Office.

Christmas Party Day

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

Christmas Service

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

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

The Role of External Agencies

At St James, the safety and well-being of our students are our top priorities. We work closely with external agencies to ensure a safe and supportive environment for every child.

Social Services We collaborate with social services to identify and support children at risk, sharing vital information and developing tailored support plans.

Health Services Our strong links with health services, including school nurses and mental health professionals, help us address health concerns promptly and provide appropriate care.

Police We work with the police to maintain a secure school environment through safety information sharing, and student education on personal safety.

Staff Training In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024, our staff receive regular training on safeguarding practices to recognise and respond to signs of abuse and support children in need.

Community Involvement We believe in a community effort to keep children safe. We host workshops and information sessions to engage parents, carers, and community members in safeguarding practices.

Together, with the support of external agencies and our dedicated staff, we are committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment where every child can thrive. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.



**National
Online
Safety**

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Safety Over the Festive Season

The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending well-earned time with loved ones. While this period will hopefully be calm, it's important that parents and educators acknowledge there are still things we can do to make these weeks as safe as possible for the young people in our care.

Of course, it's not immediately obvious what can or should be done to stay safe over the festive season. This week's free guide offers expert advice on the steps you can take to enjoy a less fraught winter break, safeguarding any youngsters who might be present for the celebrations.

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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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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”**



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



Our Kindness Calendar for Advent:

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

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hope 	1 To start the Christmas season, read Dor watch a short video about what happened when Jesus came to Earth.	2 Design a Christmas card that you can send to a member of the family or a friend.	3 Pick your favourite Christmas carol and sing it for someone you love.	4 With an adult, call/video call a friend or a relative to have a chat. Make them smile and give someone hope in this festive period.	5 Donate an unwanted toy to charity.	6 Decorate your house ready for Christmas or help a relative to decorate theirs.	7 Have a day digital free with no devices, play a board game with the family.
Peace 	8 Design a Christmas decoration that symbolises 'peace' and add this to your Christmas tree.	9 Have a day without using any digital devices. Have a peaceful day talking to your family.	10 Listen to a piece of your favourite music. Stop, reflect and think about how this makes you feel.	11 Write a prayer asking for peace in situation eg friends or around the world.	12 Our Christian value is Compassion think of a way to show compassion to someone new.	13 Make a Christmas decoration that symbolises peace on earth.	14 The dove is a symbol of peace make your own dove and share it with someone to share peace.
Joy 	15 We ring bells at Christmas to symbolise the joy of Jesus's birth. Draw a bell and write on it all things that give you joy.	16 Bake a cake for the family or a friend to give them joy.	17 On the playground do something that will bring someone else joy.	18 Share joy around your home by tidying up or helping around the house.	19 On the last day of the term. Wish as many people as you can a 'Merry Christmas'.	20 With an adult, go on a winter walk into God's world and appreciate the joy this brings. Take a photo of this.	21 Listen and sing Christmas Songs - spread festive joy! ☺
Love 	22 Write an acrostic 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 God.' Write a list of ways that you will live out our vision next year.	24 Wear your favourite Christmas jumper and snuggle up with a Christmas film.	25 Merry Christmas and say thank you for the greatest gift of all, Jesus!			

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



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	Oliver Klemp
YEAR 1	Deana Hussein
YEAR 2	Nate York
YEAR 3	Layton Winstanley
YEAR 4	Poppy Comiskey
YEAR 5	Olive-Christina Adabie
YEAR 6	Yousef Al Batin

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 next half term . Booking is now open on ParentPay.

- **Tuesday**-FAB Club for Y2 and Y3 with Miss Barratt
- **Thursday**– Sports Fusion for KS2

If your child is in Y6, you may receive a letter inviting them to attend a Reading Booster Club.

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

[Winter 2024 HAF Programme - full list of venues and activities](#) 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 3rd 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 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.

JUST HELPING
Registered charity number 1149068

RECYCLE YOUR TREE

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE
Every Contact Counts

TO REGISTER
SCAN HERE!

www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree

- Registration Opens 15th November 2024
- Registration Closes 8th January 2025
- Collecting 13-17th January 2025

giftaid it Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

After costs, Willowbrook Hospice receive 90% and up to 10% will be distributed by Just Helping to other local charities. More information on where your donation goes can be found on our website.

JustHelping supports volunteers, businesses, and charities to contribute to their community and the environment. Our national Christmas tree collection raises essential funds for charities in the local community.




ST HELENS LIBRARY SERVICE

Haydock Library

What's On in December 2024

Speak to library staff for more information.

<p>Festive Read and Rhyme sessions. Mondays 10.30am Thursdays 2.15pm</p> <p>Join us for our regular sessions with a festive story and rhymes for the season during December. Suitable for preschool children.</p> <p>Stay and Play Monday at 11.00am</p> <p>Drop in</p>	<p>A Very Merry Storytime & Christmas Bauble Craft Tuesday 24th December 10.00-11.30am</p> <p>Make your own Christmas Eve Bauble and reindeer food and enjoy a festive tale. Suitable for ages 4-10 years</p> <p>*Booking only, limited places Part of HAF funded by the department of education</p> <p>Drop in</p>	<p>Christmas Crafts Tuesday 16th December 3.30pm</p> <p>Join in the fun with our special Christmas Craft Session.</p>  <p>Drop in</p>
<p>Christmas Carol Concert with Haydock English Martyrs</p> <p>Thursday 5th December 10.30am</p> <p>Festive Coffee Morning and Quiz</p> <p>Thursday 12th December 10.30 am.</p> <p>Drop in</p>	<p>Police Surgery</p> <p>Friday 6th December 3.00- 4.00pm</p> <p>An advice and help session.</p> <p>Drop in</p>	<p>Winter Warmer Coffee morning</p> <p>Every week on Thursdays 10.30 – 11.30am</p> <p>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, or simply relax and chat with other.</p> <p>Drop in</p>
<p>Haydock Library, Church Road, Haydock WA11 0LY 01744 677801 haydocklibrary@sthelens.gov.uk</p>		



Christmas at St James's

Your Church in Haydock

Sunday 22nd December, 6pm
Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
mulled wine and mince pies afterwards

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day:

6pm Crib Service for children

7pm Vigil Mass

11.30m Midnight Mass

with blessing of the Crib

Christmas morning, 9am & 10.30am:

Holy Eucharist

Facebook: St James's Church Haydock

Web: [A Church Near You](#)

Vicar: Fr Michael Vyse SSC 01942 727 956

jmov7822@gmail.com

IN OTHER NEWS



Computer Explorers

Leading the way in providing tech-based activities that are both inspirational and educational!

HAF EXCLUSIVE MINECRAFT SOCIAL HOLIDAY SESSIONS

ST HELENS

St Helen's Library
World of Glass, Chalon Way, WA10 1BX
23rd, 28th & 30th Dec
10.30am-2.30pm
10am-12.30pm Sat 28th

Newton Le Willows Library
Crow Lane E, WA12 9TX
27th Dec, 2nd & 3rd Jan
10.30am-2.30pm

FREE PLACES*

Department for Education
ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

** Exclusive to children eligible for the HAF (holiday activities and food) scheme- see below.
*Funded places available to those eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM), and their families. Children who are in receipt of a support plan via Early Help, Child in Need or Children We Look After, EHCP, or if your child receives additional hours at school.

BOOK! Visit the link or scan the code-
computerexplorers.co.uk/bolton-wigan/book
Questions? Email us bolton@computerexplorers.co.uk

 @CompXBolton



Computer Explorers

Leading the way in providing tech-based activities that are both inspirational and educational!

2025 NEW YEAR TECH CLUBS

ST HELENS

**Crazy about computers?
Love gaming?
Mad about Minecraft?**
Join us to ring in the New Year at our fun, educational Tech Club!

Rainford High School
Higher Lane, Rainford, WA11 8NY
2nd-3rd January 2025
11am-3pm

FREE PLACES*

Department for Education
ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

*Funded places available to those eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (FSM), and their families. Children who are in receipt of a support plan via Early Help, Child in Need or Children We Look After, EHCP, or if your child receives additional hours at school.

BOOK! Visit the link or scan the code-
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Questions? Email us bolton@computerexplorers.co.uk

 @CompXBolton

AGES 8-11 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF)

christmas half term activities for young people in St Helens

Join us for FREE creative tech workshops for young people aged 8-11 in St Helens who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Enjoy exciting activities, create amazing projects, and get a free lunch with every session!



LEGO stop motion animation	DATE: Monday 30th December TIME: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm	LOCATION: Chain Lane Community Centre, St Helens	SCAN QR CODE OR CODE
video game design	DATE: Tuesday 31st December TIME: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm	LOCATION: Chain Lane Community Centre, St Helens	SCAN QR CODE OR CODE
cartoon animation	DATE: Thursday 2nd January TIME: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm	LOCATION: Chain Lane Community Centre, St Helens	SCAN QR CODE OR CODE
digital music making	DATE: Friday 3rd January TIME: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm	LOCATION: Chain Lane Community Centre, St Helens	SCAN QR CODE OR CODE

contact us:
info@digitalartsbox.org 0151 433 2223

