



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 13 Thursday 19h December 2024

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

This week at St James

What a festive week we have had!

We kicked off the week with a delightful Christmas Dinner. The turkey with all the trimmings was a hit, and the delicious chocolate cake was the perfect finish!

Our Reception and KS1 children treated us to three AMAZING performances of 'A Midwife Crisis' on Tuesday and Wednesday. What a show! They sang their little hearts out and projected their voices with such confidence and joy. I am always proud of the children here at school, but I must admit, I was a little extra proud this week, watching them all shine!

Party Day today was lots of fun with games and laughter. Our Christmas Service in church was the perfect end to the week.

Dear God,

Thank you for the joy and wonder of Christmas. As we celebrate this special time, help us to remember the true meaning of the season.

We are grateful for our families, friends, and all the love we share. Please bless everyone with happiness, health, and peace.

Help us to be kind and generous, just like the wise men who brought gifts to baby Jesus. May we spread love and joy to everyone around us.

Thank you for the beautiful lights, the fun decorations, and the excitement of giving and receiving gifts.

Keep us safe and guide us to always do what is right.

Amen.

Have a wonderful Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you on 6th January.

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 4

There were **148 pupils** with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

There were **12 Winners** of the 12 Days of Christmas Challenge. Well done to the 12 raffle winners.

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	96.7%
Reception	92.7%
Year 1	85.1%
Year 2	94.9%
Year 3	95.6%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	99.2%
Year 6	96.7%





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

Term Dates

2025-2026

Autumn Term		Days
Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	Friday 24 th October 2025	38
Monday 3 rd November 2025	Friday 19 th December 2025	35
Spring Term		
Monday 5 th January 2026	Friday 13 th February 2026	30
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Friday 27 th March 2026	25
Summer Term		
Monday 13 th April 2026	Friday 22 nd May 2026	29
Wednesday 3 rd June 2026	Friday 17 th July 2026	33
		190

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Whole School events Spring 1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
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

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



**National
Online
Safety**

Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Keeping Our Children Safe Online: Parental Controls

In today's digital age, ensuring our children's safety online is more important than ever. Here are some essential tips from the **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024** guidelines to help you set up effective parental controls:

Use Built-in Parental Controls: Most devices, including smartphones, tablets, and computers, come with built-in parental control settings. These allow you to restrict access to inappropriate content, set screen time limits, and monitor your child's online activity.

Install Parental Control Software: Consider using additional parental control software or apps. These tools offer more advanced features, such as tracking your child's location, blocking specific websites, and providing detailed reports on their online behaviour.

Set Up Safe Search Filters: Enable safe search filters on search engines and video platforms like Google and YouTube. This helps prevent your child from accidentally stumbling upon harmful content.

Create Separate User Accounts: Set up individual user accounts for your children on shared devices. This allows you to customize the parental control settings for each child based on their age and maturity level.

Educate Your Children: Teach your children about online safety. Explain the importance of not sharing personal information, recognising suspicious behaviour, and knowing what to do if they encounter something uncomfortable online.

Regularly Review Settings: Parental control settings should be reviewed and updated regularly to adapt to your child's changing needs and the evolving digital landscape. By taking these steps, we can create a safer online environment for our children, helping them enjoy the benefits of the internet while minimising the risks.

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



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



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

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

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

Scan the QR code to find out more.

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

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

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

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

Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org

Developed in partnership with



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	Reina Pye
YEAR 1	Oakley Passey
YEAR 2	Alexis Hodgkinson
YEAR 3	Freddie O'Brien
YEAR 4	Khloe-Mae Lee
YEAR 5	Ryder Seddon
YEAR 6	Finely Birkett



Opportunities to Build On Knowledge and Skills

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

[1 Peter 4:10]

RECEPTION	Kayden-Kai Pearson
YEAR 1	Hunter Frater-Hassett
YEAR 2	Emily Gartside
YEAR 3	Olivia Nelson
YEAR 4	Mason
YEAR 5	Donnie Bridge
YEAR 6	Logan Chick`

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

PE Days

Start (Mon 6th Jan 25)

End (Fri 7th March 25).

Monday Year 3 and Year 4

Tuesday Year 5 and Year 6

Wednesday Reception
Year 5 and
Year 6

Thursday Year 1 and Year 2

Friday Year 1 , Year 2.
Year 3 and Year 4

Y5 Swimming (26th Feb to 2nd Apr)

Clubs



We are running the following after school clubs 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 **FR** 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 Carers Centre is an independent registered Charity (1089663) that supports unpaid carers looking after someone who lives in the St Helens area. The centre aim to support both Young and Adult Carers to recognise their own needs, have their voices heard, help with their physical and mental well being and ensure they are fully understood, valued and supported in their caring role.

For more information visit: <https://www.sthelenscarers.info>

Friends – Play for Disabled Children

Friends-Play for Disabled Children are a registered charity supporting families in St Helens and the surrounding areas. The charity was set up in October 2012 by two parents with disabled children.

The charity aims to bring families of disabled children in St Helens & the surrounding area together to play through events, trips, days out and to provide a support network for those families to help prevent isolation.



For more information visit: <https://friendsplay.org.uk>



CARERS CARD UK

A national carer card and app that supports you when caring for someone. The card is for anyone that looks after someone that needs help and support. It provides reassurance by including your Emergency Contact details (ICE), whilst unlocking Discounts, Wellbeing Hub, our Carer Circle tool, and so much more through their app.

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



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




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>		

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

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

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [in](#) @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

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

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [in](#) @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

Digital Arts Box | St Helens Borough Council