



# NEWSLETTER

Email: [www.stjamesceprimary.co.uk](http://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 15 Friday 17th January 2025

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

## This week at St James

After the challenges of last week's snow, ice, and wet playtimes, it has been wonderful to return to a more normal routine this week. The children have been fully immersed in their learning, and it has been a joy to see them engaging enthusiastically with their new units of work.

Starting this week, we will be awarding new certificates in our Celebration Assembly to those children who have shown exceptional effort in improving their handwriting. We believe this will encourage all our children to take additional pride in their work.

I have particularly enjoyed teaching in Year 3 and Year 4 this week. In Year 4, we learned about Viking beliefs in their Ready, Steady, Read lesson on Wednesday morning. On Thursday afternoon, Year 3 blew me away with their vocal performance of "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley.

As always, we continue to live, learn, and laugh with the love of God.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Briers



## Introducing : Carole Bond



I have been a committed member of St. James Governing Body for many years, first joining as a Parent Governor when my now grown-up daughter was a pupil at the school and then becoming a Foundation Governor.

Throughout the time I have been involved with the school, I have sat on a number of committees, been an active member of the PTFCA, undertaken the training required for this role and most importantly, believe act as an advocate for the school at all times.

Being a member of the governing body allows me to work in partnership with the school to ensure that the children's best interests are first and foremost and that every child has the opportunity to learn, whilst having fun.

My interest and support for the welfare and development of young people also includes work with two other local organisations. I am a unit helper with 26<sup>th</sup> St. Helens Brownies based in Haydock and I am the Club Secretary for Newton-le-Willows ASC.

Professionally, I have worked in public service organisations in a number of roles and have been involved in data analysis for a number of years, so I am always keen to use these skills to make improvements within school.

I feel privileged to be a member of this governing body and help to make a positive contribution to the pupils of St. James.

# 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 132 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance	
Whole School	95.8%
Reception	94.7%
Year 1	87.9%
Year 2	97.4%
Year 3	99%
Year 4	97.9%
Year 5	96.8%
Year 6	97.5%





## Term Dates

2024-2025

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

## Term Dates

2025-2026

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



# Spring Attendance Competition

We are so proud that our attendance is currently above the national average! Let's keep it up.

Your new attendance challenge—

What do you need to do?

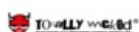
Come to school on time, everyday, between Monday 13th January and Friday 14th February.

How can you win?

Any child who has 97% attendance between these dates, will have their name put in a prize draw to win a fantastic prize!

What can you win?

A Family Match Tickets for 2 adults and 2 children for the St Helens Vs Wakefield game on Friday 11th April 2025.



## 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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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



# Every Lesson Counts



## At St James' CE Primary School

Days off school add up to lost learning and impact on your child's life chances.

175 Non School Days a year



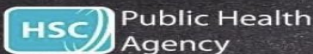
175 DAYS TO SPEND ON HOLIDAYS, FAMILY TIME, VISITS, SHOPPING, HOUSEHOLD JOBS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

190 school days each year for your child's education  
EXCELLENT  
96% - 100%  
Most effective way to success and sets your child off to a flying start.

10 days absence  
180 days of education  
CONCERNING  
LESS THAN 96%  
School monitors attendance; it is less than expected.

19 days of absence  
170 days of education  
WORRYING  
Less than 90%  
Less chance of success; harder to make progress in learning, friendships and relationships with others.

29 days absence  
HALF A TERM MISSED  
161 DAYS OF EDUCATION  
Serious concerns  
Less than 85%  
This is not fair on your child. You risk prosecution and a jail term.



## Do I need to keep my child off school?

<b>Chicken Pox</b> At least 5 days from onset of rash and until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhea &amp; /or Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Respiratory Illness</b> (e.g colds & flu) Can return when no longer have a high temperature and well enough	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		
<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off if well enough, but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling		<b>German Measles (Rubella)</b> 5 days from onset of rash
<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> Can return when no longer have a temperature and well enough, school or nursery should be informed		<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Use this guide to find out when they should stay off, and when they can go back if they are well enough to do so.

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# Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

### Social Media Awareness

Social media is a big part of children's lives today, offering both benefits and challenges. According to **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025**, here are some key points:

#### Positive Impacts

- **Educational Resources:** Access to learning materials and new skills.
- **Social Connections:** Staying in touch with friends and family.

#### Negative Impacts

- **Cyberbullying:** Online bullying can harm mental health.
- **Inappropriate Content:** Risk of encountering harmful material.
- **Privacy Concerns:** Sharing personal info can lead to privacy issues.

#### What Parents Should Monitor

- **Screen Time:** Balance online and offline activities.
- **Privacy Settings:** Keep social media accounts secure.
- **Content:** Ensure children view appropriate material.
- **Communication:** Talk about online experiences and concerns.
- **Behavioural Changes:** Watch for signs of cyberbullying or exposure to harmful content.

By staying informed and involved, parents can help children use social media safely and positively. Let's work together to keep our children safe online!



## Online Safety Tip of the Week

### Top Tips for Staying Safe on Social Media

With social media's ever-growing popularity among children and young people, it's important for adults to keep themselves apprised of the associated risks and help youngsters to navigate these platforms in a safe, responsible manner.

However, it can be difficult to know exactly how to protect children and young people while they use these apps. This week's guide offers you expert tips on supporting youngsters to enjoy the features of social media while avoiding the risks.

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

### 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common it is for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

### 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

### 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

### 4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

### 5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

### 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

### 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

### 8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

### 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

### 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

### Meet Our Expert

John Inley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

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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 Lister's favourite bible verse is:



'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD  
'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give  
you hope and a future.'  
Jeremiah 29v 11

Mrs Lister says:



This verse has been given to me by members of my family throughout my life. At times when I have faced a challenge in life e.g. moving to university, changing job or family difficulties, I have turned to this verse. Even though life may not turn out quite the way we have planned. God does have a plan for our lives as long as we put our faith and trust in him.



### Journey Driver Focus:

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 Understanding new knowledge and skills.

<b>RECEPTION</b>	Lily Paton
<b>YEAR 1</b>	Jacob O'Brien
<b>YEAR 2</b>	Andra Varga
<b>YEAR 3</b>	Emmanuel Ejimofor
<b>YEAR 4</b>	David Varga
<b>YEAR 5</b>	Roman McCabe
<b>YEAR 6</b>	William Gartside

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT

### PE Days

Start (Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 25)

End (Fri 7<sup>th</sup> March 25).

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

### Clubs

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



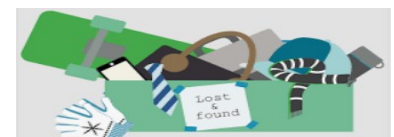
- **Tuesday** -FAB Club for Y2 and Y3 with Miss Barratt
- **Thursday**– Sports Fusion for KS2

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

### Lost Property Stall

Tesco supermarket have very kindly donated some school shorts to our school. They are mostly aged 10-11 and 11-12 years old. These, and other items from our lost property, will be available for parents to help themselves to on Friday 24th January in the playground. The stall will be available from 3.15pm.

Any lost property left over will be donated to Tango in Haydock. If parents are not able to make this time and are missing anything, or need any extra uniform, please get it touch and Miss Barratt can see if she can help.





### Chinese New Year Menu

Please see below our special Chinese New Year menu. If your child usually has a school dinner, they will automatically be offered the Chinese New Year menu on Wednesday 29th January 2025. If your child usually brings a packed lunch to school but would like to sample the Chinese New Year menu, please email school at [stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk](mailto:stjameshaydock@ldst.org.uk) before Friday 17th January.

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR



2025  
YEAR OF THE SNAKE



WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY

CHICKEN CHOW MEIN

QUORN & EGG "FRIED" RICE

SERVED WITH CABBAGE

CINNAMON DUSTED COOKIE



St James Haydock Council  
School Caring Service





ST HELENS

St Helens

# Vocal Youth

Do you  
love to sing?

Join our brand-new choir and

## unleash your voice!

**Launches**

**Monday  
27th  
January**

Be part of an amazing group of children and young people from all across the Borough. Together, we'll harmonize, create incredible music, and perform in unforgettable concerts!

Ages 8+ | Rehearsals every 2 weeks in term time  
Mondays 6:15pm till 7:30pm @ St Helens Town Hall

**SCAN**  
to sign up



select **Vocal Youth**  
for Ensemble Name

Supported using public funding by  
 ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

