





NEWSLETTER


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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 16 Friday 24th January 2025

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

This week at St James

At St James, we believe in doing everything with love as we live, learn, and laugh with the love of God. This guiding principle helps us create a nurturing and supportive environment for all our children.

We have high expectations for EVERY pupil's attendance at school, and I am so proud that our whole school attendance is above the National Average. However, I've noticed that our weekly attendance figure has been dropping recently, so I wanted to remind you why our expectations are so high. Punctual and regular attendance is essential for successful learning from the very first day a child starts school. Research shows that children with excellent attendance make better progress at all stages of their education than those with poor attendance. While 90% attendance may sound good, it's worth remembering that a child with 90% attendance for the whole year will actually have missed nearly 4 weeks of school!

This week, we celebrated World Religion Day with Mrs. Lister's whole school worship, which was a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on the diverse beliefs and practices that enrich our community. Our Year 6 children had a fantastic time at their football competition on Tuesday, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship. We also continued to learn some new songs with Mrs. Devaney in Song through Praise, preparing for our Candlemas service in church in February.

On Wednesday, our Year 3 and Year 4 children had their first Spanish lesson of 2025, and it was delightful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity. Handwriting is certainly developing in classes, and it's wonderful to see the progress our children are making.

Looking ahead to next week, Year 6 will be visiting Haydock library for a workshop about Holocaust Memorial Day. We will also have a special worship led by Miss Barratt to remember this event. Year 6 also have Mr. Souter from Money Mentors visiting on Wednesday. Year 5 have a football match and their Class Assembly, which we are all really looking forward to.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Briers



Introducing : Audrey McNulty



Hello, my name is Mrs. Audrey McNulty. I am a co-opted governor with a strong background in education, particularly in Special Educational Needs (SEN). I have been a governor since my children started primary school, and now my grandchildren attend this school. Before retiring, I worked as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) at a secondary school for 15 years.

I enjoy being a governor as it provides me with a fascinating insight into how schools are run. It involves more work than people realise, with increasing challenges and responsibilities, but it also brings great rewards. In my free time, I love to travel, with the Greek Islands being my favourite destination. I am also an avid supporter of the best rugby team in the world, the Wigan Warriors!

I am dedicated to ensuring that our school provides a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. My goal is to help create a space where every child can thrive and achieve their full potential. "Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom."

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 6

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

Weekly Attendance	
Whole School	95.1%
Reception	85.3%
Year 1	91.8%
Year 2	95.7%
Year 3	98.6%
Year 4	97.1%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	99.5%





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



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?

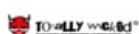
Come to school on time, everyday, between Monday 13th January and Friday 14th February.

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

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

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

There is a wealth of research showing that children with excellent attendance make better progress at all stages of their education than those with poor attendance. 90% attendance may sound good, but it is worth remembering that a child with 90% for the whole year will actually have missed nearly 4 weeks of school!

Why is school attendance so important?

Attending school **regularly** helps to build **confidence** and develop vital **life skills**



School



is the **key** to **future success!**

Missing **2 days** of school each month = Missing **nearly 3 weeks** during a school year



15 minutes late every day

=



two weeks of learning lost each school year

Data shows pupils with more than **95% attendance** Achieve better **GCSE results!**

at least one grade higher!



Even **90% attendance** is still 19 days of education lost in a school year



ATTEND! AIM HIGH! ACHIEVE!

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Gaming and Online Content: Understanding the Risks

In today's digital age, online gaming is a popular activity among children. While it can be a fun and engaging way to connect with friends, it's important to be aware of the potential risks involved. According to the latest guidance from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024, there are several key areas to consider:

Inappropriate Content: Some games may contain content that is not suitable for children. It's crucial to check the age ratings and reviews of games to ensure they are appropriate.

Online Interactions: Many games allow players to interact with others online. This can expose children to inappropriate language, bullying, or even predatory behaviour. It's important to monitor who your child is interacting with and encourage them to report any uncomfortable situations.

In-Game Purchases: Be aware of games that offer in-game purchases. These can quickly add up and lead to unexpected expenses. Setting spending limits and discussing the importance of managing money can help mitigate this risk.

Privacy and Security: Ensure that your child's gaming accounts are secure. Use strong passwords and enable two-factor authentication where possible. Teach your child not to share personal information online.

By understanding these risks and taking proactive steps, we can help ensure that our children have a safe and enjoyable online gaming experience. For more detailed information, please refer to the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 guidelines



National
Online
Safety

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Tik Tok

Among children – and especially teenagers – TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm.

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. This week's free guide lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS



With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.01.2025

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 29:11

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.

RECEPTION	Gethin
YEAR 1	Mohammad Alsejnawi
YEAR 2	Evie Comber
YEAR 3	Nylah Lee
YEAR 4	Gracie-Mae Rigby
YEAR 5	Radin Ekanayake
YEAR 6	Dulagee Dias

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

PE Days

Start (Mon 6th Jan 25)

End (Fri 7th March 25).

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

Families and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are invited to a special **SEND Information Day** on **Tuesday, 28th January 2025**, at the **Totally Wicked Stadium**.

This exciting event provides a valuable opportunity to meet local service providers, explore the support and resources available, and learn about the wide range of services tailored to young people with SEND.

The event will feature **two drop-in sessions** to accommodate different schedules:

- **Afternoon Session:** 10am - 2pm

Early Evening Session: 5pm - 7:30pm

From education and employment support to health and wellbeing services, attendees will have the chance to connect with providers face-to-face, ask questions, and gain insight into the opportunities available in the local area.

Whether you're looking for advice, resources, or new ideas to enhance your SEND journey, this is the perfect chance to get informed and network with experts and other families.



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 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





Food Included

Lots of fun games and activities
to keep the children Happy

St James Parish
Centre
Church Rd
Haydock
WA11 0NJ

Holiday club February
Half Term
Monday 17th
To
Friday 21st
For children
Aged 2 to 4 years old
8.30 till 5.30

£30 a day
Special offer
£120 full week

Contact Lisa
07749873295
Lisa.lovelearning79@gmail.com



Holiday Club
February Half Term
Monday 17th - Friday 21st
8.30am - 5.30pm
£30 Per Day
Special Offer!!!
£120 Full Week

Love Learning Childcare

St James Parish Centre
Church Rd,
Haydock, WA11 0NJ

Places Available
We currently have spaces available for
Funded and Non-Funded children aged
18 Months to 4 Years.
Opening 1st April 2025

Opening Times: | Holiday Clubs
7.30am -6.00pm | 8.30am - 5.30pm



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