



# NEWSLETTER

[www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk](http://www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk) 01744 678 430 TWITTER: @parishschool1

*Learning and Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love*



2023-2024 Issue Number 14 Friday 22nd December 2023

OUR VALUE THIS HALF  
TERM IS:  
FAITH THROUGH  
PEACE

## A message from Mrs Young ....

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that we have reached the end of the Autumn term - time has really flown!

We have had a wonderful time together since September with lots of lovely memories made alongside all of our learning of course!

Lots more to look forward to in 2024!

Have a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you on 8<sup>th</sup> January.



# School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

<b>Attendance</b>	
Whole School	91.6%
Reception	92.8%
Year 1	92.8%
Year 2	95.5%
Year 3	92.1%
Year 4	88.5%
Year 5	93.7%
Year 6	90.3%



**158 pupils with perfect attendance this week!**

## Attendance Update



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 attendance this week is: 91.6%**

**Our attendance for the year so far is: 95.5%**



## Pots of Gold Experiences

Following Parent feedback, we are letting you know in advance when our Pots of Gold Experiences will take place. This is because there will be a cost implication with the majority of these trips. We will send out permission letters in the New Year, but please be assured we won't be expecting payment for these trips until the date stated on each letter, which will be approximately 2 weeks before the date of each visit.

If you have any questions about this, please do ask a member of staff.

Nursery - 26.4.24 Acorn Farm

Reception –18.6.24 Manchester Airport Runway Park

Year 1 - 23.5.24 Knowsley Safari Park

Year 2 - 14.6.24 Southport Eco Centre

Year 3 - 6.3.24 Philharmonic and World Museum

Year 4 - 20.6.24 Museum of Liverpool and Mersey Ferry

Year 5 - 21.3.24 Jodrell Bank

20.5.24 Jewish Museum

Year 6 - 6.6.24 Anglican Cathedral

## Attendance Steps to Success:



- ★ Ring the school office as soon as possible to explain any absence.
- ★ Be on time! Remember that gates close at 8:50am. Any absence after 9:20am is unauthorised.
- ★ Provide evidence for any medical appointments.
- ★ Speak to a member of the attendance team if you need support with your child's attendance - we are here to help!
- ★ Read any information and letters (including the newsletter) carefully.

## Diary Dates

08/01/2024—Spring Term Starts

09/01/2024—Bikeability Y5

16/01/2024—Y5 Money Mentors

18/01/2024 — Merseyside Police visit

19/01/2024—Science Coffee Morning

22/01/2024—Reception 0-19 Team Hearing

26/01/2024—Y6 Money Mentors

Do you have a child who is struggling with anxiety which may be causing them to miss school or social events? Newton Children's Centre is running the Fear-Less programme from January to help you support your child.

For more information, please see  
Mrs D Morris in school.

## **Bikeability**

The catch up date for Year 5 Bikeability is Tuesday 9th January. Your child will have been told if they are cycling on this day, and they can wear PE kit.

## Headteacher's Award WINNERS

### **Being Articulate Learners**

NURSERY	Kornelia Ozog-Lindstedt
RECEPTION	Amy Balaz
YEAR 1	Amelia Whitehead
YEAR 2	All of Year Two
YEAR 3	Oscar Rylance
YEAR 4	Jason Cook
YEAR 5	Reuben Foy
YEAR 6	Jennifer Lijo

## PE DAYS SPRING 1

**MONDAY—**

**TUESDAY—Year 1/Year 5**

**WEDNESDAY—YEAR 1, YEAR 3, YEAR 4 & YEAR 5**

**THURSDAY—NURSERY, RECEPTION, YEAR 2, YEAR 3, YEAR 5 & YEAR 6.**

**FRIDAY— YEAR 2 / Year 4**

**Full PE kit on these days.**

**Black tracksuit/shorts and plain white T.Shirt (logo optional)**

**NO SLOGAN/BRADED T SHIRTS  
OR BRIGHT COLOURS. THIS IS PART  
OF SCHOOL UNIFORM AND EXPECTATIONS  
MUST BE FOLLOWED.**



# Christmas

AT ST HELENS PARISH CHURCH

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER, 4PM  
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH COWLEY  
COLLEGE CHOIR

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 4PM  
ST HELENS FAMILY CAROLS.

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 11PM  
MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 10.30AM CHRISTMAS  
DAY CELEBRATION WITH COMMUNION.



Church  
— St Helens





# 12 Social Media Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

## 1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.

## 2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

## 3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.

## 4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.

## 5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.

## 6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.

## 7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.

## 8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.

## 9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.

## 10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.

## 11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.

## 12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.



## **Wider Opportunities Band**

If your child has just started learning a musical instrument, come and join our FREE Wider Opportunities Band. This will be starting up again at St Helens Town Hall from 4-5pm.

The group is aimed at students who play any instrument and have just started out on their musical journey. The ensemble will run on Wednesdays during in term time and have the opportunity to perform in concerts and events across the year. To join and start, simply complete the consent form using the link below -

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/musicconsent>



## **Admissions**

### **APPLYING FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**

If your child turns 4 between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024, he or she will transfer to primary school in September 2024. The website [www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions](https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions) is open for parents to apply online. You will be notified on 16th April 2024 confirming your child's place.

**The closing date for applications is 15th January 2024**

If you have any issues with admissions please speak to the school office of the school admissions team on 01744671030 or email [schooladmissions@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@sthelens.gov.uk).

## YEAR 6 TRANSITION FREE ONLINE PARENT / CARER SESSIONS

If your child has an SEN or significant worries and is due to transition to secondary school in September 2024, we would love you to join us on our online sessions to share preparation tips and advice.

By 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 you will have submitted a secondary school application to name your 3 preferred schools.

We are delighted to offer you some advice and support to be able to effectively plan the next steps of your child's journey.

Many of the strategies will work for most children who require that little bit of additional support.

Sessions will be delivered online through TEAMS directed to parents/carers (not to children); if you can attend all four it would be more beneficial.

For further information please email us on [LASCstransitions@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:LASCstransitions@sthelens.gov.uk) so we can send you a TEAMS link to the sessions

Session One - The Year Ahead	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differences between Primary &amp; Secondary</li> <li>Independence &amp; Preparation</li> <li>Travel to school</li> <li>Next Steps</li> </ul>
Session Two - Building Blocks	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is a transition?</li> <li>Managing change</li> <li>Developing independence</li> </ul>
Session Three - A Helping Hand	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing worries &amp; nerves</li> <li>Emotions Scales</li> <li>Looking for the positives</li> </ul>
Session Four - The Finish Line is in Sight!	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 12:30 - 1:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being Prepared</li> <li>One Page Profiles</li> <li>Communication</li> <li>Preparation &amp; Practice</li> </ul>