



NEWSLETTER

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Learning and Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love

2024-2025 Issue Number 16 Friday 12th January 2024

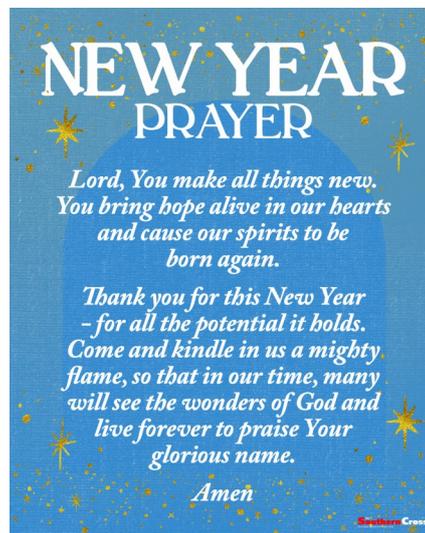
OUR VALUE THIS HALF
TERM IS:
HOPE THROUGH HOPE
ITSELF

*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*

A message from Mrs Young ...

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a wonderful first week of the new year and Spring term here in school. The children have been busy starting their new topics and have begun learning lots of new and exciting things. As we move into 2024, I would like to share a prayer for the new year with you all.



We ended our first school week of 2024 with a wonderful class assembly led by Year 3 who shared with us all the learning they completed in the Autumn term. Well done to everyone who took part.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Young



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	96.2%
Reception	99%
Year 1	93.1%
Year 2	96.7%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	96.3%
Year 5	98%
Year 6	98.3%



186 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: 96.2%

Our attendance for the year so far is: 95.7%

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. Letters have been sent out via classes this week with details of each trip. 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 however they will be available on School Money from this week

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

Year Group	Location	Date
Nursery	Acorn Farm	26.4.24
Reception	Manchester Airport Runway Visitor Park	18.6.24
Year 1	Knowsley Safari Park	23.5.24
Year 2	Southport Eco Centre	14.6.24
Year 3	Liverpool Philharmonic and World Museum	6.3.24
Year 4	Museum of Liverpool and Mersey Ferry	20.6.24
Year 5	Jodrell Bank	31.3.24
	Jewish Museum	20.5.24
Year 6	Anglican Cathedral	6.6.24

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
15/01/2024—B Tales Workshop for Reception
16/01/2024—Y5 Money Mentors
17/01/2024—Y5/Y6 Dodgeball Competition
17/01/2024—Parish University Information Meeting
18/01/2024 — Merseyside Police visit
19/01/2024—Science Coffee Morning
22/01/2024—Reception 0-19 Team Hearing
25/01/2024—Reception visit to Parish Church
26/01/2024—Year 5 Class Assembly
26/01/2024—Y6 Money Mentors
26/01/2024—Y5/6 Girls Football Competition
01/02/2024—Diversity Coffee Morning
01/02/2024—Parish Cultural Heritage showcase
05/02/2024—Keeping Safe Week
06/02/2024—Safer Internet Day
08/02/2024—Parish Praise launch event
09/02/2024—Faith. Hope and Love Day
09/02/2024—End of half term

Headteacher's Award WINNERS

Influencing Aspirations

NURSERY	Ellie-May Whitehead
RECEPTION	Samuel Cupela
YEAR 1	Harley-Lillie Mousdell
YEAR 2	Kai O'Shaughnessy
YEAR 3	Senuli Dahanaka
YEAR 4	Layla Docherty
YEAR 5	Carter Chapman
YEAR 6	Charles Maynard

PE DAYS SPRING 1

TUESDAY—YEAR 1

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.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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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 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.

Parish Cultural Heritage Project



Thank you to everyone who has brought in their entries for our 'Parish Cultural Heritage Project.'

Please bring any completed entries in by 15th January



Entries will be showcased at our Diversity Coffee Morning on Thursday 1st February.

This term we will be focussing in school on the value HOPE.
We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Hope

The value **hope** is about much more than just wishing as hard as we can that things will be different. It is about believing that the world can be better and being prepared to do something!

The character Noah in the story opposite, was willing to look silly in front of his neighbours by building a huge boat even though he lived miles from the ocean, because he **hoped** and believed that God had a plan. As a family you may want to talk about:

- your **hopes** and dreams for the future
- what you can do to make them happen
- what others need to do

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"Learn from yesterday, live for today,
hope for tomorrow"
Albert Einstein



READ TOGETHER... God's Special Promise

The world that God had made was a beautiful, colourful place – brimming with life and bursting with good things. It was his precious gift given with all his love. God **hoped** that people would care for it and care for each other but now they were doing just the opposite! They were quarrelling, fighting, and spoiling everything. God saw that there was only one thing to do; to begin all over again.

But God also saw that not everyone on the earth was wicked. There was one man and his family trying to do their best to look after the world and to look after each other and to listen to him. The man's name was Noah. God told Noah to build an ark – a huge, magnificent boat. Noah was mystified because he lived miles from the ocean and was not sure why he would ever need a boat. As word got around about the enormous boat Noah's neighbours made his life miserable with their taunts and jibes. Sometimes Noah was tempted to lose **hope**, but he knew from experience that he could trust God for the future, so he and his family kept on building.

When the work was finally finished God told Noah to gather two of every kind of creature as well as all his family together and set up home in the ark. It took a long time but Noah had to just keep on trusting God. And then the first raindrops began to fall, followed by showers, then torrents and finally floods. On and on it rained for forty days and forty nights. When Noah was beginning to lose **hope** of ever seeing the sun again, the rain suddenly stopped. Noah sent out a dove and when it did not return he knew that the bird had found dry land on which to build a nest. They were safe at last!

And then a wonderful thing happened. God sent a rainbow - a beautiful, colourful bow in the sky. It was a sign of **hope** and promise. The world had been washed clean, and was all ready for a new beginning.

Bible story based on Genesis 6-9-11



QUIZ Word Search

Find the words from the story of Noah.
12 creatures are also hidden in the word search. They were on the boat!

- | | | |
|-------|----------|---------|
| NOAH | CREATURE | FORTY |
| ARK | DAYS | HOPE |
| BOAT | DOVE | NEST |
| BUILD | FLOODS | PROMISE |
| | GOD | RAINBOW |
| | | WORLD |



The Basket of Dreams

This beautiful sculpture is on the hills overlooking Lake Wakatipu in New Zealand. It is called the Basket of Dreams and is made from a spiral of steel. Spirals can remind us that we have a choice about the way we live. We can either travel inwards towards self-centredness where we only try to think of ourselves or we can travel outwards towards the world and other people.



FAMILY FOCUS

Spiral of Hope

Start with a circle of paper or light card and draw a spiral. On the spiral write a **hope** or dream that you have that will make the world a safer, cleaner or more healthy place to live. Cut along the lines until you get to the centre, leaving a circle in the middle. Make a hole in the middle so you can hang your spiral from a thread.

(You may want to practice drawing a good spiral on some scrap paper before you start.)



FASCINATING FACTS

Rainbows

After a shower of rain we sometimes see a magnificent rainbow arched across the sky.

- rainbows are the reflection of the sun in the rain droplets in the sky
- they are curved because raindrops are round
- they are multi-coloured because each raindrop splits the sunlight into a spectrum of colours
- the colours of the rainbow are always in the same order – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet – and red is highest in the sky
- an easy way to remember the order is using the mnemonic **R**ichard **O**f **Y**ork **G**ave **B**attle **I**n **V**ain'. The first letter of each word is also the first letter of the colour.



HALL OF FAME

Sir David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is best known as a natural history film maker. He has made expeditions all over the world to watch and film wildlife in its natural habitat. His many TV documentary programmes have allowed us all to understand the wonder of nature and the importance of conserving the natural environment if species are to survive.

Sir David has shown us the impact humans have too often made on the natural world and the consequent

struggle of wildlife to survive. His **hope** is that we leave future generations a planet that is healthy and inhabitable by all species.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Make a 'hopes and dreams' catcher

Dream catchers are traditionally made from a looped willow branch onto which a net or web is woven. The net is then decorated with feathers, beads and other decorations. According to American Indian folklore, as we sleep, dreams are caught in the net and with the first rays of sunlight any bad dreams are burned away.

Find a long twig that can be bent and tied to make a hoop or frame. Use natural string or thread stretched across the frame to make the net and then decorate it creatively to catch all the **hopes** and dreams you can!



Mental Health Support Team

WELLBEING WEBINARS

Your MHST is running a series of webinars one Friday a month on a number of topics relating to mental health and wellbeing.

TOPICS AND DATES

- Worry Management - 19 January
- Parenting for Anxiety - 23 February
- Low Mood - 22 March
- Neurodiversity - 26 April
- Parent Skills for Behaviour - 17 May
- LGBTQ+ - 21 June
- Emotional Regulation - 19 July



WHEN

4pm to 4:45pm



WHERE

Zoom

(link will be emailed)



To register please email which webinar you want to attend to events@merseycare.nhs.uk

Webinars will be recorded.
No chat function will be available
for safety purposes.

School Nurse Drop-In

If you have any questions relating to your child's health and wellbeing, please come and meet our school nurse Sam. She'll be holding a parent drop-in on Tuesday 23rd January between 3 and 4pm. Please go to the school office to see her.

NHS



Parish Church of England Primary School

Reception September 2024:

If your child was born between the 1st September 2019 and the 31st August 2020, they are due to start Reception Class in September 2024.

The closing date for application is **Monday 15th January 2024.**

If you would like to join our outstanding school, please contact us for more information or visit our website <https://www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk/>.

Contact us:

Telephone: 01744 678430

E-mail: parish.sthelens@ldst.org.uk

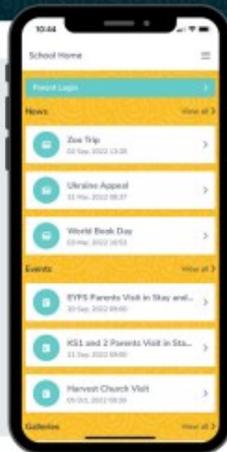


Guide to our app for parents & carers

School Spider allows you to receive and return information directly to and from the school. Receive instant messages, complete surveys, book your parents' evenings and report absences.



Select your school to get started!



How to get started

Once you have selected the school, you will see posts from the school website. Click parent dashboard to login or create an account. Create an account by pressing "create account" and enter your email address.

You must have your email linked with the school!

Take a look around...

See all action items on your dashboard

Click to respond or book for each child



Click the envelope to see your recent messages

Click these 3 lines to:

- Switch between areas
- Edit your profile
- Logout

DOWNLOAD NOW

