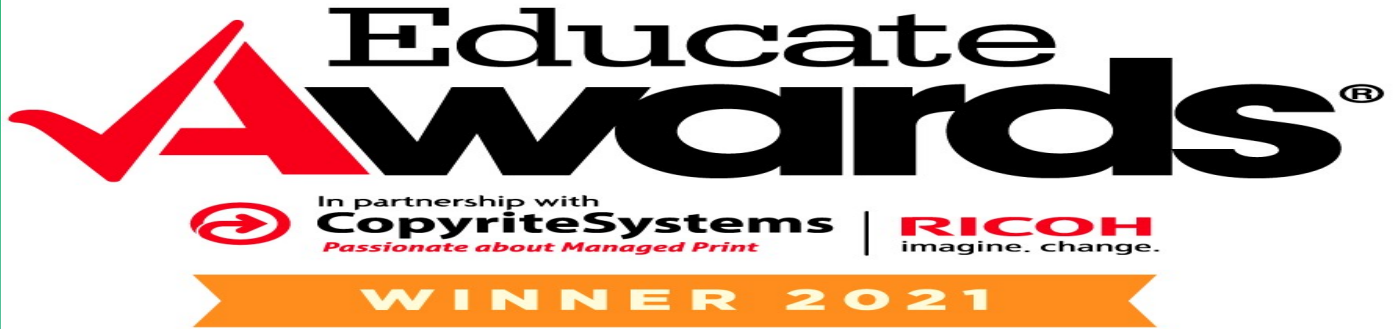




NEWSLETTER

www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk 01744 678 430 TWITTER: @parishschool1

Learning and Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love



2023-2024 Issue Number 6 FRIDAY 13th October 2023

OUR VALUE THIS HALF

TERM IS:

FAITH THROUGH

DIGNITY

Mrs Beechey's Message ...

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week started in fantastic style as we celebrated our Harvest Service at church—led by our Year 5 class. They really impressed us all with their oracy skills, singing of the harvest songs and the way they brought Harvest to life for us all. We are still collecting for our food bank donations until Friday 20th October when they will be taken to the local food bank.

We ended the week with Y6's class assembly. They shared with us all they have been learning about the Vikings. They sang a wonderful Viking song and shared interesting facts about their current history topic.

On Friday 20th October, we will be holding our second 'Faith, Hope and Love' Day of the academic year. Parents are invited to join us at 2.30pm (9am for Year 4) to share us in supporting our 'gifts of gold' charities. We hope you can come along.

We will also be holding an attendance competition next week for the last week of term—more information can be found in this newsletter. As always, if you have any concerns about your child's attendance or need any further support please contact us at school.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Beechey



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	94.5%
Reception	91.7%
Year 1	85.5%
Year 2	99.2%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	92.5%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	95.8%



192 pupils with perfect attendance this week!

Can we beat this next week? Let's do it!!



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:

94.5%

Our attendance for the year so far is:

96.5%



Autumn 1 Final Week Attendance Challenge

At Parish we place huge importance on regular school attendance—the research speaks for itself and proves without that those with the highest levels of attendance achieve great things!

We therefore now invite you to take part in our 'Autumn 1 Final Week Challenge.'

Come to school everyday and on time from Monday 16th October to Friday 20th October and have the chance to win a fantastic prize of a £10 ASDA voucher

What do you need to do?

Come to school, on time, everyday for the final week of the half term.

How can you win?

Those that complete the challenge will have their name put in a prize draw to be carried out on the afternoon of Friday 20th October.

You've got to be in, to win!



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—Autumn Term 2023

16/10/23—DT Focus Week in School
18/10/23—SEND Coffee Afternoon for Parents
19/10/23&20/10/23—Apple of my Eye Cooking Workshops for Year 4 and Year 6.
19/10/23—Year 4 Football Competition
20/10/23—Faith, Hope and Love Day (with parent drop in from 2.30pm for YN—Y6. **Y4 at 9am**)
6/11/2023—Keeping Safe Week
6/11/2023—Year 4 Swimming begins (for rest of term)
10/11/2023—Remembrance Service (in school)
13/11/2023—Anti-bullying Week

Faith, Hope and Love Parent Drop In— Friday 20th October

Please join us for our second Faith, Hope and Love day of the year. Visit your child's class from 2.30pm (9am for Y4) to work alongside us on supporting our class charities through our 'Gifts of Gold' charity events.

Please note the event will finish at 3pm. Children can go home once the event has finished.

Due to staff training, Y4's session will be at 9am rather than 2.30pm and will finish at 9.30am.

Headteacher's Award WINNERS

Showing Resilience and Perseverance.

RECEPTION	Akshay Harish
YEAR 1	Kian Stevens
YEAR 2	Izak Funcks
YEAR 3	Pristillah Krisanth
YEAR 4	Zak Keane
YEAR 5	Klay Ratcliffe
YEAR 6	Niall O'Shaughnessy

PE DAYS AUTUMN 1

**MONDAY—YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6
(YEAR 6 SWIMMING 9:30AM-10:30AM)**
TUESDAY—YEAR 1, YEAR 3 & YEAR 4
WEDNESDAY—YEAR 3, YEAR 4, YEAR 5 & YEAR 6
THURSDAY—NURSERY, RECEPTION & YEAR 2
FRIDAY—YEAR 1 & YEAR 2

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.**



HARVEST FESTIVAL COLLECTION

Please send your donations from Friday
29th September

WE ARE ASKING OUR COMMUNITY TO
COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT
ST HELENS FOODBANK BY DONATING
TINNED FOOD, CEREALS, DRIED PASTA,
RICE OR JARS





SEND



Coffee Afternoon

Wednesday 18th October

2.30pm

We would like to invite parents and carers of children with SEND to our first SEND coffee afternoon at Parish.

Mrs. Moore will be available to talk through the school's SEND provision and answer any questions you might have.

There will also be a representative from ADDvanced Solutions to talk about the support they can offer.



If you would like to call in for a coffee and a chat, please ring the school office to book your place.

01744 678430

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe – with some users saying screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI', a customised AI chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, Spotlight and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (maintaining the same person every day to build up a high score), Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images or impulses – so scrolling continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat may also have 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Clare 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.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On Snap Maps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.05.2023

NOS
National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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. From Wednesday 27th September the website www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions is open for parents who wish to apply online. You will be notified on 16 April 2024 confirming your child's school place.

The closing date for you to submit your application is 15 January 2024.

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

If your child turns 11 between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024, he or she will transfer to secondary school in September 2024. From Wednesday 27th September the website www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions is open for parents who wish to apply online. You will be notified on 1 March 2024 confirming your child's school place.

The closing date for you to submit your application is 31 October 2023.

Clarify any issues you are not sure about with staff in the school admissions team on 01744 671030 or email schooladmissions@sthelens.gov.uk.

Paper Secondary School application forms that have been submitted via the School Office will be sent to the admissions department on Friday 20th October. Please get any final applications to school by Thursday 19th October. Thank you



Open Days

Reception 2024

Parish CE Primary School

Are you a parent or a carer with children starting school in September 2024 and beyond?

If so, come and see Parish Church of England Primary School in St Helens. We are a distinctly Christian one form entry school offering an excellent curriculum, a nurturing approach and wide ranging activities and opportunities for all of our children. We were judged to be **'OUTSTANDING'** in January 2022 by Ofsted.

You will have the chance to see the school and the classrooms in action, and speak to the children and staff. Please telephone the school office on 01744 678430 or email parish.sthelens@ldst.org.uk to book onto your preferred date.

Please also view our school website (www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk) and Twitter page (@parishschool1)

Dates

Monday 13th November—10am

**Wednesday 15th November—
4:30pm**



HALLOWEEN

SAFETY TIPS



Costumes should be light-coloured and flame resistant with reflective strips so that children are more easily seen at night. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!).



Remind children to keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)



Remind children to walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks - not in the street.



Provide yourself or the children with a flashlight to see better and to be better seen.



Have children plan their route and share it with you and the family.



Remind children to look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.



Make sure children know they should accept treats at the door and must not get into cars or enter the homes or apartments of strangers.



Trick or Treaters should travel in groups of four or five. Young children should be accompanied by an adult.



Explain to children that calls should be made along one side of the street first and then the other, and that it's best to cross the street only at intersections or crosswalks.



Set agreed-to boundaries with your children. Explain the importance of staying within them and arriving home on time.

STAY SAFE THIS BONFIRE NIGHT

DO'S

POSITION THE BONFIRE well away from houses, garages, sheds, fences, overhead cables, trees and shrubs -15m is usually a safe distance.

Make sure the **BONFIRE IS STABLE** and will not collapse.

Ensure everyone is a **SAFE DISTANCE AWAY** (15m) from the fire and children are supervised at all times.

Keep **BUCKETS OF WATER**, a garden hose or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of an emergency.

POUR WATER on the remains of the bonfire before leaving.

KEEP PETS INDOORS during bonfire night.

DONT'S

DO NOT burn the following:
Tyres, Cylinders, Canisters, Aerosols
Paints, Plastics, Rubber & Foam filled furniture.

NEVER use flammable liquids to light a bonfire.

NEVER light or store fireworks near a bonfire.

NEVER leave a bonfire unattended.

If you intend to have a bonfire, please contact the
Fire Service on **01268 909404**
and give the following information:

Date, Time and Location of the bonfire
Name of responsible person and contact telephone number.
How you intend to extinguish the fire after the event or if it gets out of control.

DIAL 999
IN THE EVENT
OF AN EMERGENCY



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

www.mawwfire.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 31st 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 so we can send you a TEAMS link to the sessions

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