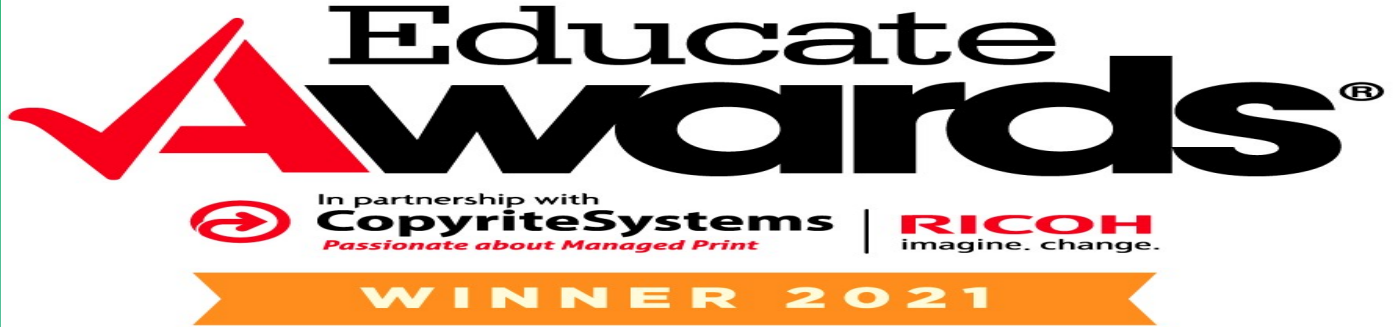




# NEWSLETTER

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

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



2023-2024 Issue Number 7 FRIDAY 20th October 2023

OUR VALUE THIS HALF  
TERM IS:  
FAITH THROUGH  
DIGNITY

## Mrs Youngs message...

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that we are at the end of the first half term already and what a half term it has been!

We have enjoyed church services, class assemblies, European Day of Languages, Black History Month, Democracy Day, Sporting Events and so, so much more!

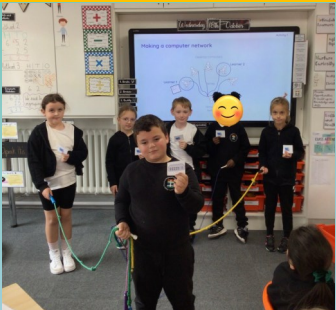
We have so much to look forward next half term too starting off with Anti Bullying Week celebrations and ending of course (I hope it's not too early to mention this word!!) with our Christmas Events!

I would like to thank you as always for your support this half term - I do class myself very lucky to lead such a great school with such amazingly supportive parents.

I wish you a restful half term break - I hope the rain makes way for some crisp, sunny Autumnal days where we can all enjoy some family walks and much needed time in nature.

See you on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November,

Mrs Young



# School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	93.2
Reception	85.8
Year 1	94.8
Year 2	97.9
Year 3	92.2
Year 4	84.5
Year 5	95.8
Year 6	92.5



**181**  
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:

**93.2%**

Our attendance for the year so far is: **96.5%**

## Diary Dates—Autumn Term 2023

6/11/2023—Year 4 Swimming begins (for rest of term)  
6/11/2023—BASH Library talk for Y1 & Y5  
6/11/2023—Young Carers visit to Y4, Y5 & Y6.  
7/11/2023—Which Way Now Project for Year 3  
9/11/2023—Mental Health Support Team Parents Workshop  
10/11/2023—Remembrance Service (in school)  
13/11/2023—Anti-bullying Week BEGINS  
13/11/2023—Odd Socks Day for Anti-bullying week  
16/11/2023—Nursery Rhyme Week Parent Showcase for Reception and Nursery.  
17/11/2023—Reading Coffee Morning

### Mental Health Support Team

On Thursday 9th November, Emma Thomason from the MHST will be visiting school to provide a drop-in session for parents. This will focus on emotional wellbeing and mental health, and you are welcome to come for a hot drink and some biscuits and ask her advice about your child. Parents will not be able to visit classes during this time, but we hope to see you in school from 9am.

## Headteacher's Award WINNERS

**Showing Resilience and Perseverance.**

RECEPTION	Emma Keranov
YEAR 1	Kassius Chowdhury
YEAR 2	Ethan Stirrup
YEAR 3	Esmae Ratcliffe
YEAR 4	Serephina Johnson
YEAR 5	Erin Kelly
YEAR 6	

## PE DAYS AUTUMN 2

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

**Full PE kit on these days.**

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

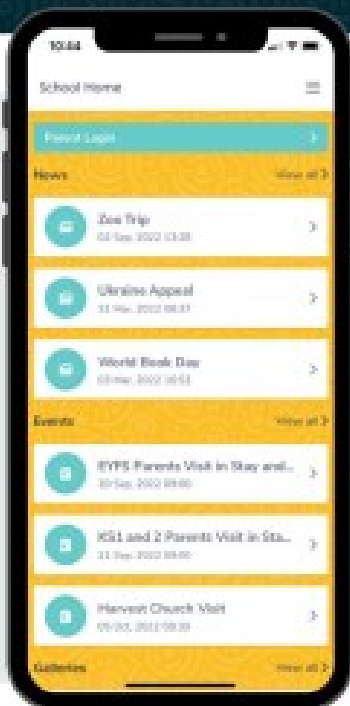
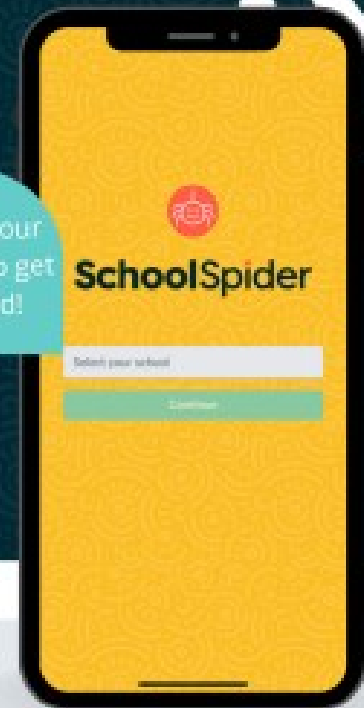
**NO SLOGAN/BRADED T SHIRTS OR BRIGHT COLOURS. THIS IS PART OF SCHOOL UNIFORM AND EXPECTATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED.**

# 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**





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-18 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

### DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

### IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

### TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

### MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

### LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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. The website [www.sthelens.gov.uk/admissions](http://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).

## 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.



### Anti Bullying Week/Odd Socks Day

**The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2023 is 'Make a Noise about Bullying'**

The theme of Make A Noise About Bullying came about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

Following the success of the campaign in 2022 – when 80% of schools marked the week, reaching over 7.5 million children and young people – Anti-Bullying Week will remind everyone whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, we can bring an end to bullying.

**The week also kicks off on Monday 13th November with Odd Sock Day!**

The idea is to wear odd socks to school or work to highlight that we are all unique and to spread kindness on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week.

The event is sponsored by children's TV star Andy Day and his band Andy and the Odd Socks.

**We can't wait to see all of your odd socks on Monday 13th November.**

**If you are able to donate £1 on Monday 13th November via School Money, then all donations will be given to the charity 'The Anti Bullying Alliance'.**

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](mailto:parish.sthelens@ldst.org.uk) to book onto your preferred date.

**Please also view our school website ([www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk](http://www.parish.st-helens.sch.uk))  
and Twitter page (@parishschool1)**

#### Dates

**Monday 13th November—10am**

**Wednesday 15th November—  
4:30pm**





## 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 [LASCSttransitions@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:LASCSttransitions@sthelens.gov.uk) so we can send you a TEAMS link to the sessions

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



# FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

HERE ARE OUR TOP TEN TIPS TO KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE THIS BONFIRE NIGHT.

## 1 DON'T BUILD A BONFIRE TOO HIGH

ALWAYS ENSURE YOUR FIRE IS BUILT IN AN OPEN SPACE AND NOT TOO CLOSE TO HOUSES, HEDGES, FENCES OR SHEDS. WHERE POSSIBLE, TRY TO ATTEND AN ORGANISED DISPLAY AND KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY.

## 2 NEVER LIGHT A BONFIRE WITH PETROL

OR ANY FLAMMABLE LIQUID, INSTEAD USE DOMESTIC FIRE LIGHTERS AND NEVER THROW AEROSOL CANS OR TYRES ONTO A FIRE

## 3 KEEP A BUCKET OF WATER NEARBY

ENSURE YOU HAVE A HOSEPIPE OR BUCKET OF WATER ON HAND IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. USED FIREWORKS AND SPARKLERS SHOULD ALWAYS BE PLACED INTO THE BUCKET AFTER USE FOR SAFETY.

## 4 ONLY BUY FIREWORKS MARKED WITH THE BS7114 KITEMARK

YOU SHOULD ALSO NEVER PLACE FIREWORKS IN YOUR POCKET. BE SURE TO STORE THEM IN A COOL, DRY BOX.

## 5 ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS

AND REMEMBER TO USE A TORCH AND NOT THE LIGHT OF A FLAME TO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON EACH FIREWORK. BE SURE TO USE A TAPER TO LIGHT THE FIREWORK AT ARM'S LENGTH AND STAND WELL BACK FROM THEM. ALWAYS SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN AROUND FIREWORKS.

