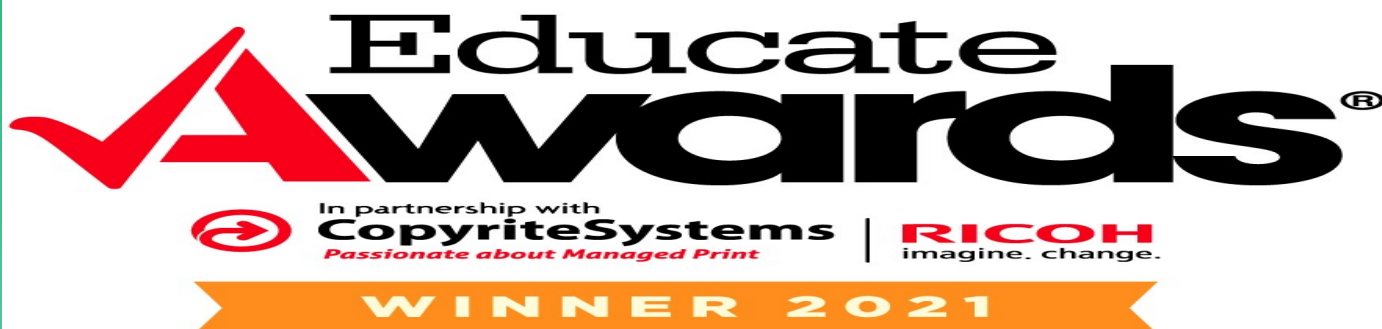




# NEWSLETTER

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

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



2023-2024 Issue Number 8 FRIDAY 10th November 2023

OUR VALUE THIS HALF  
TERM IS:  
  
FAITH THROUGH  
PEACE

**Mrs Young's message...**

**Dear Parents/Carers**

We have had a wonderful start to the half term and we are all excited about the many special events coming up over the next 6 weeks.

We are currently in the process of completing our first 'cookery' DT units across school and it's been great to see children enjoying the sessions and developing their skills.

Today we held a remembrance service in school - this was a poignant and reflective service and I'm always so proud of how the children conduct themselves at these events.

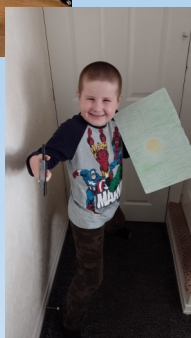
Thank you for your support in purchasing poppies and other items for the Royal British Legion - we will continue selling items next week and will then send money raised to the charity themselves.

Next week we will be recognising Anti Bullying Week and this will all start on Monday with 'Odd Sock Day' - this is always such an important week where we take time to remember the negative impact bullying can cause, different types of bullying and the importance of celebrating differences and being kind!

Thank you to all those parents who have logged into our new Spider communication system. From January, this will be the main source of communication between school and home with texts and emails no longer being sent. We will be looking to go 'paperless' too and so letters and newsletters will begin to be sent via the Spider app also. With that in mind, I do urge you to download the app and log in as soon as possible.

Which Way Now continues for Y3 next week as does swimming for Y4 - busy bees in Lower Key stage 2!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Young



# School Matters!



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

<b>Attendance</b>	
Whole School	96.6%
Reception	94.7%
Year 1	96.2%
Year 2	95.3%
Year 3	95.3%
Year 4	97.3%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	98.7%



**196**

**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:**

**96.6%**

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

**96.4%**

## **Diary Dates—w.b. 13.11.23**

13/11/2023—Year 4 Swimming for rest of term)  
13/11/2023—Anti-bullying Week BEGINS  
13/11/2023—Odd Socks Day for Anti-bullying week  
13/11/2023—Apple of my Eye Workshop for Y6  
13/11/2023—Y2 visit to Parish Church  
13/11/2023—Y5 visit to St Helens Library  
14/11/2023—Which Way Now Project for Year 3  
15/11/2023—Mental Health Workshops for KS2.  
16/11/2023—NSPCC Workshops for Y5/Y6.  
16/11/2023—Nursery Rhyme Week Parent Showcase for Reception and Nursery.  
**17/11/2023—Reading Coffee Morning**

## **Individual and Sibling Photographs**

Individual and Sibling photographs will take place in school on Thursday 16th November.

Please ensure children attend in full school uniform.  
No PE kit to be worn on this day.



## **Headteacher's Award WINNERS**

### **Being Articulate Learners**

NURSERY	Nala Bamber
RECEPTION	Riyanka Vageesan
YEAR 1	Emily Gibbons
YEAR 2	Heath Devereux
YEAR 3	Kornelia Sampolska
YEAR 4	Logan Bamber
YEAR 5	Serenity McQuade
YEAR 6	Jack Dunphy

## **PE DAYS AUTUMN 2**

**MONDAY—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.**

## **Autumn 2— Dates for your diary**

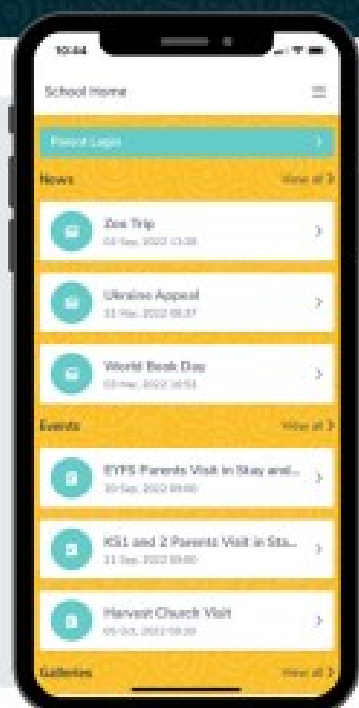
<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Y4 Monday Swimming—All term</b>	All Term
<b>Open Day</b>	Monday 13th November @10am Wednesday 15th November @ 4:30pm
<b>Individual and siblings Photographs</b>	Thursday 16th November 2023
<b>Odd Socks Anti-Bullying Fundraising</b>	Monday 13th November
<b>Nursery Rhyme Week—Parent/ Carer Showcase (Nursery and Recep- tion)</b>	16th November 2023
<b>Reading Coffee Morning</b>	17th November @ 9am
<b>Own clothes day</b>	Friday 24th November 2023
<b>Pots Of Gold—Year 6 trip to Shake- speare North Playhouse</b>	30th November 2023
<b>Christmas Bingo (In classes - £1 per game)</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>Choir Christmas Sing</b>	6th December
<b>Christmas Dinner Day</b>	13th December 2023
<b>Parish Christmas Fair</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> December – 3:15 start
<b>School Nativity</b>	19th & 20th December 2023
<b>School Christmas Party</b>	Friday 22nd December 2023
<b>Close for Christmas</b>	Friday 22nd December 2023

# 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

# WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION  
**16+**

In UK and Europe;  
rest of the world 13+

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

### FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

### 'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

### CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

### VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

## Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

### ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval: you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

### THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

### CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

## 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.



...HEY OSCAR...

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://faq.whatsapp.com/10770/8839582332> | [https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc\\_faq](https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_faq)  
<https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private>  
<https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>



@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: 20.09.2023



## 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.



## Nativity 2023



The Nativity this year will take place on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December. More information about tickets coming soon.

Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 parents. You will have received a letter before half term regarding your child's nativity costume.

Speak to your child's class teacher if you need more information.

## **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>







### **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 [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>





Dear Parent/Carer

**NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme**

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* Programme** this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for children aged 6-7 and 9-11. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout).

**Parent/Carer support**

Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers.

[www.nspcc.org.uk/parents](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents)

**Activities to extend learning at home**

Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe.

[www.nspcc.org.uk/activities](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/activities)

**Online Safety Hub**

For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more.

**Childline – under 12's**

Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content.

[www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety)

[www.childline.org.uk/buddy](http://www.childline.org.uk/buddy) (5-7)  
[www.childline.org.uk/kids](http://www.childline.org.uk/kids) (7-11)

**Talk PANTS with your children**

Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages.

Download the free resources at [www.nspcc.org.uk/pants](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants).