



# NEWSLETTER

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



2023-2024 Issue Number 9 Friday 17th November 2023

**OUR VALUE THIS HALF TERM IS:**  
**FAITH THROUGH PEACE**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed celebrating Anti Bullying Week this week with the theme 'Make a Noise About Bullying'! We enjoyed wearing odd socks on Monday in celebration of our uniqueness and differences. We also had the Mental Health Support Team delivering workshops to KS2 this week which were really informative. Next Tuesday we welcome back our friends from the Christian Theatre Company 'The BTales' to deliver a play to KS2 continuing the theme of Anti Bullying with the children. It promises to be so much fun!

Classes have been busy making 'worry boxes' for their reflection areas as part of Anti Bullying Week and these are available for all children to pop concerns or worries in which they would like to chat to class teachers about.

It has been wonderful to see children's learning progressing brilliantly this half term - from French, to Art, to computing ... Parish has been a hive of activity. We finished our cookery units too this week and were delighted to welcome back 'Apply of my Eye' to work with Y6 in making seasonal soups.

I really enjoyed showing prospective parents around school on Monday and Wednesday this week on our open events. I am so proud to be the Headteacher of Parish and I love talking about all of the wonderful things we have on offer here for children!

On Thursday we held a stay and play for EYFS children as part of Nursery Rhyme Week. This was a fabulous event and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you for all of your support!

We hope you enjoyed the reading coffee morning with Mrs Flanders and Mrs Beechey this morning - we love inviting you into school to hear about our work and approaches and join in learning with your children.

Finally huge well done to Mrs Flanders this week for leading the school to win the International School Award! This is a coveted award which recognises our commitment to Global Learning. Myself and Mrs Flanders will be travelling to the House of Commons in London in January to accept the award!

Next week we have a Hinduism workshop in Y3 and a STEM workshop in Y5 to look forward to along with Y5/Y6 Girls' Football Competition. Have a great weekend everyone,  
Mrs Young



# School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	95.7
Reception	89.6
Year 1	93.1
Year 2	96.7
Year 3	95
Year 4	92.6
Year 5	96.3
Year 6	100



**194 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: 95.7%**

**Our attendance for the year so far is: 96.3%**

## Diary Dates

20/11/2023—Year 4 Swimming (for rest of term)

21/11/2023—B-Tales Anti-Bullying Performance KS2

23/11/2023—Hinduism Workshop for Y3

24/11/2023—Y5/Y6 Girl's Football Competition

27/11/2023—Autumn Assessment Week begins

27/11/2023—Year 4 Swimming

See 'Christmas at Parish' page for Christmas dates.

### ST. HELENS YOUNG CARERS



We have been developing our support for children who may be Young Carers. If you think you know a young person who fits this category, you can see Mrs Morris or Mrs Moore for more information. You can also see the new Young Carers page on our website, under Personal Development.

## Headteacher's Award WINNERS

### Being Articulate Learners

NURSERY	Skye Lyon
RECEPTION	Arlo Versey
YEAR 1	Alex Nucu
YEAR 2	Zachary Halsall
YEAR 3	Booby Moore
YEAR 4	David Nucu
YEAR 5	Erin Kelly
YEAR 6	Isaac Mulla

## 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.**





# Christmas at Parish

## Own Clothes Day

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

POCKET MONEY TOY OR CHRISTMAS ITEM DONATION

## Children's Festive Bingo

5TH DECEMBER

EACH CLASS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A FESTIVE GAME OF BINGO FOR £1 DONATION OR A GIFT SET DONATION.

## Christmas Jumper Day

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER—FOR A £1 DONATION TO 'SAVE THE CHILDREN' (VIA SCHOOL MONEY), PLEASE COME IN DRESSED IN A CHRISTMAS JUMPER.

## Christmas Dinner Day

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

## Christmas Fair

THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER— 3.30PM

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

## Nativity

19TH AND 20H DECEMBER—3 PERFORMANCES OF THE NATIVITY FOR PARENTS / CARERS TO WATCH.

TICKETS ON SALE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE SOON!

## Christmas Party Day

21ST DECEMBER ( NURSERY 9–11AM) WILL BE OUR FAMOUS CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY! CRAFTS, DANCING AND MORE! COME IN YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS PARTY CLOTHES!



## Autumn 2— Dates for your diary

Event	Date
Own clothes day	Friday 24th November 2023
Pots Of Gold—Year 6 trip to Shakespeare North Playhouse	30th November 2023
Christmas Bingo (In classes - £1 per game)	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Choir Christmas Sing	6th December
Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day	7th December
Christmas Dinner Day	13th December 2023
Parish Christmas Fair	14 <sup>th</sup> December – 3:15 start
School Nativity	19th & 20th December 2023
School Christmas Party	Friday 22nd December 2023
Close for Christmas	Friday 22nd December 2023



## 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.

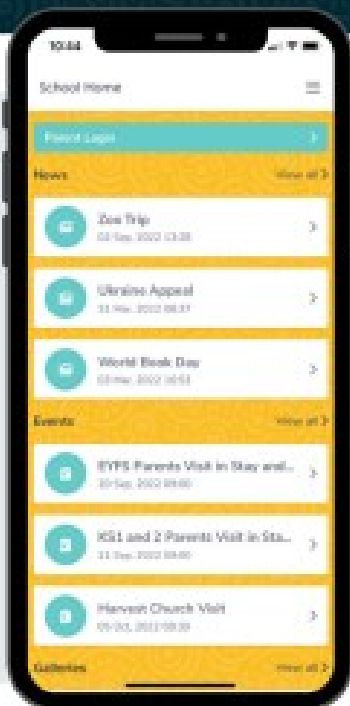
Speak to your child's class teacher if you need more information.

# 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.

...MSG ME...

## 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.

ONLINE

### '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.



### 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.

### 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.



### 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...



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\\_fna](https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_fna) | <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>



## 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.



### Perfectly Punctual 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 'Perfectly Punctual Attendance Challenge.'

Come to school on time from Monday 20th November to Friday 25th November to earn a reward for your class.

#### What do you need to do?

Be in school by 9am each morning.

#### How can you win?

By being on time each morning, you will earn a point for your class. The class with the most points at the end of the week will win a class reward.

You've got to be **on time**, to win!





## **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 [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>