



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 10 FRIDAY 24th November 2023

OUR VALUE THIS HALF TERM IS:
FAITH THROUGH PEACE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy week this week and we are ready for our whole school assessment week next week that's for sure!

I wanted this week to clarify senior leadership roles and responsibilities across school with you.

I am school's Executive Headteacher - this means my role is now slightly different than it was when I was Headteacher. Firstly, I am now based at Parish 50% of the time as the other time I am at St James in Haydock. I am the strategic lead for both schools, meaning that all key decisions which impact how we live as a school community, advancements in our educational offer and overall management of the school sits with me. Although, I may not physically be in school every day, I speak to leaders at Parish EVERY DAY and monitor all events occurring in school across the day through our record system called CPOMS.

Mrs Beechey is one of our Deputy Headteachers. She is based 100% of the time at Parish and so is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school. She also leads on behaviour, safeguarding, attendance and early reading.

Mr Hardy is Partnership Deputy Headteacher, meaning that like me, he spends some of his week at Parish and some of the week at St James. Mr Hardy leads on curriculum, assessment and teaching and learning.

Mrs Moore is our Inclusion Leader and as such makes sure that school is a place where everybody is welcome, included and able to flourish! She leads on Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium, English as an Additional Language and all other inclusive items.

Mrs Clare is our School Business Manager and is responsible for the financial management of school, HR related issues and all aspects of health and safety.

Mrs Morris is our Pastoral and Safeguarding Manager and leads on safeguarding day to day management, supporting children and families in a wide sense and attendance.

Mrs Flanders is our English and Global Learning Lead and leads on literacy, English and all elements of Global citizenship across school.

At Parish, we have a 'distributed leadership' approach meaning that should you have a concern or issue, any member of the school's senior leadership team can support.

As Executive Headteacher, I may not always be on site when issues arise but parents can always book to meet with me and, as I have said, I ALWAYS am involved in decision making at every level and am ALWAYS aware each and every day of all issues occurring across school. As such, should you meet with a member of the senior leadership team, they will always share my thoughts and decisions with you and I will always be informed.

I hope this is useful for you!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Young



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	96%
Reception	94.6%
Year 1	94.8%
Year 2	93.3%
Year 3	96.7%
Year 4	97.7%
Year 5	96.3%
Year 6	97.5%



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:

96.4%

Our attendance for the year so far is:

96.4%

Diary Dates

27/11/2023—Year 4 Swimming (for rest of term)

27/11/2023—Autumn Assessment Week begins

27/11/2023—Year 4 Swimming

1/12/2023 - Deadline for Lake District Payment 2

5/12/2023 - KS2 Boccia Competition

8/12/2023—Rev. Rachael to visit Year 3

11/12/2023—Keeping Safe Week

See 'Christmas at Parish' page for Christmas dates.

Christmas Jumper Day

We will be celebrating 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper day on Thursday 7th December. £1 donation available on school money.



Headteacher's Award WINNERS

Being Articulate Learners

NURSERY	Rosie Ellis
RECEPTION	Sarah Tomkowiak
YEAR 1	Akshara Pakeerathan
YEAR 2	Ayana Kumaragama
YEAR 3	Mason Davies
YEAR 4	Zac McCormick
YEAR 5	Angel Burrows
YEAR 6	Ella Hoyle

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

BOTTLE OF ALCOHOL 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 FROM TODAY!

Christmas Party Day

22ND 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 th 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 th December – 3:15 start
School Nativity	19th & 20th December 2023
School Christmas Party Day	Friday 22nd December 2023
Close for Christmas	Friday 22nd December 2023



Nativity 2023—A Midwife Crisis



The Nativity this year will take place on Tuesday 19th December at 9:30am and 1:30pm and on Wednesday 20th December at 1:30pm.

Tickets are on sale from today for £1 each and are allocated on a first come first served basis with an availability of 2 tickets per family.

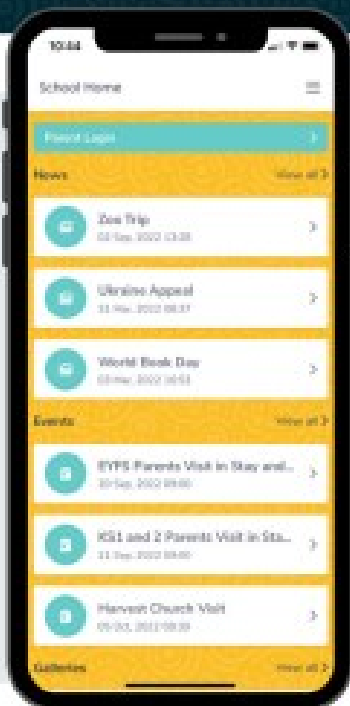
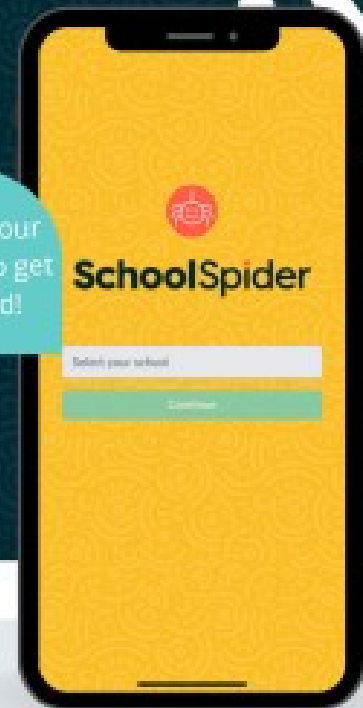
Please return the letter received on Thursday to school with payment to secure your tickets.

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



Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious; providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

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 Insider*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

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.



Advent 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 'Advent Attendance Challenge.'

Come to school everyday and on time from Friday 1st December to Friday 22nd December and have the chance to win a fantastic prize of a Christmas Hamper

What do you need to do?

Come to school, on time, everyday for the whole of Advent, Friday 1st December to Friday 22nd December.

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 22nd December



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 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 C of E Primary School
Charles Street St Helens WA10 1LW
Telephone/Fax: 01744 678430
email: parish.sthelens@ldst.org.uk
Head Teacher: Mrs J Young



Tuesday 28th November

Kindness Calendar

Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter the festive period of advent, it is important to spread 'Faith, Hope and Love' across the Parish school community. December is the perfect time to ensure that everyone at Parish is "Learning and Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love" and celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world during Advent.

Attached is our annual 'Kindness Calendar' with a variety of different daily kindness activity that your child can choose to complete. The calendar explains what the activity is and why it has been chosen with all of the tasks free to complete. Once completed, please share your acts of compassion on Twitter (@parishschool) using #parishcompassion, or bring completed activities into school for display.

Across the month, certificates will be sent home to celebrate those children who complete a range of kindness activities during that week. I cannot wait to see the range of activities that children can complete alongside the kindness and compassion that is spread throughout the Parish School Community.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or email at support.parish@ldst.org.uk





Yours sincerely,

Mr M Hardy
Partnership Deputy Headteacher



Our Kindness Calendar for Advent:

"Learning and Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love."

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Hope  <input type="checkbox"/>				1 With an adult, call/video call a friend or a relative to have a chat. Make them smile and give someone hope in this festive period.	2 Safely with an adult, find a source of light (such as a torch). Together say/write a prayer for "Who needs light in their darkness?"	3 With an adult, research your class 'Gift of Gold' charity. Produce a poster all about how they give people hope.	4 Make a small donation to our foodbank collection in school for Teardrops. Give real hope to someone this Christmas.
Peace  <input type="checkbox"/>	5 Design a Christmas decoration that symbolises 'peace' and add this to your Christmas tree.	6 Have a day without using any digital devices. Have a peaceful day talking to your family.	7 Listen to a piece of your favourite music. Stop, reflect and think about how this makes you feel.	8 Do something to help look after our beautiful planet Earth— recycling is a great example.	9 This half term's Christian value is 'Faith through Peace.' Write an acrostic poem, saying what 'peace' means to you.	10 Research Christmas traditions in different countries — having an interest in the lives of others brings peace.	11 Write things that bring you peace within a 'dove' and hang it in your window at home as a Christian symbol of peace.
Joy  <input type="checkbox"/>	12 Our greatest gift can be to say thank you. What would you like to say thank you for? Write or explain this to a member of your family.	13 Write a joke at home that you could bring into school and share with your class.	14 Leave a positive message for someone in school or at home to find. Spread some joy this Christmas!	15 Gospel means 'good news.' Share some good news in your life with your class.	16 Make a Christmas card for someone you care about to bring them some joy. Give them the card.	17 With an adult, go on a winter walk into God's world and appreciate the joy this brings. Take a photo of this.	18 Listen and sing Christmas Songs - spread festive joy! ☺
Love  <input type="checkbox"/>	19 Pray for someone less fortunate than you this Christmas and show them your love.	20 Our School vision is 'Learning and Growing Together in Faith, Hope and LOVE.' Design a poster to share our school vision.	21 Draw a heart and write the names of all the people who give you love in your life at this festive time.	22 As we finish school for the Christmas holidays, watch a Christmas film with someone you love.	23 With an adult, bake something festive. Spend time with the people you love.	24 Be kind to yourself — do something that you love on Christmas Eve.	25 Merry Christmas!

How many acts on our Kindness Calendar can you complete over the period of Advent? Remember to share them on Twitter (@parishschool1) or bring them into school!

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 LASCSttransitions@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