



# 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 13 Friday 15th December 2023

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

## A message from Mrs Young ....

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a festive week we have had this week!

The children have been busy enjoying learning more about Christmas and we have also been enjoying the lovely decorations and lights strewn across school. We decided as a school in worship last week that Christmas may not be a happy time for everyone so to take action and spread some faith, hope and love, every child has written a Christmas card and these are being posted to our neighbours around our community by the Vision Ambassadors very soon.

Our EYFS and KS1 children will be treating us to the 2023 Nativity performance next week - I cannot wait!!

Huge thank you to the kitchen staff for serving a lovely Christmas Dinner on Wednesday this week - the children thoroughly enjoyed it and even the sprouts seemed to go down well .... well with some children (and adults!) anyway!

We also have our Christmas Party day to look forward to next week and as always, children are invited to come in dressed in their party clothes (sensible shoes though please).

In addition to the Christmas Festivities, I have also had the chance to go into every class across school and watch English lessons this week. Our new English Scheme, 'Ready, Steady, Write', is being enjoyed by all children and the progress they are making as future authors and poets is phenomenal.

Have a wonderful weekend this weekend - maybe like me you will be doing lots of last-minute Christmas shopping and card writing!

Best Wishes

Mrs Young



# School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance	
Whole School	92.2
Reception	93.3
Year 1	92.2
Year 2	92.5
Year 3	98.2
Year 4	91.2
Year 5	87.1
Year 6	92.1



**165 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: 92.2**

**Our attendance for the year so far is: 95.9**

## Diary Dates

09/01/2024—Bikeability

18/01/2024 — Merseyside Police visit

**More to come..**

Do you have a child who is struggling with anxiety which may be causing them to miss school or social events? Newton Children's Centre is running the Fear-Less programme from January to help you support your child.

For more information, please see Mrs D Morris in school.

## **Bikeability**

The catch up date for Year 5 Bikeability is Tuesday 9th January. Your child will have been told if they are cycling on this day, and they can wear PE kit.

## Headteacher's Award WINNERS

### **Being Articulate Learners**

NURSERY	Luna Snee
RECEPTION	Curtis Chapman
YEAR 1	Payton-Mei Hartmann
YEAR 2	Jaiden McCormick
YEAR 3	Thea Brennan
YEAR 4	Kevin Vo
YEAR 5	Laila Darlington
YEAR 6	Lacey Burrows

## 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

## 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.

SOLD OUT!

## 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!

# Thank You!

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE THAT CAME TO OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR AND THE AMAZING PARENTS THAT SPARED THEIR TIME TO HELP OUT.

ALSO A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MRS GRAHAM FOR ORGANISING THE FAYRE AND HELPING US TO RAISE AN AMAZING .....

# £1074.05





# Christmas

AT ST HELENS PARISH CHURCH

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER, 4PM  
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH COWLEY  
COLLEGE CHOIR

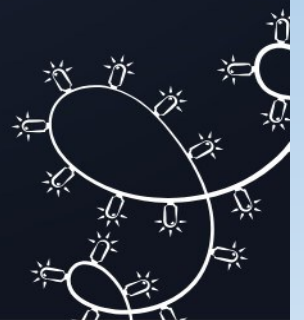
SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 4PM  
ST HELENS FAMILY CAROLS.

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 11PM  
MIDNIGHT CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 10.30AM CHRISTMAS  
DAY CELEBRATION WITH COMMUNION.



Church  
—  
St Helens





# 12 Social Media Online Safety Tips

## FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

- 1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS**

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.
- 2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW**

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.
- 3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE**

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.
- 4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS**

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.
- 5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION**

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.
- 6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME**

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.
- 7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES**

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.
- 8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.
- 9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE**

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.
- 10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD**

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.
- 11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA**

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.
- 12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY**

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.



## 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](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).





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email: [parish.sthelens@ldst.org.uk](mailto:parish.sthelens@ldst.org.uk)  
Head Teacher: Mrs J Young



Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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"/>				<b>1</b> 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.	<b>2</b> 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?"	<b>3</b> With an adult, research your class 'Gift of Gold' charity. Produce a poster all about how they give people hope.	<b>4</b> Make a small donation to our foodbank collection in school for Teardrops. Give real hope to someone this Christmas.
Peace  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5</b> Design a Christmas decoration that symbolises 'peace' and add this to your Christmas tree.	<b>6</b> Have a day without using any digital devices. Have a peaceful day talking to your family.	<b>7</b> Listen to a piece of your favourite music. Stop, reflect and think about how this makes you feel.	<b>8</b> Do something to help look after our beautiful planet Earth— recycling is a great example.	<b>9</b> This half term's Christian value is 'Faith through Peace.' Write an acrostic poem, saying what 'peace' means to you.	<b>10</b> Research Christmas traditions in different countries — having an interest in the lives of others brings peace.	<b>11</b> 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"/>	<b>12</b> 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.	<b>13</b> Write a joke at home that you could bring into school and share with your class.	<b>14</b> Leave a positive message for someone in school or at home to find. Spread some joy this Christmas!	<b>15</b> Gospel means 'good news.' Share some good news in your life with your class.	<b>16</b> Make a Christmas card for someone you care about to bring them some joy. Give them the card.	<b>17</b> With an adult, go on a winter walk into God's world and appreciate the joy this brings. Take a photo of this.	<b>18</b> Listen and sing Christmas Songs - spread festive joy! ☺
Love  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>19</b> Pray for someone less fortunate than you this Christmas and show them your love.	<b>20</b> Our School vision is 'Learning and Growing Together in Faith, Hope and LOVE.' Design a poster to share our school vision.	<b>21</b> Draw a heart and write the names of all the people who give you love in your life at this festive time.	<b>22</b> As we finish school for the Christmas holidays, watch a Christmas film with someone you love.	<b>23</b> With an adult, bake something festive. Spend time with the people you love.	<b>24</b> Be kind to yourself — do something that you love on Christmas Eve.	<b>25</b> 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 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>