Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father. – *Matthew 5:16*

St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School Newsletter

EYFS PYJAMA PARTY
Well done to all our Reception and Nursery children for hosting a wonderful Pyjama Party and taking part with such enthusiasm. We are delighted to hear that everyone had an enjoyable day. Thank you for your kind donations, which will be given to children's charities.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT
This week I would like to focus on the local area- when walking around the local area are there any areas which you think are unsafe? Such as roads, alleys, behind shops. If these areas make you think or cause you any concern, share these with your children. Additionally, if you feel you would like to share with school please do- it allows us to build a bigger picture of our surrounding areas.

Y5 FAMILY WORSHIP
Thank you to all Y5 families who joined us for Y5 Family Worship this Wednesday morning. It was lovely to see you there. The children were incredibly confident with their speaking. The Mama Mia song certainly stuck in people's heads!

RECEPTION FAMILY LEARNING
Thank you to all Reception families who joined us for a Family Learning session this Wednesday 15th October at 2pm. The children loved to see you there and we hope you found it useful.

Y3 FAMILY LEARNING
Year 3 Family Learning has changed date from tomorrow 16th October to NEXT THURSDAY (23rd October). It is still at 2.15pm and will be taking place in the hall. Apologies for any inconvenience caused by this.

AUTUMN DISCO
Our Autumn disco takes place next Tuesday 21st October. Reception and KS1 children must bring their disco clothes into school in a named plastic back so they can get changed straight after school finishes. They will be provided with a snack and a drink at the disco. Reception and KS1 timings are 3:15pm-4:15pm, KS2 disco is 4:20pm-5:20pm.

Y2 HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE
On Wednesday 22nd October at 9:30 am Y2 will be sharing our Harvest service in St. Thomas' church. All families welcome.

RECEPTION 2026 OPEN DAYS
If you know of any children staring reception next September 2026 then please let them know about our 2 open days happening on Wednesday 22nd October at 4pm and Tuesday 4th November at 9:30am. Please let the office know if you would like to book on.

RECEPTION, YEAR 1 and YEAR 2 DROP OFF
Please remember the new entrance for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is now the 'nursery' entrance door. This change is being made to allow parents who need to visit the school office to do so without families passing through that area. **School staff** will be present at the nursery entrance to welcome children. **Adults dropping children off** must not enter through the nursery door and should use the main entrance if they need to access the school building. **Toast** will still be available and now offered at the new entrance door. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a smooth and safe start to the school day. There are no changes to the end of the day door.

Believe in ourselves, each other and God; Achieve in all we do; Shine every day!

Compassion, Joy, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Hope, Perseverance

Barton Close, WA10 2HS **Tel** 01744 734320 **Email** stmarythomas@three-saints.org.uk

Web www.sm-st.co.uk

POPPY APPEAL
We are still selling poppies and poppy merchandise each afternoon in class afternoon in aid of the Royal British Legion. If your child wishes to purchase something and make a donation then please send them into school with a small amount of money.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS
Please remember that all Y6 children will need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2026. This needs to be done online via the sthelens.gov website as below. **The deadline for application is 31st October**
Applying for secondary school for September 2026 - St Helens Borough Council

PARKING
Parents and Carers who drive to carefully read and follow the signage around the school, including access instructions and the yellow road markings. Please note: The road directly in front of the school is restricted to pedestrian and cycle access only during the following times: 8:00–9:30am and 2:00–4:00pm, Monday to Friday. This means that no vehicles are permitted to drive along this road during these hours. Your cooperation helps ensure the **safety** of our children and the smooth running of the school day.

NURSERY
We've recently discovered that some parents and families may not be aware of the opportunities and support available through our school nursery for children aged 3 and above. We want to ensure that every family has access to this information and feels confident in exploring what our nursery has to offer. If you or someone you know would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

RECEPTION 2026
All of our current nursery cohort go up to reception next September 2026. The application to apply for their place is now open and the closing date for you to submit your child's application is 15 January 2026. Please click the link above next Monday and follow the steps to apply for their primary school place.
You will be notified on 16 April 2026 confirming your child's school place.
Please note, your child is sadly not guaranteed a place in our school reception despite attending our nursery. This is a council and admissions decision not the schools. If we could, we would undoubtedly have all of our nursery children continue their St Mary and St Thomas journey and attend our reception class.
Please do apply as soon as you are able and definitely before the 15th January 2026
https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/2868/Applying-for-primary-school-for-September-2026

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FAMILY OF FAITH

Our **Christian value** focus this half term is…

Perseverance

Galatians 6:9:
"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

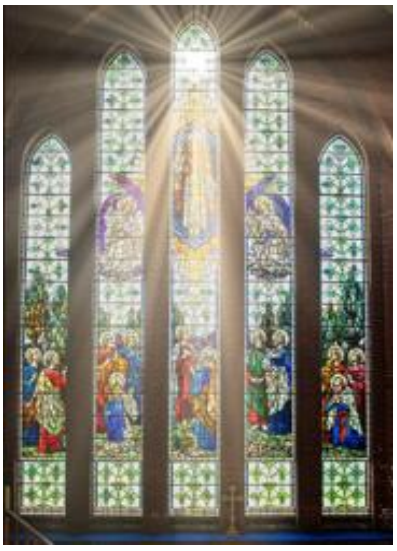
A reflection from… Miss Heaton

This term in Year 1, we have been talking a lot about **perseverance** — trying our best and not giving up, even when something feels hard. It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence and determination, whether it's learning to read new words, tackling tricky maths problems, or working together to build something amazing.

In our class, we remind ourselves that perseverance means keeping on going, even when the path isn't easy. We talk about how mistakes are part of learning and how proud we feel when we finally achieve something we've worked hard for.

The Bible reminds us of this too in **Galatians 6:9**:
"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
This verse encourages us to keep trying and trust that our efforts will bear fruit.

I'm so proud of the way our Year 1 children show perseverance every day — in their learning, their friendships, and their kindness to one another. My hope is that they carry this spirit with them in everything they do, knowing that with faith, patience, and determination, they can achieve wonderful things.



St Thomas Church
Peter Street, St Helens, WA10 2EB
01744 732463 / stthomaseccleston@gmail.com

Sunday Services
Parish Mass: 9.30am – 10.30am
Evening prayer: 4.30pm

"Seeking to love God and neighbour in the community of which we are part."

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BEHAVIOUR MATTERS!

Ready, Respectful, Resilient

Mr Pow's Golden Book

Each week, staff write the names of children who have gone above and beyond in Mr Pow's Golden Book. It is so exciting when the names and reasons are read out in our celebration assembly!

It may be that a child has been ready to learn every moment of every day. Maybe they have been incredibly respectful to a visitor or a friend. Or maybe they have been resilient in a way that has *wowed* the staff!

Class Dojos

Children can receive Dojo points for being ready, respectful and resilient throughout the school day. They receive 5 Dojos if they read five times, which they should do every single week.

Each child has their own Dojo character and milestones are celebrated with certificates and prizes each time they meet one.

We celebrate milestones such as 100, 200 and 300 dojos in assembly too!

Headteachers Award Winners

Nursery – Sofie for growing in confidence at nursery!

R – Aurora for being a kind friend

Y1 – Leo for being an amazing scientist!

Y2 – Josie-Rae for super effort in handwriting

Y3 – Asel for fantastic Maths work!

Y4 – Nicola for excellent participation and concentration in maths

Y5 – Jacob G for outstanding concentration and effort

Y6 – Nicoleta for her enthusiasm in writing lessons

Lunchtime Award Winners

Rec – Eli

Y1 – Charlie

Y2 – Mia

Y3 – Lillie-Mae

Y4 – Charlie

Y5 – Maddi

Y6 - Jonathon

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts!

Our school day starts at 8.45am; that's when the doors open!

Children should arrive at school on time, so they don't miss any learning! Regularly missing lessons can have a negative impact on wellbeing and on your academic achievement too.

Being on time is such an important skill and sets you up for a life of success and positive wellbeing!

Children should be in school EVERY DAY… unless you're poorly. Every day counts!

Every minute in school is a learning minute. The research tells us that children who are in school every day achieve more, and their wellbeing is better too!

Please let school know if you'll be absent before 9.15am or we'll have to contact you to check in.

Whole school attendance this year to date…

95.7%

Whole school attendance last week…

95.3%

Class attendance winners last week…

Nursery with 99.3%

Class Attendance Last Week

YN – 99.3%
YR – 88%
Y1 – 95.1%
Y2 – 98.2%
Y3 – 95.3%
Y4 – 95.7%
Y5 – 95.3%
Y6 – 93%

Is it okay if I haven't cried?

How do I go back to school?

When will I stop feeling like this?

Why do I feel like this?

WINSTON'S WISH now

When grief feels too heavy, you can get FREE, instant grief support via text or WhatsApp (13+), phone, email, or live chat. Open on weekdays, excluding bank holidays. Please visit our website to find current opening hours.

07418 341 800

ask@winstonswish.org

08088 020 021

winstonswish.org

Winston's Wish is here for young people (aged 25 and under) when someone dies.

WINSTON'S WISH

Giving hope to grieving children

Registered Charity Number 1061359 (England and Wales), SC041140 (Scotland).

Online relationship support for parents

Parents in this area can now access THREE ONLINE COURSES from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.

Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.

Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.

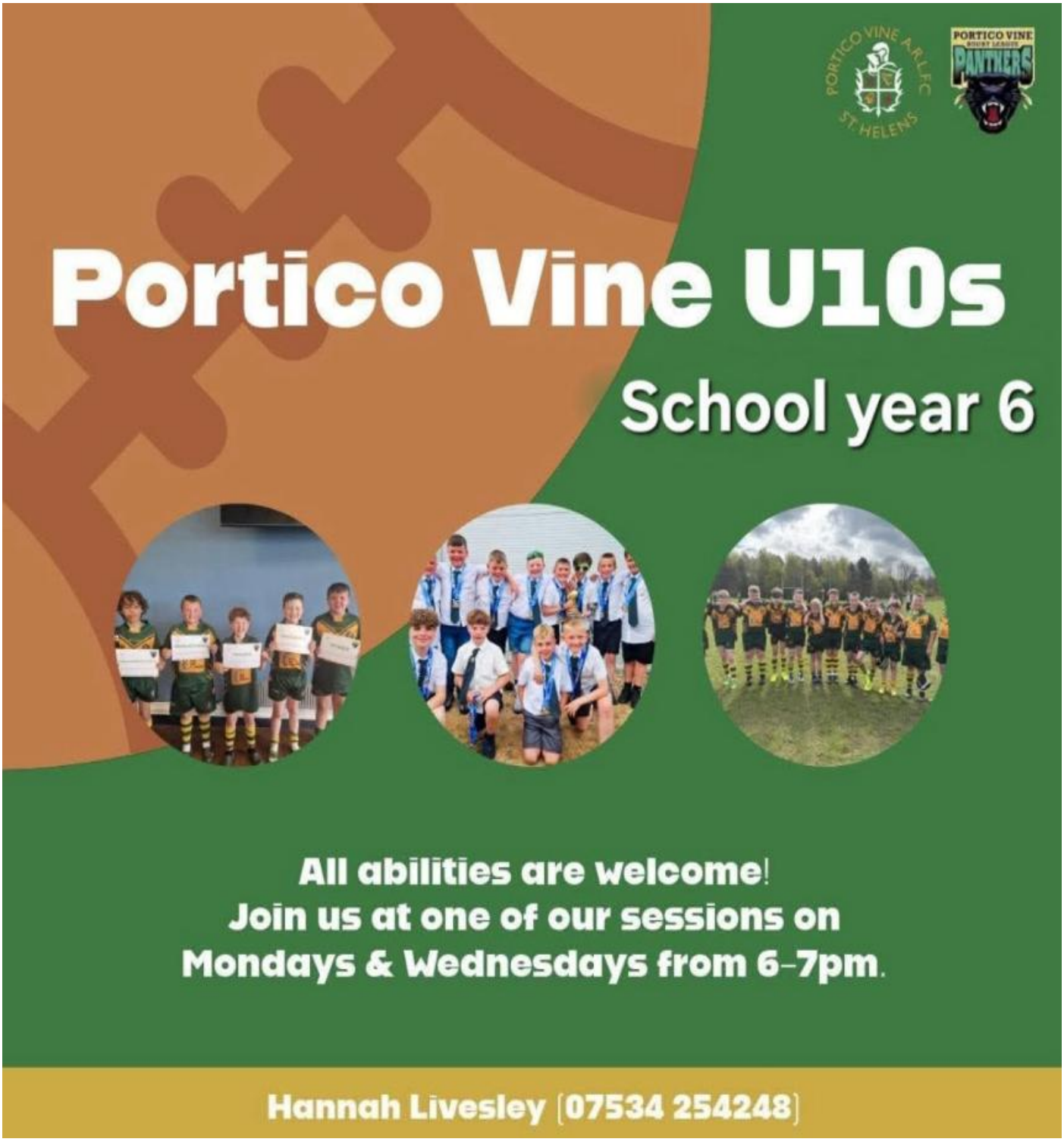
Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and a good internet connection. They are all FREE to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password.

You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents



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BLACKBROOK MUNCHKINS

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR RECEPTION AGE CHILDREN TO BE PART OF OUR TAG RUGBY TEAM READY FOR THE NEW SEASON

LEARN TO PLAY TAG RUGBY, HAVE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS KEEP YOUR CHILD ACTIVE

TRAINING WEDNESDAYS 17:30-18:30

CONTACT DAVE: 07496834822

MEET OUR NEW MASCOT

RUCKLEY

WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE CHEEKY LANERS

RUGBY TOTS

Every Wednesday

5:30 - 6:15

Ages 2-5 👦

Free of charge - All welcome!

Based at LSH Rugby Union Club

If you want more information please contact the club's Facebook page Liverpool St Helens Rugby Club - Minis and Jun

PLAYERS WANTED

WEST PARK R.FC. U8s

COME JOIN THE FUN

WEST FARK RFC

We're looking for new players to join our amazing U8s rugby squad.

If you've got energy, a big smile, and love running around in the mud — you'll fit right in

- ✓ Make friends
- Learn new skills
- Play as a team
- Respect
- Exercise
- Character building
- Enjoyment

TRAINING:
WEDNESDAYS.
7:00 – 8:00 PM

LOCATION:
WEST PARK RFC

GET IN TOUCH TO JOIN THE TEAM!

Phil Thompson: 07931793829

WEST PARK RFC – WHERE LITTLE LEGENDS ARE MADE!

Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins

NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Come along to one of our drop in sessions in St Helens.

Our team will answer questions you have about the neurodevelopment pathway process.

You don't need to be using our service, you can drop in if you have any questions to ask about this.

We look forward to meeting you.

Second Tuesday of the month at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon

(with the exception of October, see alternative dates below)

Fourth Tuesday of the month at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm

(with the exception of Oct/Nov/Dec, see alternative dates below)

12 August at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

26 August at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

9 September at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

23 September at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

7 October at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

21 October at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

18 November at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

25 November at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

9 December at Parr Children's Centre, 9am to 12 noon.

16 December at Central Link Family Hub, 1pm to 4pm.

Sutton Family Hub, Ellamsbridge Road, Sutton, St Helens, WA9 3PY

Central Link Family Hub, Westfield Street, (off Peter Street), St Helens, WA10 1QF

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2025/2026

Name of School: St Mary & St Thomas Church of England Primary School

The following dates were determined by the Governing Body at their meeting held on 27th November 2024.

*These should be the same as the dates in the standardised school year pattern unless you intend to take an in-service training day at the start or end of a term.

Term	Open on:	Close on:
Autumn Term	Wednesday 3rd September 2025	Friday 24th October 2025
	Monday 3rd November 2025	Friday 19th December 2025
Spring Term	Monday 5th January 2026	Friday 13th February 2026
	Monday 23rd February 2026	Friday 27th March 2026
Summer Term	Monday 13th April 2026	Thursday 21st May 2026
	Monday 1st June 2026	Friday 17th July 2026

Easter Bank Holidays:

Good Friday: 3 April 2026

Easter Monday: 6 April 2026

Bank Holidays during term time:

May Day: Monday 4 May 2026

CPD Days:

1st September 2025

2nd September 2025

21st November 2025

22nd May 2026

20th July 2026

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