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

As we come to the end of our first half term of the school year, we can look back with pride on a busy and successful few weeks! School will finish today, Friday 24th October, at the normal time, and we will return after the break on Monday 3rd November, also at the usual time. We wish all our pupils, families, and staff a very happy and restful half term – enjoy the break, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for more exciting learning ahead!

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT
As we approach 31st October, we want to acknowledge that while St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School does not celebrate or promote Mischief Night or Halloween, we recognise that some families may choose to take part in seasonal activities.

In light of recent reports from Merseyside Police about harmful substances being disguised as sweets, we urge all parents and carers to remain vigilant. If your child is visiting doors or attending events on this date, please accompany them and carefully check any treats they receive.

For more detailed guidance and updates from Merseyside Police, please refer to the additional pages of this newsletter. Thank you for helping us keep our children safe and supported in all areas of life.

Y2 HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE
A huge well done to our Y2 class for conducting a wonderful Harvest Festival Service at Church this Wednesday. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and thank you to all families who came along to support!

RECEPTION FAMILY LEARNING
Thank you to all families who came along to our Reception family learning this Wednesday morning. We hope you enjoyed seeing how your child learns in the school environment.

Y3 FAMILY LEARNING
Thank you to all families who attended out Y3 Family Learning. We hope you find this session useful and are able to use some of the strategies learned back at home.

AUTUMN DISCO
We hope all children who came along enjoyed our Autumn disco! Thank you so much to all staff who supported and helped make this happen.

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

HEADLICE AND WORMS
We have had a few cases of headlice reported to us recently. Please regularly check your child's hair and treat if required. We have also had a report of worms- please encourage hand hygiene particularly under finger nails. Thank you for your support.
NHS guidance on headlice https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/
NHS guidance on worms https://www.nhs.uk/symptoms/worms-in-humans/

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

Web www.sm-st.co.uk

NEW KS1 ENTRANCE – IMPORTANT NOTICE

We've received some concerns this week from KS2 parents who are having to step onto the road to avoid the crowd gathered at the new KS1 entrance. To help keep everyone safe, we kindly ask that all Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 parents avoid congregating on the path outside the school. Instead, please form a queue around the side of the building towards the main reception. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and smooth start to the school day.

BOOK FAIR

We're excited to announce that our School Book Fair will be arriving on Monday, 3rd November. The fair will be open for parents and carers to visit after school from **Tuesday 4th November through to Friday 7th November**, giving everyone the chance to browse and purchase a wonderful range of books. This is always a fantastic opportunity for our children to discover new authors, develop their love of reading, and share in the joy of books with their families. A big thank you goes to our support staff team for helping to run the fair each day.

Y5 BIKABILITY

Our Y5 children have the opportunity to participate in Bikability sessions on the week back after half term as long as consent forms have already been completed. Bikes and helmets are provided and you will be informed of your child's day

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 **DEADLINE NEXT WEEK**

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. THIS IS NEXT FRIDAY!**

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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Web www.sm-st.co.uk

FAMILY OF FAITH

A reflection from… Mr Pow

As I look back on my first eight weeks at St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School, I feel deeply grateful for the warmth and generosity with which I've been welcomed. From the very first day, the staff team has shown not only professionalism and dedication, but also a genuine spirit of care and collaboration. It's been a joy to begin building relationships with our children and their families.

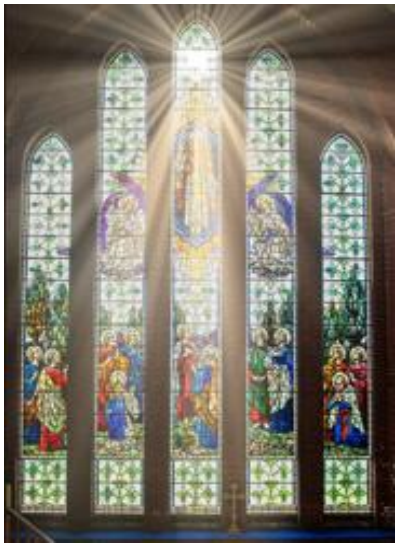
We've also been blessed by the presence and support of our wider community. Visits from local clergy and church members have reminded us of the deep roots our school has in faith and fellowship. A particular highlight was welcoming Bishop Ruth, whose encouragement and prayers were a powerful affirmation of our shared mission.

Thank you to everyone who has made these early weeks so rich in hope, kindness, and purpose. I look forward to all that lies ahead as we continue to grow, learn, and flourish together.

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

Perseverance

This half term our Christian Value has been perseverance where we have listened to many bible stories and teachings. Next half term we focus on: Joy.



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."

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 – James for fantastic homework completion

R – Maisie-Grace for excellent reading and writing jobs

Y1 – Isabella for being a ray of sunshine ever day!

Y2 – All of Year 2 for a super harvest service

Y3 – Isabelle for showing excellent effort in being ready and respectful

Y4 – Braxton for excellent effort in all his lessons

Y5 – Piper Houghton for fascination writing

Y6 – Veysel for excellent effort in Maths

Lunchtime Award Winners

Rec – Miracle

Y1 – Arthur

Y2 – Freya

Y3 – Toby

Y4 – Nicola

Y5 – George

Y6 - Matilda

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…

95.3%

Whole school attendance last week…

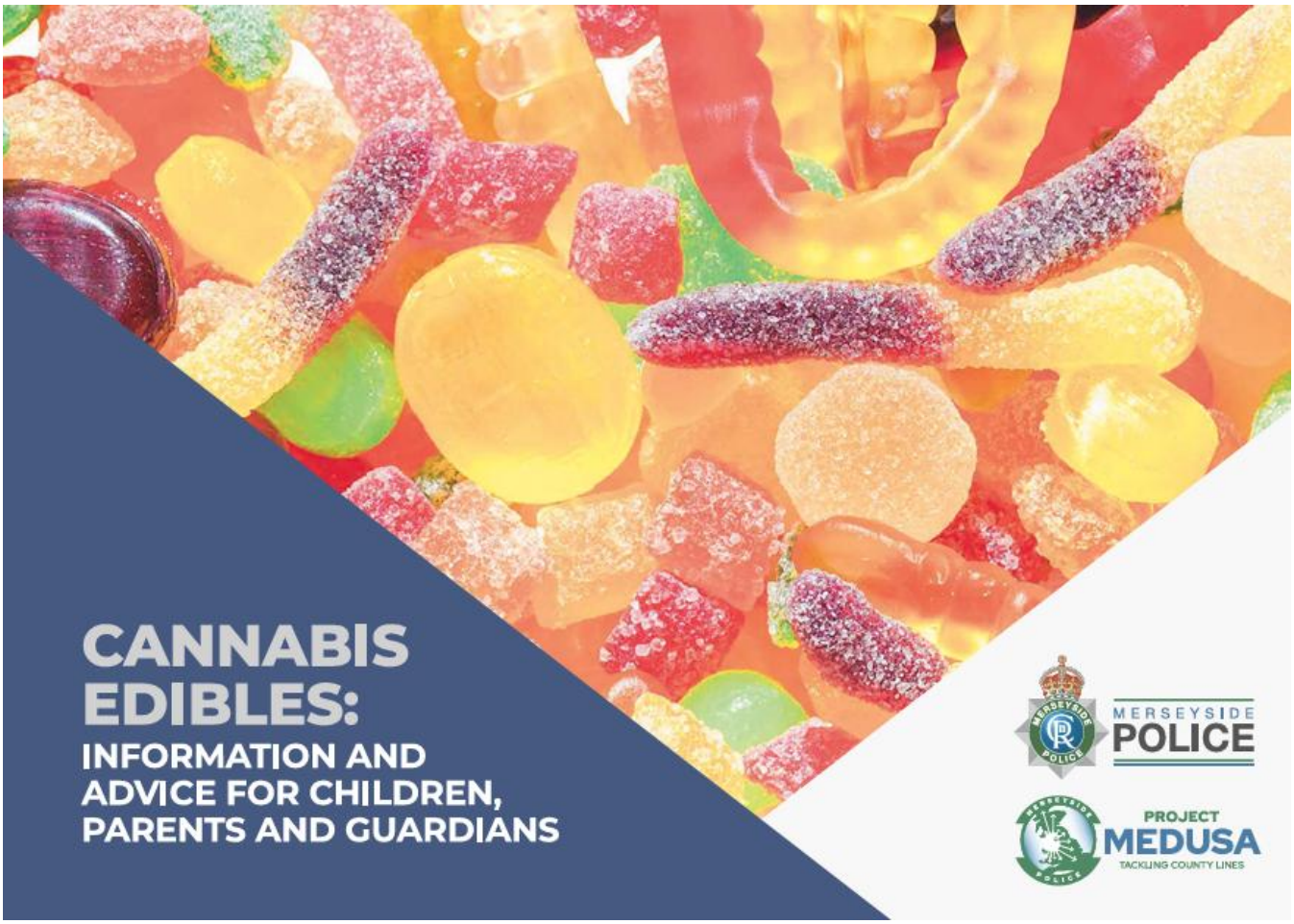
94.3%

Class attendance winners last week…

Y4 with 97.1%

Class Attendance Last Week

YN – 92.7%
YR – 89.7%
Y1 – 92.9%
Y2 – 94.1%
Y3 – 96.7%
Y4 – 97.1%
Y5 – 95.9%
Y6 – 94.3%



CANNABIS EDIBLES:

INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR CHILDREN, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

MERSEYSIDE POLICE

PROJECT MEDUSA
TACKLING COUNTY LINES

WHAT ARE CANNABIS EDIBLES?

Laced with a mood altering ingredient from cannabis, cannabis edibles are an illegal and really strong 'sweet' aimed at young people/teenagers. They come in the form of sweets, chocolate and drinks. Although cannabis edibles contain an element of cannabis, they do not have the smell or appearance of cannabis. Instead, they look and smell like a shop bought item but are much stronger than other cannabis products.

PURCHASE AND SUPPLY

Due to being illegal in the UK, cannabis edibles are generally purchased through networks such as social media outlets including TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram. It is because of these modern communication methods for supply and purchase, young people are able to access cannabis edibles at the touch of a button.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY CANNABIS EDIBLES?

Cannabis edibles can be difficult to identify. Sometimes the packaging differs slightly from shop bought items. Differences are in the form of appearance, spelling or poor quality packaging. Below are examples of shop bought items and how they compare to cannabis edibles.

Shop bought items		Purchased cannabis edibles
	Change of name Removal of additional logos Different font for text	
	Change of name Removal of additional text Amended logo	
	Change of logo Removal of additional text Change of colour scheme	
	Small change to title Decreased package quality Details removed	
	Change in colour scheme Change of package type Poor quality packaging	

THE EFFECTS OF CANNABIS EDIBLES

Cannabis edibles are much stronger than other cannabis products. Unlike smoked cannabis, swallowed cannabis is much easier to be consumed but takes longer to take effect. Young people are likely to eat too many due to the delayed effect. Eating one sweet is equivalent to smoking one cannabis joint.

Comparison point	Cannabis edibles	Cannabis joint
THC Strength	10-15mg per sweet	12mg
Time of impact	30-60 minutes	10-15 seconds
Length of impact	Up to three hours	1-2 hours

Short term effects

- Paranoia
- Anxiety
- Hallucinations
- Dry mouth
- Nausea
- Disorientation, confusion
- Dry, red eyes
- Changes in visual perception
- Increased appetite and thirst
- Changes in perception of time

Long term effects

- Changes in perception of time
- Loss of short-term memory
- Poor educational outcome
- Dependency
- Lack of motivation
- Poor sleep
- Longer term increased anxiety
- Increased risk of developing mental health illness
- Problems with thinking and understanding

My child has taken cannabis edibles.
WHAT DO I DO?

Stay calm and try not to panic.
Assess the situation and gather the facts.

What information would be good to know?

It may not always be possible but there are pieces of information which would be beneficial to know if medical professionals are required. This information includes:

1. Details of the child (age, name, medical history etc.)
2. What actually happened? Did the child digest cannabis edibles or is it believed to have happened?
3. What type of edible were they?
4. Retain any packaging
5. When were the edibles consumed?
6. Has your child consumed any other substances/alcohol?

Is the child conscious and responsive but not themselves?

If the chid is conscious and responsive but not themselves as a result of cannabis edibles, gather the facts and **telephone 111 for advice and additional information.**

Is the child coherent, conscious and responsive?

If the child is stable, speak to your child at an appropriate time.

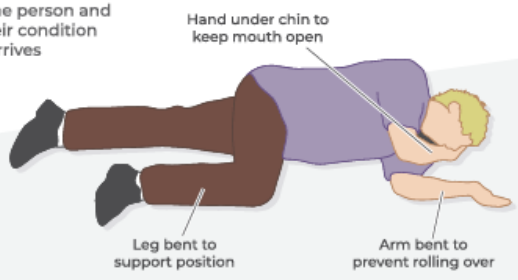
⚠ **If the family pet accidentally eats cannabis edibles seek veterinary treatment.**

⚠ **Is speech slurred?**
Is the pulse rate elevated?
Are they disorientated, unresponsive or unconscious?

Call 999 without delay.

If a person is unconscious but breathing and has no other life-threatening conditions, they should be placed in the recovery position following the 9 steps below:

1. With the person lying on their back, kneel on the floor at their side.
2. Extend the arm nearest you at a right angle to their body with their palm facing up.
3. Take their other arm and fold it so the back of their hand rests on the cheek closest to you, and hold it in place.
4. Use your free hand to bend the person's knee farthest from you to a right angle.
5. Carefully roll the person onto their side by pulling on the bent knee.
6. Ensure the bent arm is supporting the head.
7. Open their airway by gently tilting their head back and lifting their chin.
8. Check that nothing is blocking their airway.
9. Stay with the person and monitor their condition until help arrives



For further information or support regarding drugs and alcohol, please contact your local service:

For young people living in...

St Helens
Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAAT)
01744 675605
ypdaat@sthelens.gov.uk

Liverpool
River Young People Support Service
0151 706 9747
liverpool.info@cgl.org.uk

Wirral
Response
0151 666 4123
response@wirral.gov.uk

Sefton
Rise Up | Change Grow Live
0151 203 9755 (Option 1 for South and Option 2 for North)
sefton.service@cgl.org.uk

Knowsley
Engage | Change Grow Live
0151 482 6291
knowsley@cgl.org.uk

For adults living in...

St Helens
St Helens Integrated Recovery Service | Change Grow Live
01744 410752
Sthelens.info@cgl.org.uk

Liverpool
River Drug and Alcohol Support Service
0151 706 7888
Liverpool.info@cgl.org.uk

Wirral
Wirral Ways | Change Grow Live
0151 556 1335
wirral.services@cgl.org.uk

Sefton
Change Grow Live
0151 318 2804
seftonyp.info@cgl.org.uk

Knowsley
Knowsley Integrated Recovery Service | Change Grow Live
0151 482 6291
knowsely@cgl.org.uk

If you think that someone is supplying cannabis edibles in your local area please contact **Merseyside Police on 101 or visit www.merseyside.police.uk**

If you prefer to remain anonymous contact **CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111**

MERSEYSIDE POLICE

PROJECT MEDUSA
TACKLING COUNTY LINES

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Web www.sm-st.co.uk

ST HELENS LIBRARY SERVICE

What's On In October at St Helens Library

Under Fives Crafts

Wednesday 7th October
10.15am
Whatever Next

Come along and join in with our under-fives craft session. Listen to our story and join in with some crafts.

Read and Rhyme

Wednesdays 10.15am
Thursdays 10.15am

Come along and join us for a story and singing.

World Space Week Crafts
Monday 6th October 4-5pm

Come along to our craft session, design your own alien and go on a space themed treasure hunt.

Harry Potter Day Crafts

Thursday 9th October
3.30-4.30pm

Come along to our Harry Potter crafts session.

Green Libraries Week
Monday 27th 10.30-11.30am
Make a Bird Feeder
Come along and make a bird feeder to take home.

Tuesday 28th 10.30-12.30am
Seed Swap and Brew Time
Come along to our Green Libraries week session. Swap your seeds/cuttings along with any green fingered tips and enjoy a hot drink and a biscuit.

Spooky Crafts and Fun
Friday 31st October
10am-12pm
2pm-4pm

Come along to our spooky session. Join in with crafts and Halloween fun and games. Dress as your favourite spooky character from a book.

CHAMPS
Children and Men's Play Session
Saturday 25th October
10.30am
SPACE THEMED

A session for children and their male carers to join in with activities including Lego and K'nex.

@STHLibraries

@sthlibrariesandarts

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

ST HELENS LIBRARY SERVICE

What's on November at St Helens Library

Under fives crafts Tuesday 4th November 10.15am **Brave Little Firework** Come along and join in with our under-fives craft session. Listen to our story and join in with some crafts 	**Read and Rhyme** Wednesday's 10.15 Thursday's 10.15 Come along and join us for a story and singing.	**Road Safety week** **Crafts and Bingo** Tuesday 18th November 3.30-4.30 Come along and join in with some Road Safety fun. Join in with a game of Bingo and make some crafts to take home
Saturday Story and Songs Saturday 1st November at 10.30 Come along to our Saturday session, Listen to a favourite story and join in with songs and Rhymes. 	**Bonfire night crafts** Tuesday 4th November 3.30-4.40 Come along and join in with some bonfire night crafts and colouring 	**CHAMPS** **Children and Men's Play Session** Saturday 8th November 10.30 Storytime Anti bullying week **Elephant me** A session for children and their male carers to join in with activities. Listen to a story and join with a craft or Lego and K'nex

Local History

Monday 3rd November at 10am-12

Stop by our Family History Helpdesk for guidance on starting your research and accessing free resources from St Helens library service and Archive Service

No need to book, just come along

@STHLibraries
@sthlibrariesandarts

ST HELENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

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.

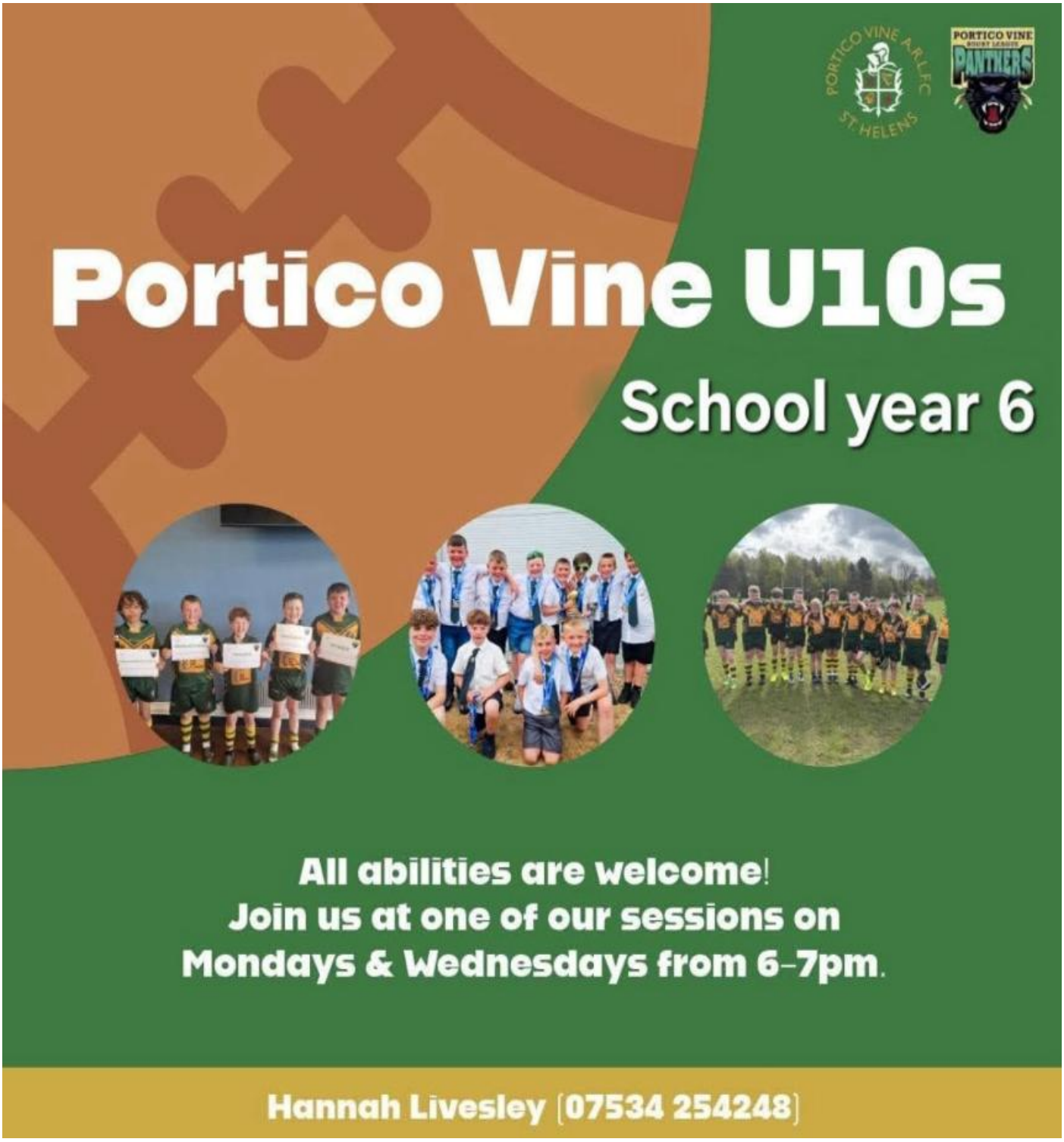
Getting it right for children

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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Web www.sm-st.co.uk

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

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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