

The Keys Newsletter

19th September 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

A huge well done to our brilliant Year 6 football team who represented our school in the St Helens Schools Football Tournament. The team finished in a commendable fifth place and impressively, did not lose a single game throughout the competition!

Unfortunately, there has been a recent incident of vandalism on our school field. Brandon's Den, a cherished space for many of our pupils in the past, was burnt down, and the fire also spread to the container storing Newton FC's football equipment. In addition, our Eco Hub was broken into, causing significant damage and disruption to our environmental learning space.

This is clearly the same people, as it is the first time anyone can recollect this type of thing happening. If you saw anything suspicious last Friday and this Tuesday or have any information, please contact the school or the police. There is an ongoing investigation, and any help would be greatly appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Paul Robinson
Headteacher

Awards week beginning 15th September 2025



STAR OF THE WEEK

Thomas – Reception
Anna – Year 1
Ellie – Year 2
Alan – Year 3
Kenzie – Year 4
Riley – Year 5
Peter – Year 6



GROWTH MINDSET

Olivia – Reception
Sonnen – Year 1
Luke – Year 2
Ruari – Year 3
Dominic – Year 4
Teddy – Year 5
Jacob – Year 6



This week's Courage certificate is for Culture:

Elvie – Year 1
Lois – Year 2
Julia – Year 3
Dexter – Year 4
Hugo – Year 5
Sam – Year 6



VALUES

Sophia M – Respect - Year 1
Camille – Respect – Year 2
Millie – Trust– Year 3
Kenzie – Faith – Year 4
Rebekah – Respect– Year 5

ÉTOILE DE LA SEMAINE



Forgotten Items

We are having more and more items handed in at the office because they have been forgotten in the morning.

We have water bottles, coats, lunches and PE kits to name but a few. Every time this happens, the staff in the office must leave their own work, enter a classroom, stop and disturb a lesson, and then take a child away from their schoolwork to receive and put the item in the correct place.

Could we please ensure children come to school fully prepared.

Alternative End of School Day Arrangements

We are receiving several emails and telephone calls each day to advise of a change to the usual plans for pick up time after school.

Although we appreciate there are times when there is an emergency, and plans can change at the very last minute, please could we ask all updates are communicated to the school office, either by telephone 01744 678630 or emailed to stpeter@sthelens.org.uk before midday. This means we can pass the messages into class whilst the children are at lunch and not disturb their class time.

Important Information:

Applying for FSM/Pupil Premium Funding

We need to be sure that the school receives all of the funding to which it is entitled, so that we can provide the best possible support for our children. If you or your partner are in receipt of any of the benefits below, you may be able to register for Free School Meals. This would then enable school to claim Pupil Premium, which could raise an extra £1515. This could be used to fund valuable support such as extra tuition, additional support staff or contributions towards trips. Pupil premium funding can also be claimed for pupils whose parents are in the forces, in the care of the local authority or adopted.

If you do receive one of these benefits, it is important that you register for Free School Meals, even if your child is in Reception, Y1 and Y2 and receives Universal Infant Free School Meals.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (but not Working Tax Credit) and your annual gross income (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) is not more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

If you think you may be entitled, please complete the forms which were sent home in the children's bags last week, and return it to school as soon as possible so that we can check on your behalf.

Alternatively you can apply online:

<https://parentportal.sthelens.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home>

Please contact the school office if you have any further questions.

Thank you for your support.

World Mental Health Day

We are coming together in yellow on World Mental Health day (10th October) to raise awareness of our mental health and show children and young people they're not alone with their mental health.

Right now, the world can be a tough place for children and young people to grow up in – and they are feeling the pressure. We want young people to know that they don't have to go through this alone.

#HelloYellow

**I'm wearing
yellow**

**To school for young
people's mental health**

Catering Events this Half Term!

We're excited to let you know that on Thursday 2nd October we will be the first catering event of the school year with a fun "Out of This World" theme!

On Thursday 16th October, it will be "World Food Day", with another exciting menu available.

There will also still be the usual sandwich/wrap choice available. Each menu will be available to all year groups.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| EVENT | DATE |
|---|--|
| EYFS Workshop | Monday 22 nd September – 3.30pm |
| Year 4 Port Sunlight Visit | Tuesday 30 th September |
| Photograph Day | Thursday 2 nd October |
| Out of this World - Catering Event | Thursday 2 nd October |
| Scholastic Book Fair Arrives | Thursday 2 nd October |
| Year 6 Open Day at Byrchall High School | Tuesday 7 th October |
| World Mental Health Day – Wear Something Yellow | Friday 10 th October |
| EYFS Phonics Workshop | Thursday 16 th October – 3.30pm |
| World Food Day – Catering Event | Thursday 16 th October |
| School Closes for Half Term | Thursday 23 rd October |

Please note, all dates and times are subject to change.





THE RAINBOW TEAM



The Rainbow Team

Safeguarding Nurture Wellbeing Behaviour

When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between me and all living beings on Earth.

Genesis 9:16



Mrs Colley: RainbowTeam Lead

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Mrs Colley: | Senior Mental Health Lead Behaviour Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead |
| Mrs Vinyard: | SENCO |
| Mrs Harrison: | EYFS / KS1 Deputy Safeguarding Lead |
| Mrs Davidson: | Pastoral / Nurture |

Our Early Help approach

**If you feel your child could benefit from some pastoral support,
do not hesitate to contact us.**

Our Senior Mental Health Lead ensures that all our pupils who require pastoral care for issues such as bereavement, friendship issues, home issues and anxiety, receive time each week with our pastoral staff who offer over 8 hours of individual and small group sessions.

If you feel that your child could benefit from this offer, please contact Mrs Colley.

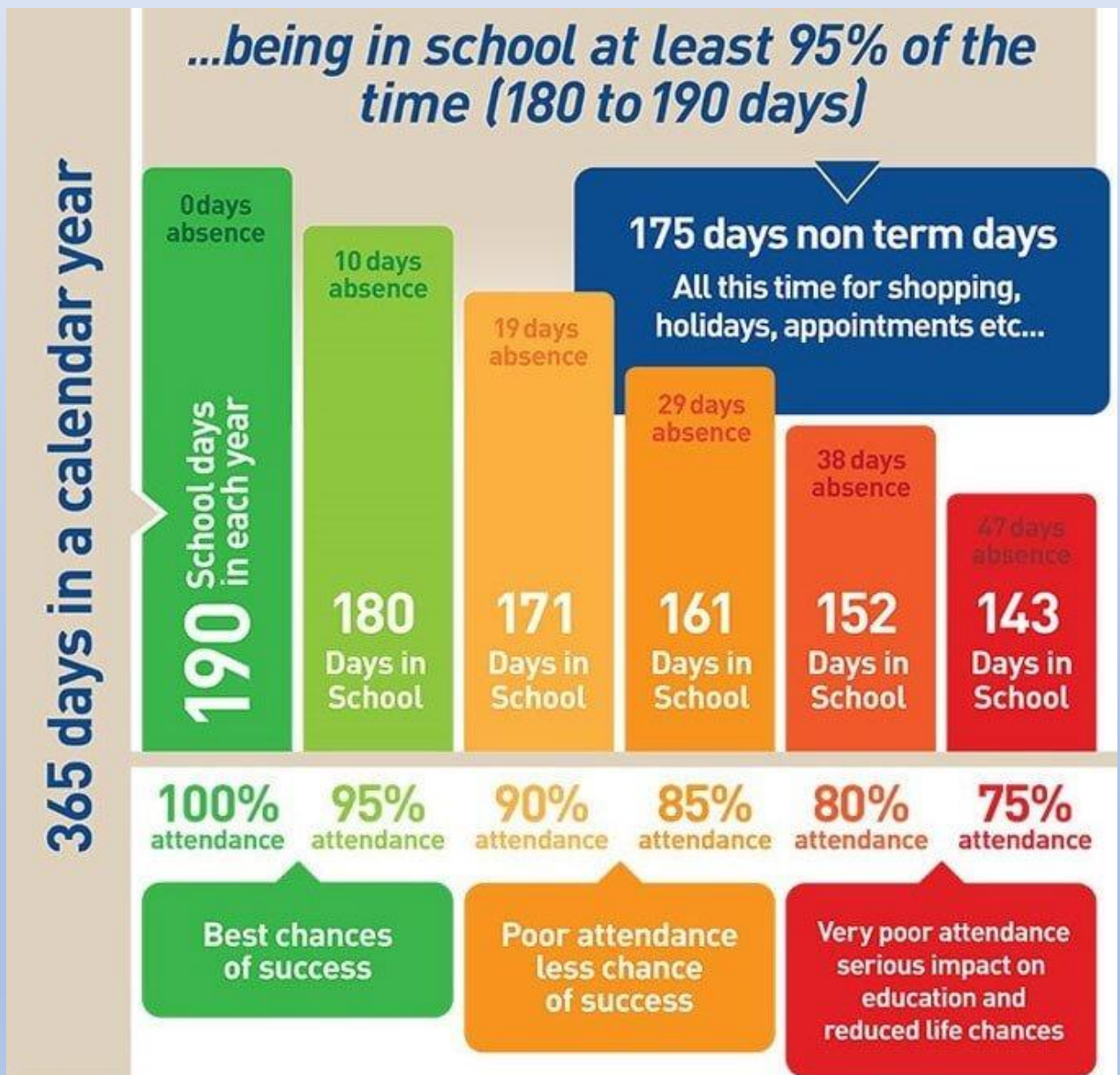
The team has regular meeting to discuss and measure the progress of pupils who fall into specific categories, including attendance, wellbeing issues, SEN, behavioural issues and safeguarding.



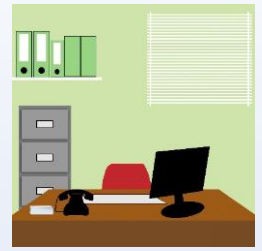
Attendance

Whole School Target: 98%

Current Attendance: 97.9%



OFFICE NEWS



UNIFORM

Uniform can be ordered direct from Touchline UK Liverpool Rd, Warrington, WA5 1AE, 01925 413777

sales@touchline-embroidery.com

We also have a small number of items on the School Money site under SHOP which you can pay for then contact school to arrange for them to be sent home with your child.

ABSENCE

When reporting on the absence line, can we politely request that you leave a brief description of your child's illness rather than just saying they are unwell. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea please note that they should not return to school for a period of 48 hours after the last incident. This is a local authority policy

Applications for Holiday Leave must be submitted to school at **least 4 weeks** in advance. Forms can be found on the school website or requested from the school office. In accordance with Government and Local Authority policy, holidays taken during term time will only be authorised in **exceptional circumstances**.

CHANGES

It is very important that if you change contact numbers, emails or addresses that you advise us as soon as possible. Any changes must be sent into school via email.

Thank you

Contact Details

St Peter's C.E. Primary School
Birley Street
Newton-le-Willows
WA12 9UR
01744 678630
stpeter@sthelens.org.uk
<https://twitter.com/NLWStPeters>
www.st-peters.st-helens.sch.uk



Neurodevelopment pathway drop ins

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.

Tuesdays at Parr Children's Centre and Central Link Family Hub

See details and times below

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 September 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.

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

We work with children and young people with complex neurodevelopmental difficulties, who need an assessment to gain a better understanding of their needs.

Parr Children's Centre, Ashtons Green Drive, St Helens, WA9 2AP

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

If you need more information you can contact us on 01744 415 608 or email: mcn-tr.sthelensneuropathway@nhs.net



SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tedious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.



3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.



4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss: 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.



6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'.

7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.



8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.



9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.



10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.



Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sources of Information and Support

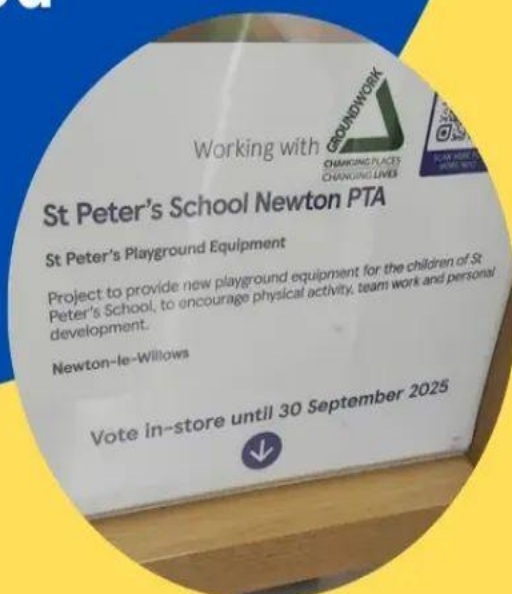
Your GP
Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/v>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>
<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/a-simple-guide-to-active-listening-for-parents/>
<https://www.themix.org.uk/mental-health>

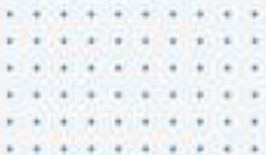
Tesco Blue Tokens!

We will be in 4 different stores from July - September. We are guaranteed £500 and possibly up to £1500 if we get the most tokens! The money raised will be spent on new playground equipment.

Use your tokens to vote for us in
**Earlestown, Haydock, Haydock Express
and Garswood**

Thank you!





The PTA are
on



Social Media

Several small, light blue squares of varying sizes are scattered around the word 'Media'.

Facebook: St-Peters Pta

Instagram: stpeters_pta_nlw



Please send us a request to keep up
to date with news/events/reminders!