



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Charles Street, St. Helens, WA10 1LN

06/12/2024

Advent Prayers: Week One

Hope



iBelieve.com

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas.

Amen.

GET READY IT'S
**COMPETITION
TIME!**

Design a Christmas Jumper

COMPETITION TIME!

Join in on
our Christmas
Competition

STARTS 1ST
DECEMBER AND
ENDS THE 18TH
DECEMBER.
WINNER WILL BE
ANNOUNCED ON
THE 20TH
DECEMBER



We Care, We Share, We Value.

Years 2 to 6 enjoyed a morning at the Panto! We are extremely proud of their excellent behaviour—well done children!

Let's go to the Panto!



December Kindness 2024



SUNDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

15 Say hello to
your neighbour
and brighten
up their day

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

MONDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

16 **Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to**

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

TUESDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

**17 Give thanks.
List the kind
things others
have done
for you**

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2025

WEDNESDAY

4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

25
**Treat everyone
with kindness
today, including
yourself!**

THURSDAY

5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

12 Be generous.
Feed someone
with food, love or
kindness today

19 **Contact**
someone who
may be alone or
feeling isolated

26 Get outside.
Pick up litter or
do something
kind for nature

FRIDAY

6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

27 Call a relative
who is far away
to say hello and
have a chat

SATURDAY

7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

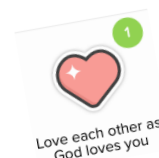
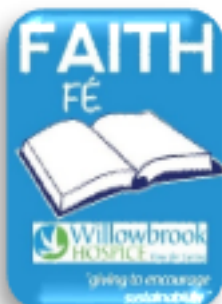
28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

House Teams Weekly Points



9,013

9,349

9,222

8,906

Leader Board Totals

Charity

Hope

Faith

Peace

768

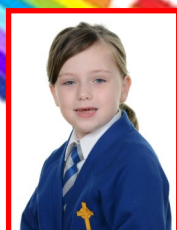
843

759

810



STARS OF THE WEEK



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Attendance

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Our whole school attendance this week is

93.9%

The Government set target is 97%.

Well done to

Year 2

for having the best attendance this week with

98%

Attendance this week

Nursery	88%
Reception	91%
Year 1	90%
Year 2	98%
Year 3	92%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	96%

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...

Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...

or They Would Have Missed Approximately...

5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

Happy Birthday!

On this special day,
we celebrate how blessed the world
became when God gave us you.



©WishesMsg.com

Lola Clough
Ian Matthews

We Care, We Share, We Value.

Swimming—Wednesday's

Y6 need their swimming kit in school every Wednesday—the coach leaves at 9.00am

Lunch Clubs

Rosary Club—Monday 12.30-1.00
 Minnie Vinnies—Tuesday 12.30-1.00
 Rota Kids—Thursday 12.30-1.00
 Young Carers—Friday 12.30-1.00

School clubs

KS2 Dodgeball—Monday 3.30-4.15pm
 Y1-Y6 Mindfulness—Tuesday 3.30-4.00pm
 Choir Y3-Y6—Wednesday 3.30-4.00pm
 Multi-Skills Y1—Wednesday 8.00-8.40am
 KS2 Books on film—Wednesday 3.30-4.00pm

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2024/2025

Term	School opens on:	School closes on:
Autumn term 2023	3rd September	25th October
	4th November	20th December
Spring term 2024	6th January	14th February
	24th February	4th April
Summer term 2024	22nd April	23rd May
	2nd June	16th July
Inset days	2nd September 17th & 18th July 21st & 22nd July <u>Bank Holidays</u> 18th April 21st April 5th May	

Year
Group

Homework

N	Library book read to them (each night) Talking task – phase one phonics (weekly) Practical maths (weekly)
R	Reading (each night) Reading & spelling tricky words practice (weekly) Number (weekly)
KS1	Reading (each night) Times Tables (each night) Reading & spelling tricky words practice (weekly) Maths (weekly) English comprehension (weekly)
KS2	Reading (each night) Times Tables (each night) Reading & spelling tricky words practice (weekly) Maths (weekly) English comprehension (weekly)

CYPMHS Crisis Response service as they have had some updates.

This service is for Children & Young People who are in need of immediate assistance for their **mental health or behaviour.**

<https://www.mersecare.nhs.uk/our-services/warrington/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-service-crisis-response->



Fostering St Helens
making dreams come true

i'm Zac and i need a foster carer.

Do you have the skills to foster?
 01744 671199 sthelens.gov.uk/fostering



ASDA Cashpot for schools

If you shop at ASDA, please consider selecting us as your chosen school as this will help our school cashpot to grow.

you scan,
we DONATE
££s TO
SCHOOLS.



Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools

[Cashpot for Schools Terms & Conditions](#)

[Asda Rewards terms & Conditions](#)

1

Download and sign up to the Asda Rewards app

Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select a specific primary school or select 'Schools in Need'.

2

Shop in store across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com

Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to your chosen school each time you shop and scan.

3

Asda does the rest

The money raised will be donated through Parentkind to schools to spend on what they need most. This won't affect your own Cashpot earn.

Once opted in and selected a school, we will add £1 to your chosen schools Cashpot to help get them started.

Each school will get an additional £50 added to their Cashpot, after at least one customer has shopped and scanned their Rewards app.



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play



See Miss Davies for more information on main meals for the family for £4 per week.

Wesley Methodist Church
Vincent Street, St Helens WA10 1LF

For **a small weekly fee** local residents can join up as members and access a whole range of benefits.

Entrance to
a weekly shop
at the Pantry

Meet new
people or
volunteer

Free welcome
gifts

Pay by cash or
standing order

There are no
qualifying
rules for
joining and
we also give
out tea/
coffee and
toast while
you wait.

A limited number of
memberships available

Opening times:

Tuesday



www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk



@Hopesthelens



@Hopesthelens

You can also call us on 01744 264 14

MUSIC SERVICE ENSEMBLES AT ST HELENS TOWN HALL

2024-25 FREE!



ST HELENS
COUNCIL
MUSIC
SERVICE

ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

INSPIRING MUSICAL CREATIVITY

FOR EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON WE WORK WITH



@sthelensmusic



@sthelensmusicservice

TUESDAY...

ROCK & POP BAND

4.30PM - 5.50PM

WEDNESDAY

WIDER
OPPORTUNITIES BAND

4PM - 5PM

WEDNESDAY

INTERMEDIATE
WIND BAND

4PM - 5PM

WEDNESDAY

INTERMEDIATE
STRINGS

4PM - 5PM

WEDNESDAY

MUSIC THEORY CLUB

4PM - 5PM

WEDNESDAY

YOUTH WIND
ORCHESTRA

5.15PM - 6.30PM

WEDNESDAY

SINFONIA

5.15PM - 6.30PM

WEDNESDAY

MUSIC THEORY CLUB

5.15PM - 6.30PM

01744
677946

music@sthelens.gov.uk

SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW TO JOIN AND
REGISTER TODAY

