



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Charles Street, St. Helens, WA10 1LN

14/03/2025



We are supporting CAFOD Big Lent Walks to help end food poverty.

On Thursday **20th March** the children may wear **red, orange, green** or **blue** clothing to school (Jubilee colours).

We are asking for a small money donation on this day.



CAFOD
Just one world



We Care, We Share, We Value.

Lent prayer intentions

Use our Lent prayer intentions, and colour in each leaf, as a family everyday from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

ASH WEDNESDAY

1. Pray for people who are hungry.

2. Pray for people who are sick.

3. Pray for lonely people.

4. Thank God for the gift of creation.

5. Pray for people without a safe home.

6. Pray for refugees.

7. Pray for your friends.

8. Pray for your family.

9. Pray for your Church community.

10. Thank God for something that brings you joy.

11. Pray for the government.

12. Pray the 'Glory Be...' today.

13. Pray for your neighbours.

14. Pray for someone you love.

15. Pray for people in places where there is conflict or war.

16. Pray for creation to be cared for.

17. Pray for people in your class at school or your workplace.

18. Pray for a more just and fair world.

19. Pray for people suffering because of climate change.

20. Pray for people without access to safe, clean water.

21. Thank God for your family and friends.

22. Ask a saint to pray for you today.

23. Pray the 'Our Father' today.

24. Pray for people who don't have a job.

25. Pray for your teachers or mentors.

26. Pray for mothers and the people who care for us.

27. Pray for people who are treated badly because of their beliefs.

28. Pray for world leaders.

29. Tell God something you are sorry for.

30. Pray for children who can't go to school.

31. Pray that God will help you make good choices.

32. Pray for people who are poor.

33. Pray for someone who has hurt or upset you.

34. Pray for people in prison.

35. Pray for the Pope.

36. Pray for the elderly.

37. Pray for people affected by flooding.

38. Pray for someone you find difficult.

39. Thank God for your food today.

40. Pray for peace in the world.

41. Pray for Christian unity.

42. Pray for people affected by droughts.

43. Ask Mary to pray for you and say the 'Hail Mary...'.

44. Pray for an end to racism and prejudice.

45. Pray for people who are grieving or sad.

46. Pray that you will be close to Jesus today.

47. Pray for patience and hope.

48. Thank God for the new life that Jesus brings.

GOOD FRIDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

HOLY SATURDAY

EASTER SUNDAY



Virtues to Live by: Forgiveness

Forgiveness

To give someone another chance after they have done something wrong so they can make a new start. When we forgive we let go of our feelings of resentment, anger and revenge. When we forgive we show our love for the person rather than focusing on the wrong. When we forgive someone we show that our relationship with them is more important than the wrong they have done. We also need to forgive ourselves so that we do not give up when we have done wrong or made a mistake, but have the courage to act differently and have faith that, with God's help, we can change.

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13)



Our Virtue to Live by:

Forgiveness

I accept God's forgiveness.

I show my love for God by forgiving others and myself.

I let go of my hurt feelings and give myself a new start.

I give others a new start.

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13)



Virtues to Live by

I forgive

when

I accept God's forgiveness

I can forgive others.

I accept forgiveness from others

I can change after I have made a poor choice

I know that with God's love I can change.

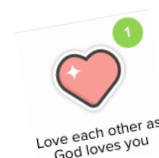
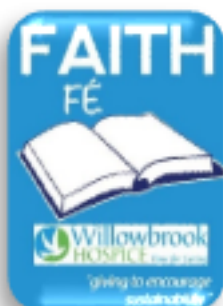
I have the courage to give myself and others a new start.

I understand that saying sorry is one way of making amends.

Today in assembly, year 4 explained forgiveness using readings, posters, role play and a song. They explained how we can forgive and how we can also accept being forgiven. They did a short role play on the importance of saying sorry and explained that even when we do something wrong we are all still worthy of forgiveness.



Wednesday Winners



19,184

19,322

19,418

19,011

Leader Board Totals

Charity

Hope

Faith

Peace

809

787

702

746

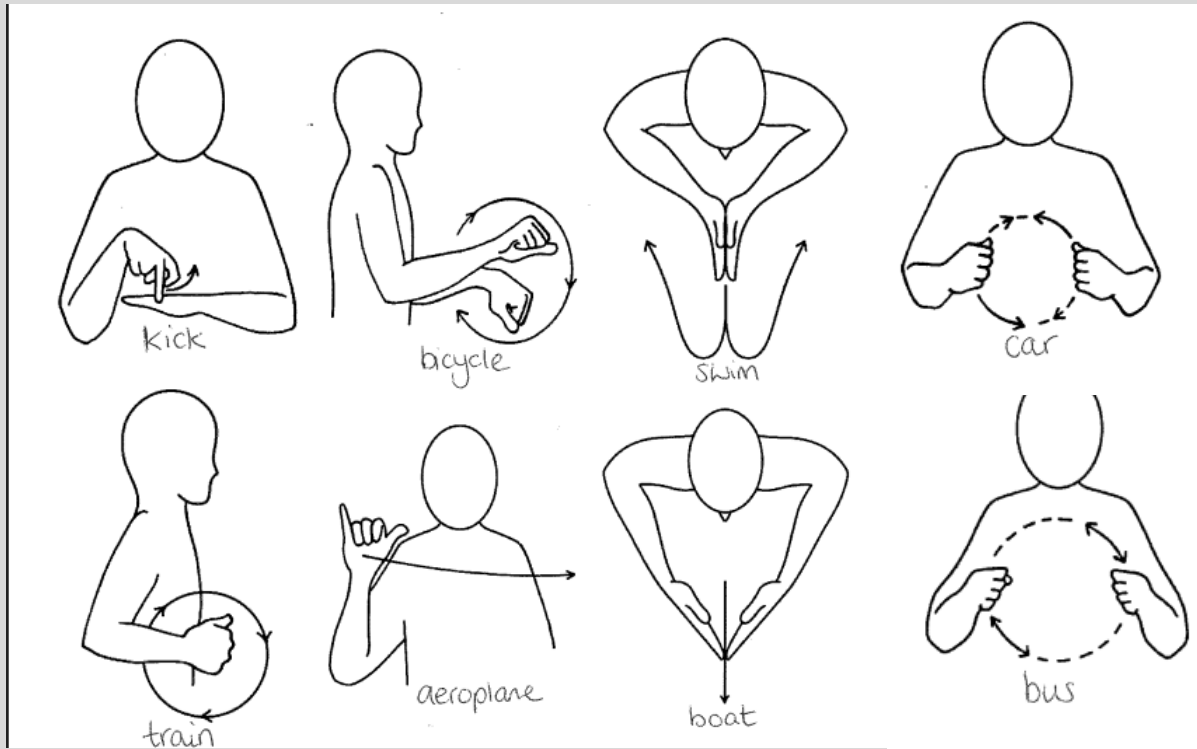


STARS OF THE WEEK



Sign with us!

Each week children develop their basic sign language skills so that as a school family we can all communicate with members of our school who use BSL and Makaton.



Language of the Month: Polski

We have 17 languages spoken amongst our school family. Each month we explore a different language from our diverse school community.

Counting 1 – 10 in Polish

- 1 - *jeden*
- 2 - *dwa*
- 3 - *trzy*
- 4 - *cztery*
- 5 - *pięć*
- 6 - *sześć*
- 7 - *siedem*
- 8 - *osiem*
- 9 - *dziewięć*
- 10 - *dziesięć*

Sample Polish Vocabulary

Months, Relationships

Stycznia	January	oyca	father
Lutego	February	matka	mother
Marca	March	syn	son
Kwietnia	April	córka	daughter
Maja	May	mąż	husband
Czerwca	June	żona	wife
Lipca	July	brat	brother
Sierpnia	August	siostra	sister
Wrzesnia	September	dziadek	grandfather
Pazdziernika	October	babka	grandmother
Listopada	November	rodice	parents
Grudnia	December	dzieci	children

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The
National
College®

Attendance

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Our whole school attendance this week is

93.3%

The Government set target is 97%.

Well done to

Year 5

for having the best attendance this week with

98%

Attendance this week

Nursery	93%
Reception	95%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	90%
Year 3	93%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	98%
Year 6	93%

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

Jacob Potter
Grayson O'Mahoney

We Care, We Share, We Value.

Swimming—Wednesday's

Y5 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.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/warrington/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-service-crisis-response->



SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

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.



MUSIC SERVICE ENSEMBLES AT ST HELENS TOWN HALL

2024 - 25 FREE!

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



INSPIRING MUSICAL CREATIVITY
FOR EVERY CHILD AND YOUNG PERSON WE WORK WITH



@sthelensmusic



@sthelensmusic

01744
677946

musicservice@sthelens.gov.uk

SCAN THE QR CODE
BELOW TO JOIN AND
REGISTER TODAY



See Miss Davies
for more infor-
mation on main
meals for the
family for £4 per
week.



• St Helens •

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



Opening times:
Tuesday

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



www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk



@Hopesthelens

@Hopesthelens

You can also call us on 01744 264 14