



FRIDAY NEWS

11TH
SEPTEMBER
2026

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception -
Class 3 - Teddy W
Class 4 - Joey G
Class 5 - Ella E
Class 6 - Jaxon T
Class 7 - Dominic H
Class 8 - Ayokunmi O
Class 9 - Blossom K
Class 10 - Bobbi-Ray B
Class 11 - Willow C



What a fantastic start to the new school year! It has been wonderful to see the children settling so happily into their new classes and getting stuck into their learning.

A huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions this week. It was lovely to see so many of you in school and to have the opportunity to share our plans for the year ahead. Your support and partnership mean so much to us.

Just a reminder that we have an open-door approach at St James. If you have a question, concern or something you would like to share, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

You can speak to staff at the school doors at the beginning or end of the day, contact the main office, or message your child's teacher through ClassDojo. If a longer conversation is needed, we will always arrange a convenient time to talk.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Evans, our new member of staff in the school office. Mrs Evans will be one of the friendly faces supporting our families and helping with the day-to-day running of the school. Please join us in giving her a very warm St James welcome!

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a brilliant year together!



VISION AWARD

Reception -
Class 3 - Asoomi F
Class 4 - Genesis M
Class 5 - Isabella P
Class 6 - Hibatullah S
Class 7 - Oluoma N
Class 8 - Scarlett L
Class 9 - Hammad I
Class 10 - Alexa W
Class 11 - Aqeelah H

THINGS COMING UP

Monday 14th September – Parent Leaflets to go home.

Friday 18th September - Rock Kids: Dress like a rock star day.

Monday 21st September - Non-uniform day for cake donations for Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Tuesday 22nd September - Lift Off session for Reception parents - 2:00 pm.

Friday 25th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning - 9 - 11 am.

Friday 25th September - EAL Parent Group - ESOL - 9:45 am

Tuesday 29th September - Reception Open Day (9-10 am, 2-3 pm, 4-5 pm).

Thursday 1st October - Nursery Stay & Play (10:15-11:15 am & 2:15-3:15 pm).

Tuesday 6th October - SEND Coffee Morning with Speech & Language and Aspire Behaviour Support - 9:00 - 9:30 am.

Tuesday 6th October - Cafe Church - 3:30 pm

Thursday 8th October - Little Saints Stay & Play - 10:15-11:15 am.

Monday 12th October - Donations for Harvest needed for Wednesday.

Wednesday 14th October - Harvest Assembly by Class 8.

Tuesday 20th October - School Photographs

Friday 23rd October - School finishes for a one-week half-term.



Attendance Ladder

Every day counts!

At St James Primary School we believe that good attendance helps every child dream, believe, learn and achieve.



Better attendance leads to...



More learning



Greater confidence



Stronger friendships



Brighter futures

**100%
ATTENDANCE**



Fantastic!

You are giving your child the best chance to reach their full potential.

0 days missed

Every day makes a difference!

**98-99%
ATTENDANCE**



Excellent attendance!

Your child is building good habits and staying on track with their learning.

1-4 days missed

That's less than a week of school.

**96-97%
ATTENDANCE**



Good attendance!

Your child is making steady progress, but there is still room for improvement.

5-10 days missed

That's 1-2 weeks of learning.

**95%
ATTENDANCE**



Attendance needs attention.

Your child may start to fall behind and find it harder to keep up.

11-18 days missed

That's 2-4 weeks of learning.

**90-94%
ATTENDANCE**



Persistent absence.

Your child will miss key learning and it can be harder to catch up.

19-36 days missed

That's 4-8 weeks of learning.

**Below 90%
ATTENDANCE**



Severe absence.

Your child will miss a lot of learning and it can have a big impact on their progress, confidence and friendships.

37+ days missed

That's 8+ weeks of learning.

**Small steps...
make a big difference!**

**Together we can
make a difference**



Gold Scroll

Jaiden T x 2

Lucas W

Isabella P

Jason L

Moeed I

Fatima B

Zaid ZA

Sybil N

Khadeejah H

Yusuf A

Zara U

Rohaam N

Anna E

Philip O

Peter O



St James CE Primary School

Dream • Believe • Learn • Achieve

A bright
start for
a brighter
tomorrow



Open Day

for Reception Class

We warmly invite prospective Reception parents and children to visit our school, meet our friendly staff, explore our learning environments and find out what makes St James so special.



Meet
our staff



Explore
our classrooms



See our
Reception
environment



Ask
questions



Scan to see our
Reception environment!



Join us on our Open Day:

Monday 29th September



9 – 10am



2 – 3pm



4 – 5pm



St James CE Primary School
Hillside Avenue, Farnworth.
BL4 9QB



01204572587

For more information
please contact our school office.

All are
welcome!



Happy
Confident
Curious
Kind



Dream • Believe • Learn • Achieve



Together
in faith, for a
brighter future.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters.

These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College