



FRIDAY NEWS

25TH
APRIL
2025

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

This upcoming Thursday (8th May), we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day in school. On this day, the children can dress up in either 1940s dress or in the colours of red, white or blue.

You should have received a note from your child's class teacher regarding food/drink donations to ensure their class picnics will be an exciting and memorable event.

CHANGES AT ST JAMES

As you will already be aware from a letter this week, there will be some significant changes at St James from September.

Mrs Belfield will be leaving St James at the end of the year to take up a new role as Associate Headteacher at Bolton Parish Primary School, a recent addition to the Archbishop Temple Trust family. Mrs Belfield has been a passionate and dedicated leader at St James for nearly 10 years, and she has played an instrumental role in the education and wellbeing of present and past pupils of the school.

From September, our current deputy headteacher, Mr Booth, will succeed Mrs Belfield as the Headteacher to continue St James' journey towards further academic success and wellbeing.

BANK HOLIDAY

Reminder that school will be closed on **Monday 5th May** for the May Day Bank Holiday. School will re-open on Tuesday 6th May at the usual time of 8:40am.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery - Jessvica J

Class 1 - Alan S

Class 2 - Humayl M

Class 3 - Rayyan M

Class 4 - Oscar H

Class 5 - Esmae G

Class 6 - Mustafa W

Class 7 - Laylend G

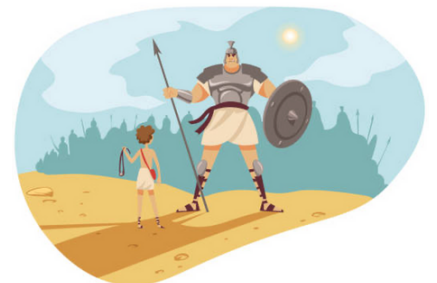
Class 8 - Zohan A

Class 9 - Charlie W

Class 10 - Terri L

Class 11 - Sandor S

Class 12 - Luiza P



VISION AWARD

Class 1 - Toby S

Class 2 - Eli G

Class 3 - Cole G

Class 4 - Advika B

Class 5 - Emmie T

Class 6 - Arianna D

Class 7 - Burhan K

Class 8 - Sheriff C

Class 9 - Lola C

Class 10 - Rabiya B

Class 11 - Poppy BM

Class 12 - Jack W

Gold Scroll

Souhaila L

Lilliana C

Ollie W

Mahir Q

Maggie R

Ruianny P

Joan I

Olly BM

Terri L

Rabiat B

Asmer MN

Anna D

Shahaine J

Things coming up Summer

W/C	Events
05.05.25	5 th – School Closed for Bank Holiday 6 th – School re-opens. 7 th – Class 5 Assembly @2:45pm  CLASS 5 PARENTS ARE WELCOME! 8 th – Children's class picnics to celebrate VE Day. 8 th – Reception Stay and Learn - 2:15-3:15pm
12.05.25	Year 6 SATs Week
19.05.25	22 nd – Little Saints Stay & Play – 10:30am & 2:30pm 22 nd – KS1 Sports Morning* 22 nd – LKS2 Sports Afternoon* 23 rd – UKS2 Sports Morning* 23 rd – Reception Sports Afternoon* 23 rd – School closes for half term *Sports Events are subject to weather conditions.

W/C	Events
02.06.25	KS1 and 2 Stay and Learn (Dates TBC) 2 nd – School re-opens 4 th – New to Reception Parents Meetings – 2:15pm & 5:00pm.
09.06.25	KS1 Phonics Screening Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check 12 th – Reception Stay and Learn 13 th – Nursery Stay and Play
16.06.25	18 th – Class 4 assembly @2:45pm 19 th – Year 6 Leavers' Service at Manchester Cathedral 20 th – Non-uniform for bottle tombola donations

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College