



FRIDAY NEWS

26TH JANUARY
2024

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



PUBLISHED WRITERS

Wow! Exciting News!

We are delighted to share that pupils from Classes 9 and 10 wrote mini sagas for a writing competition and a selection of these stories have been chosen for publication by Young Writers. The fantastic collection titled: "Crazy Creatures" will be published on 29th March. A huge well done to all the children and we are extremely proud of their achievements.

CHANGE OF DINNERS

Just a quick reminder that if wish your child(ren) to change from school dinners to packed lunches, please give the school office 1 week's notice. This is to allow enough time for the school kitchen staff to contact our food providers and order the correct amount of food. If school is not given enough time to make changes, you may still be charged for a school dinner. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Class 1 - Lilly-May H

Class 2 - Ariella K

Class 3 - Charlie H

Class 4 - Ibrahim S

Class 5 - David W

Class 6 - Andi S

Class 7 - Alicia L

Class 8 - Lola C

Class 9 - Jack W

Class 10 - Raya T

Class 11 - Zach C



GOLD SCROLL

Francis N, Henry W, Eva-Rose S,
Dua Ali, Burhan K, Jessica C,
Eesa W, Isla W, Miley M,
Rosie E, William H, Isaac W,
Gio I, Skylar G, Ranae L,
Elif O, Ruby Y, Faith A,
Linkon K, India-Rae B, Cole CH,
Toby SB, Myles C, Alycia Y,
Faith Y, Raimundo N, David M,
Shahaine J, Leila W,
Tallulah-Rose L, Viktor Y,
Zohan A, Ashaal A,
Atlanta C, Kasper S, Destiny B

CHRISTIAN VALUE

Our Christian value this half term is
Love.

BIBLE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We love because he first loved us.

John 4:19



ATTENDANCE

If you have been keeping an eye on our attendance, you may have noticed that our whole school percentage has taken a sudden dip but we need to make sure that all children are in school every day, on time.

Don't forget that we will hold our termly raffle for those with an attendance of 96% or better. A child from EY/KS1 and a child from KS2 will win £50 in Amazon vouchers.

There will also be a £50 Amazon voucher for the most improved attendance from the Autumn Term to the end of the Spring Term. So if your child's attendance wasn't high last term, if they are in school every day this term, they might have a chance of winning this prize. You've got to be in it to win it!

Our school target is 96% and we all need to work together to get as close to this target as possible. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance or getting to school, please come and speak to a member of staff.

REMINDERS

Monday 5th February - Children's Mental Health Week begins.

Tuesday 6th February - Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February - Class 9 Assembly @ 2:45 pm.

ATTENDANCE

OUR TARGET IS 96%

Whole School	90.8%
Class 1	90.6%
Class 2	81.2%
Class 3	87.8%
Class 4	92.3%
Class 5	91.5%
Class 6	93.8%
Class 7	95.5%
Class 8	91.0%
Class 9	93.0%
Class 10	86.9%
Class 11	91.0%

Green: 100% - 95%

Yellow: 94.9% - 90%

Red: Below 90%



@stjamesfarnworth

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLimsy AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posting under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College

NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday