



FRIDAY NEWS

25TH
APRIL
2025

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

On **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.

We will also be holding class parties in the afternoon. We will be asking for contributions of food and drink for this event. More information will be sent next week.

ROMAN DAY VISITOR

Due to circumstances out of our control, the original date of the Year 3 and 4 Roman Day has been postponed. This visit will go ahead on a different but we are in the process of confirming a new date. We will let parents know a new date as soon as our Roman visitor has confirmed this.

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 - Ivy R

Class 1 - Genesis M

Class 2 - Ralph D

Class 3 - Brayden F

Class 4 - Moeed I

Class 5 - Ruby Y

Class 6 - Tommy W

Class 7 - Hammad I

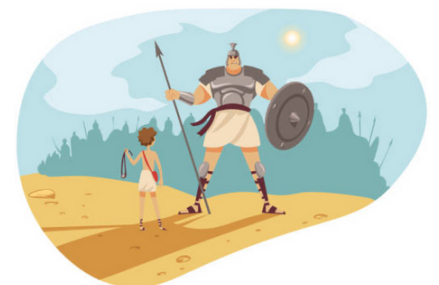
Class 8 - Blaine D

Class 9 - Lara R

Class 10 - Avniel AF

Class 11 - Farrell S

Class 12 - Lucy G



VISION AWARD

Class 1 - Jack W

Class 2 - Ella E

Class 3 - Tadiwa N

Class 4 - Noryan M

Class 5 - Theo S

Class 6 - Rosie E

Class 7 - Liliana C

Class 8 - Jessica C

Class 9 - Soby H

Class 10 - Asmer M

Class 11 - Sophia D

Class 12 - Norseen M

Gold Scroll

Levi B
Destiny H
Tommy W
Lucas W
Farrell S
Moeed I
Daniel O
Willow H
Rohaam N

Things coming up Summer

W/C	Events
21.04.25	22 nd - School re-opens
28.04.25	30 th - Reception Class Assembly @2:45pm
05.05.25	5 th - School Closed for Bank Holiday 6 th - School re-opens. 7 th - Class 5 Assembly @2:45pm 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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

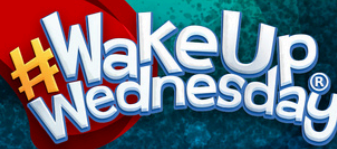
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



The National College