



FRIDAY NEWS

27TH
FEBRUARY
2026

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



GENERATION WILD

Today, Class 12 enjoyed an exciting and enriching visit to Martin Mere as part of the Generation Wild project. The day provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to step beyond the classroom and immerse themselves in the natural world.

The Generation Wild project is designed to reconnect children with nature, encouraging curiosity, confidence and a sense of responsibility for the environment.

Through hands-on activities and guided exploration, pupils were able to see, firsthand, how wetlands support biodiversity and why conservation is so important.

The children were thrilled by the variety of animals they encountered throughout the day, including swans, a range of ducks, geese and other wetland birds. The ever-popular otters, whose playful antics captured everyone's attention.

The experience of observing these animals in their natural habitats brought classroom learning to life. Pupils asked thoughtful questions, demonstrated excellent behaviour, and showed genuine excitement in discovering more about the world around them.

STARS OF THE WEEK

- Class 1 - Wrehn L
- Class 2 - Ayeza R
- Class 3 - Naeto A
- Class 4 - Toby S
- Class 5 - Oscar H
- Class 6 - Ibrahim S
- Class 7 - Adam S
- Class 8 - Eesa W
- Class 9 - Awen H
- Class 10 - Tallulah-Rose L
- Class 11 - Anna D
- Class 12 - All of CL12



VISION AWARD

- Class 1 - Janaya E
- Class 2 - Enoch O
- Class 3 - Abru T
- Class 4 - Bettie-Ann R
- Class 5 - Cole G
- Class 6 - Arabella H
- Class 7 - Oliver S
- Class 8 - William H
- Class 9 - Mia-Rose R
- Class 10 - Robyn G
- Class 11 - David O
- Class 12 - Sienna G

"With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him all things are possible."

(Matthew 19:26)



**School discos are coming up - Tickets - £1.50
Wednesday 11th March**

- Reception & Class 3 - 3:30–4:30 pm - Children in classes 1, 2 and 3 may wear their party clothes for school.
- Class 4 & Class 5 - 4:30–5:30 pm

Thursday 12th March

**Class 6, 7 and 8 - 3:30–4:30 pm - Children in classes 6, 7 and 8 may bring their party clothes to school to change into.
Class 9, 10, 11, 12 - 4:30–5:30 pm**

Children will be coming home today with an interim school report. This is meant to give you a snapshot of your child's effort in lessons and to indicate the progress your child is making in English and maths, or the areas of learning for Early Years.

Please use this report to help you ask questions during your parent consultations next week.

Your half-termly attendance record will be with this report.



We will be celebrating World Book Day at school on Friday, 6th March. This year, our theme is “Twisted Fairy Tales” – a fun and imaginative way to explore familiar stories with a creative twist.

Children can come to school dressed up as a fairy tale character. This could be a traditional character (such as Little Red Riding Hood, a prince or princess, or the Big Bad Wolf) or a twisted version with a creative spin. Costumes do not need to be elaborate – simple, homemade outfits are absolutely fine.

From Monday, 2nd March until World Book Day, we will be selling Wonka’s chocolate bars, some of these will have a golden ticket inside, which means a winner!!

There will be some exciting prizes for the children to win and some delicious chocolate to enjoy... all in honour of Roald Dahl himself! Please send the money in with your child next week in a named envelope to purchase these for just £2.00 each.



Coming Up

Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd March - Parent Consultations (booking forms to follow)

Wednesday 4th March - 5 ways to happy days - parent workshop (3:15 - 4:30 pm)

Friday 6th March - World Book Day (Children to dress as Fairytale characters)

Monday 9th March - Cafe Church at 3:30 pm. All Welcome.

Wednesday 11th March - Class 4 worship (Mothering Sunday) at 2:45 pm.

Wednesday 18th March - Class 3 worship at 2:45 pm.

Monday 23rd March - Class 6, 7 and 8 Stay & Learn at 9 am.

Monday 23rd March - Class 9, 10, 11 and 12 Stay & Learn at 2:30 pm.

Tuesday 24th March - Class 3, 4 and 5 Stay & Learn at 9 am.

Tuesday 24th March - Class 6, 7, and 8 Stay & Learn at 2:30 pm.

Wednesday 25th March - Class 9, 10, 11 and 12 Stay & Learn at 9 am.

Wednesday 25th March - Class 3, 4, and 5 Stay & Learn at 2:30 pm.

Gold Scroll

Theo S

Jack W

Marela N

Oliver S

Grayson R

Isla W

Lexa L

Bettie R x 2

Hibatullah S

Arianna D

Isaac Wa

Menorah B

Zainab K

Lucas W

Wesley D

Leah L

Jean S

Mason C

Zara K

Genesis M

Talia K

Ember B

Isabella P

Grace M

Burhan K

Emmie T

Mustafa W

Jorja Mc

Rosie E

Sienna G

Teddy C

Eva S

Teddy C

Christophe N

Tianna W

Eva S

We Love St James



Melina in Reception loves reading at St James.

Asoomi in Reception loves playing with her friends.



Janaya in Reception loves playing outside.

Noah in Reception loves playing K-Pop on the carpet.



Ava in Reception loves sharing her toys.



It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?



47% of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens

What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.



National Online Safety



Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

STATISTICS

52% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly 9hrs a week

82% of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly 9.5hrs a week

93% of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly 13.5hrs a week

99% of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly 20.5hrs a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018