



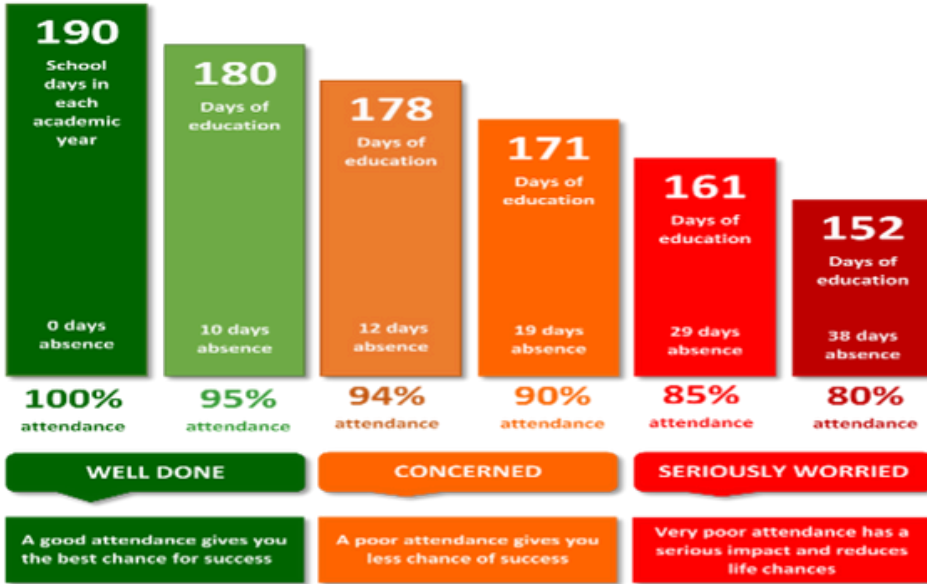
FRIDAY NEWS

14TH
FEBRUARY
2025

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School

Good Attendance means...

being in school at least 95% of the time, or 180 to 190 days



There are **365 days** in a calendar year

175 days are not spent in school

Did you know?

When children attend school they:

- Can achieve their potential
- Have better career prospects
- Learn how to look after themselves and be healthy
- Grow in confidence
- Keep up with work and homework
- Make new friends

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We appreciate your commitment to ensuring quality education for your child. **Next half term, attendance is crucial.**

Poor attendance can lead to lower academic achievement, social and emotional development issues, increased anxiety, and lower self-esteem.

Statistics show that regular absences from school can increase the likelihood of poor life outcomes like unemployment, poverty, and criminal involvement.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance, there are lots of ways we can support you in getting your child into school. Please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

STARS OF THE WEEK

- Class 1 - Bavin O
- Class 2 - Lilly J
- Class 3 - Rayyan M
- Class 4 - Willow BH
- Class 5 - Emmie T
- Class 6 - Destiny K
- Class 7 - Gracie-Mae H
- Class 8 - Isla W
- Class 9 - Farida E
- Class 10 - Terri L & Casey H
- Class 11 - Furaha G
- Class 12 - Summer-Leigh J



GOLD SCROLL

- Eesa S, Teddy C,
- Sophia D, Ella B,
- Oscar W, Ellie-Rose B,
- Skylar G, Jake S,
- Leila W, Bibi S,
- Isla W, Ashton B,
- Isaac W, Joan I,
- Emaan Q, Emmie T,
- Tommy W

CHRISTIAN VALUES

Our Christian value this half term is **Love**.

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear"

John 4:18

Things coming up in Spring

Week	W/C	Events
1	24/02/25	Book Fair arrives at school
2	03/03/25	4 th - Parent Consultations (3:30-6:00pm) 5 th - Parent Consultations (3:30-4:30pm) 6 th - World Book Day - Heroes & Villains Dressup theme.
3	10/03/25	School re-opens KS1 and 2 Stay and Learn (2:30pm - Dates TBC)
4	17/03/25	18 th - Class 9 Assembly @2:45 Neurodiversity Week 21 st - Dress in a colour that represents you. (free of charge)
5	24/03/25	26 th - Reception Wiggle Stay and Learn (2-3pm) 27 th - Little Saints Stay and Play 27 th - Class 3 Assembly @ 2:45 - Mothering Sunday 28 th - Nursery Stay and Play 28 th - Non-uniform - chocolate egg donations
6	31/03/25	Experience Easter 3 rd - Class 7 Assembly @2:45 - Easter 4 th - Easter Bingo in school 4 th - Closed for Easter

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025

World Book Day - 6th March

This year's theme - Heroes & Villains

Calling all superheroes and dastardly villains! It's time to strut your stuff at school dressed as your favourite character! Stay tuned for more thrilling details about the epic day ahead!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

VERIFICATION STAMPS

Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.

