



FRIDAY NEWS

30TH JUNE
2023

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



YEAR 6 CATHEDRAL VISIT

Last week, our year 6 pupils attended Manchester Cathedral to take part in a leavers' service officiated by the Bishop of Middleton, The Rt. Rev. Mark Davis. We were joined by our other trust schools, Bishop Bridgeman and St Maxentius, as well as other schools from around the diocese. The children behaved wonderfully and sang their hearts out. It was a very enjoyable experience.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Class 1 - Teddy C

Class 2 - Theo S

Class 3 - Prisa W

Class 4 - Aizah C

Class 5 - Oscar W

Class 6 - Sienna G

Class 7 - Lexi G

Class 8 - Tianna-Leigh W

Class 9 - Samin T

Class 10 - Christabel B

Class 11 - Alicia M

GOLD SCROLL

Ronnie B, Felicity P,
Tallulah Rose L, Thomas P,
Terri L, Prisa W,
Rena L, Oscar W,
Jack W, Cole CH,
Bailey L, Lola H,
Chido G, Leo D,
Liliana C, Amelia T,
Haider A, Chisimdi LA

CHRISTIAN VALUE

Our Christian value this half term is
Hope.

BIBLE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans for welfare and
not for evil, to give you a future and
hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

"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)



TRANSITION

On Thursday 6th July, we will be having our transition day in school. The children will attend an assembly in the morning where they will find out which class they will be in and who their class teacher is. The children will spend part of the day in their new class getting to know their teacher and fellow pupils. We are sure the children will be very excited and looking forward to this day.

TOMBOLAS FOR THE SCHOOL FAIR

This year our summer fair is on Friday 14th July at 2 pm. To help us prepare for this and fully stock our stalls for the tombola, we are asking our families for donations of chocolates on Tuesday 11th July. As a thank you, children can wear their own clothes on specific days.

SPORTS DAYS

Sports Days are planned for the following days:

- **KS1 - Monday 10th July at 1:30 pm.**
- **Lower KS2 - Tuesday 11th July at 1:30 pm.**

We will re-arrange the UKS2 sports day before the end of the term. We'll let you know of any dates planned.

ATTENDANCE

OUR TARGET IS 96%

Whole School	89.3%
Class 1	84.8%
Class 2	86.7%
Class 3	89.6%
Class 4	87.9%
Class 5	93.0%
Class 6	85.9%
Class 7	91.1%
Class 8	90.3%
Class 9	87.4%
Class 10	87.9%
Class 11	95.9%

Green - 100% - 95%
Yellow - 94.9% - 90%
Red - Below 90%

Don't forget that you can find lots of information on our website:

www.st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk or follow us on



@stjamesfarn



@stjamesfarnworth

It is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trust adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further advice, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the ‘AI friend’ or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this ‘virtual friend’ functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there’s a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn’t always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it’s being told or replying insensitively to a young user who’s already struggling could potentially impact a child’s emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they’ve been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child’s own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they’re aware of and how they’re using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they’re suitable. Once you’re totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you’ll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it’s appropriate. It’s important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we’d strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It’s unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it’s probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn’t a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn’t entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

PETS

AMINO

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Amino is a social media platform offering a large group of subcommunities under one digital 'roof'; it was envisaged as the online version of a convention, where fans gather to celebrate a shared interest like comic books or sci-fi, for example. While many such platforms are harmless spaces for devotees of a certain TV show or video game to congregate, there are still some aspects that trusted adults should be aware of. With a focus on sharing user-generated content, the idea of Amino is for users to communicate with like-minded individuals - but even that can create plenty of hazards.

MUSIC

MODERATION GAPS

Amino has a 12+ classification in the App Store and a 'Teen' rating on Google Play. However, certain communities on the platform have little to no moderation in place - increasing the potential for more adult-themed content to reach young users. It's also possible to create an account without proof of age, raising the possibility of even younger children finding their way onto the platform.

COMICS & COSPLAY

UNSAFE CONTENT

The central concept behind Amino is for users to share content, then make and receive comments on these uploads. The level of anonymity that the platform offers (someone's true identity can be completely obscured behind their username, for instance) means that it would be extremely difficult to stop suggestive or outright predatory comments and messages being sent to young people.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Amino+ is a premium membership for the platform, offering a bevy of customisation options such as stickers, 'moods' to display and an exclusive profile badge. Users can also purchase one-off cosmetic items including different styles of chat bubble or profile frames. If your child has payment methods available via their device, they could potentially make these in-app purchases without you realising.

INAPPROPRIATE IMAGES

Like most social media, Amino offers easy sharing of images. Its community guidelines state that any suggestive photos of under-18s will be removed immediately, but of course this doesn't prevent inappropriate pictures being seen by a young person. Not all of Amino's communities are rigorously moderated, so there's a chance that some unsuitable images could temporarily evade detection.

REPEATED USAGE

As a social media app, Amino is focused on keeping its communities engaged and coming back for more. Part of this approach is encouraging people to build up 'streaks', as users are awarded 'reputation points' for logging in regularly. This type of mechanism, of course, always carries the risk of young people feeling a compulsion to repeatedly check in with the app, further increasing their screen time.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT IT

If your child is old enough and chooses to download and use Amino, it's probably wise to remind them of some online safety basics - such as how not everyone in the digital world is who they claim to be, for example, or not to give out personal information online. It might also be a good idea to go into the app's settings and disable incoming chat requests from users that your child doesn't know.

MEMBERSHIP MEDIATION

If your child asks for an Amino+ membership but you're not entirely comfortable with that, be prepared to explain your decision in depth. Young people's sense of injustice can naturally become inflamed when their friends have things that they don't. Parents of older teens, meanwhile, might actually decide to agree to the membership request but continue to monitor their child's activity on the app.

STAY UPDATED

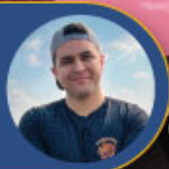
Ensure that your child knows to report any upsetting or worrying online content they might see to you. As much as possible, try to stay aware of which communities they're joining on Amino. Most of these areas are well moderated and full of innocent conversation about common interests, but on any platform of this breadth, there's always the potential for chats to veer off into potentially harmful places.

MONITOR SCREEN TIME

If you haven't already, you might want to consider setting up controls such as Family Sharing (on iOS devices) or Family Link (on Android) so, from your own device, you can keep an eye on how much screen time your child is having - and what apps they're spending it on. This can be extremely useful with regard to platforms such as Amino, which can be quite addictive and reward repeated use.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mum-horrified-after-daughter-10-18773339>