



FRIDAY NEWS

9TH
MAY
2025

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Yesterday, all the children across the school enjoyed taking part in the VE celebrations with class picnics. They learnt about the significance of VE Day and celebrated with music and food. Thank you for all your contributions to help make the day memorable.

SPIRITBLAZER FUNDRAISER

This year, our Spiritblazers have decided that the conservation of bees is an important issue to focus their efforts on and they have worked with other schools across the diocese to raise awareness of this issue. To support our Spiritblazers project to raise money for the conservation of bees, we are holding a non-uniform day **next Friday, 16th May**.

They are asking pupils to wear black or yellow or both for a donation of 50p or £1. (Bee costumes are welcome, if you already have one.)

All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the Manchester bee hives that are kept on the roof of Manchester Cathedral. They will present their fundraising in a special service at Bolton Parish to honour the work they have carried out. **Thank you for your continued support!**

YEAR 6

Please join us in keeping our Year 6 pupils in your thoughts and prayers, wishing them the very best of luck as they sit their end of KS2 SATs next week. Year 6 pupils can come into school from 8:30 am on test days to receive free breakfast treats to help them settle and relax.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery - Ali S

Class 1 - Sienna T

Class 2 - Archie R

Class 3 - Peyton Y

Class 4 - Daniel O

Class 5 - All of CL5

Class 6 - Skylar B

Class 7 - Zainab K

Class 8 - Bobbi-Raye B

Class 9 - Praya H

Class 10 - Asmer M

Class 11 - Noor F

Class 12 - Ibrahim T



VISION AWARD

Class 1 - Jack H

Class 2 - Ashantie M

Class 3 - Moeed M

Class 4 - Maggie R

Class 5 - Talia K

Class 6 - Leila W

Class 7 - Oscar W

Class 8 - Tallulah-Rose L

Class 9 - Jaxon T

Class 10 - Max F

Class 11 - Awab A

Class 12 - Faith Y

YEAR 6 SATS HOMEWORK

Next week, you will be sitting your SATs. So, this weeks homework is very important and should be completed to the highest standard.

Watch a film

Play outside

Go for a walk

Phone a friend or family member

Get a good night's sleep

Have a lie in

Play a game

Eat your favourite food

Do whatever it is that helps you relax

Do NOT worry about next week - just do your best and show off what we know you can do!

We look forward to seeing you on Monday morning from 8:30am to enjoy class breakfast to help you relax.

Gold Scroll

Farrell S
Tianna Leigh W
Freddie W
Linkon K
Giovanni I
Ibrahim S
Talía K

Things coming up Summer

W/C	Events
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 @9:30am 22 nd - LKS2 Sports Afternoon @2:00pm 23 rd - UKS2 Sports Morning @9:30am 23 rd - Reception Sports Afternoon @2:00pm 23 rd - School closes for half term *Sports Events are subject to weather conditions.

W/C	Events
02.06.25	KS1 and 2 Stay and Learn (Dates TBC) 2 nd - School re-opens 4 th – New to Reception Parents Meetings – 2:15pm & 5:00pm.
09.06.25	KS1 Phonics Screening Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check 12 th - Reception Stay and Learn 13 th - Nursery Stay and Play
16.06.25	18 th - Class 4 assembly @2:45pm 19 th – Year 6 Leavers' Service at Manchester Cathedral 20 th - Non-uniform for bottle tombola donations

More announcements

- **New Roman Visitor Day for Year 3 & 4** - the new date has been confirmed for Monday 30th June.
- **New faces at St James** - You may have already spotted two new faces at St James. We are delighted to welcome Miss Parveen, who has joined our KS1 team, and Miss Clarke, who has joined our Early Years team. They have already become valuable members of the St James family.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

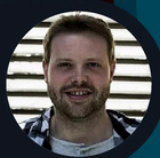
If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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