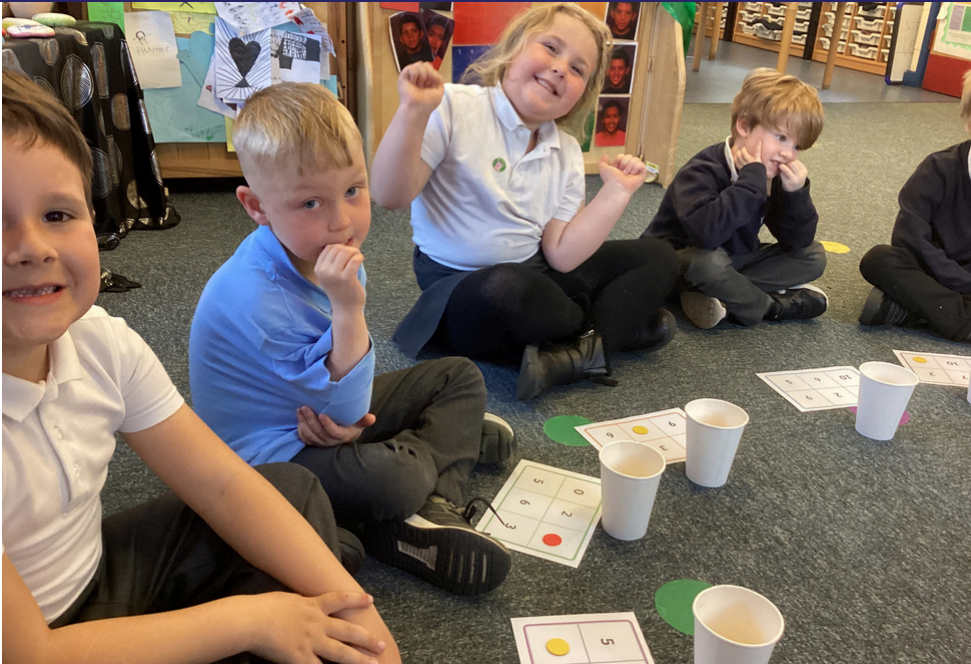




FRIDAY NEWS

4TH
APRIL
2025

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



HAPPY EASTER

This week, we have celebrated Easter well - from Class 7's Easter worship to Easter Bingo. Lots of fun was had by all the children and many children went home with lots of chocolate.

The children also took part in 'Experience Easter', where they explored the journey of Jesus through a series of activities and discovered the Christian message of Easter.

The school will be closed for the Easter break and reopen on Tuesday, 22nd April. We hope you have a restful break with family and friends and we look forward to welcoming the children back for the start of the Summer term.

Wishing you all a pleasant Easter.

EASTER READING CHALLENGE

There is the reading challenge for over the Easter holidays. Please encourage your child to take part and record on Learning with Parents. The closing date is Friday 25th April. Please don't worry if you don't have a paper copy, just record the challenge on Learning with Parents and your child can colour in their entry sheet when they return to school. See our Facebook page for a copy of the challenge. Good luck!

YEAR 6 SALE

Year 6 will be holding a 'Spring Clean' sale after school on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd May to help raise money for their end-of-year celebrations. Stay tuned for more details.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery - Somkene N

Class 1 - Yasmin J

Class 2 - Tibor B

Class 3 - Tadiwa N

Class 4 - Abigail G

Class 5 - Paisley G

Class 6 - Dominic K

Class 7 - All of Class 7

Class 8 - Giovanni I

Class 9 - Seth R

Class 10 -

Class 11 - Bella MD

Class 12 - Dawood Y



VISION AWARD

Class 1 - Harriet QG

Class 2 - Hunter R

Class 3 - Gideon M

Class 4 - Harley L

Class 5 - Ayokunmi O

Class 6 - Tomas G

Class 7 - Isaac W

Class 8 - Isla W

Class 9 - Ayobami O

Class 10 -

Class 11 - Georgia R

Class 12 - Lilliana W

"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)

Gold Scroll

Splendor O

Eleonora M

Abigail G

Sohaila L

Joshua D

Thea H

Oscar W

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

INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College