



# FRIDAY NEWS

6TH  
MARCH  
2026

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



## STARS OF THE WEEK

- Class 1 - Zainab Z
- Class 2 - Maryam A
- Class 3 - Emmanuel O
- Class 4 - Isabella P
- Class 5 - AJ S
- Class 6 - Fatima B
- Class 7 - Thea H
- Class 8 - William H
- Class 9 - Zohan A
- Class 10 - Emaan F
- Class 11 - Anaya A
- Class 12 - Shahaine J



## WORLD BOOK DAY

Today, our school was filled with excitement as we celebrated World Book Day together. It was wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic about books and reading. Many pupils came to school dressed as their favourite characters, and the creativity on display was fantastic.

Throughout the day, children enjoyed a range of activities centred around reading and storytelling. These opportunities helped to inspire a love of books and encouraged pupils to share and talk about their favourite stories with friends and teachers.

We would like to say a big thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting this event by helping the children prepare their costumes and celebrate the joy of reading.

We would also like to thank parents for attending our Parent Consultation Evenings this week. These meetings are an important opportunity for teachers and families to work together, celebrate the children's achievements and discuss next steps in their learning.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.



## VISION AWARD

- Class 1 - Evie J
- Class 2 - Teddy W
- Class 3 - Ralph D
- Class 4 - Ella E
- Class 5 - Moed M
- Class 6 - Daniel O
- Class 7 - Lexa L
- Class 8 - Hashim A
- Class 9 - Awen H
- Class 10 - Ashton B
- Class 11 - Rogan J
- Class 12 - Funmi F



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 in Little Saints, Nursery and Rainbow Room have had a wonderful week caring for some very special visitors – a group of chicks! The children were fascinated as they watched the chicks grow and develop over the course of the week.

They spent time carefully observing the chicks and learning about what they need to stay safe, warm and healthy. The children discovered how important it is for the chicks to have food, water, warmth and a clean, comfortable space to live in.

It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience, helping the children to develop their curiosity about the natural world while also learning how to care for living things. The children showed great kindness and responsibility while looking after our fluffy visitors.

Well done to all the children for being such thoughtful and careful chick keepers! 🐣



**WONKA  
WINNERS!**



# Proud Post

Thank you so much for sharing your Proud Post with school. The children loved receiving these. Here are a few:

*To Asoomi, I am really proud of how well you have settled in and made lovely friends. I am also very proud of your reading. You are FANTASTIC! From Mum.*

*To Aaliyah, I am so proud of you sweetheart - keep up the good work! Well done. From Mum.*

*To St James Parents, I am very proud that you came to my sessions and worked hard. Well done. From Gemma (Aspire).*

*To Alan, Lovely handwriting and good maths. Keep going, Son. From Mum & Dad.*

*To Oliver C, Well done! I am very proud of you. Keep up the good work! Love you. From Mum.*

*To Imogen, Mum is super proud, just like Dad, Nanna, and everyone else. Practice makes progress! Love Mum.*

# Coming Up

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Cafe Church at 3:30 pm. All Welcome.**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March - Class 4 worship (Mothering Sunday) at 2:45 pm.**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - School Discos (see above)**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Little Saints Stay & Play at 10:30 am & 2:30 pm.**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Nursery Stay & Play at 10:30 am & 2:15 pm.**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - Class 3 worship at 2:45 pm.**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Class 6, 7 and 8 Stay & Learn at 9 am.**

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

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Class 3, 4 and 5 Stay & Learn at 9 am.**

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

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Class 9, 10, 11 and 12 Stay & Learn at 9 am.**

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

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Non-uniform day for Easter egg/chocolate donations.**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Reception Stay & Play at 2:00 pm.**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Class 8 worship (Easter) at 2:45 pm.**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Easter Super Learning Day**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - School Closes for Easter (2 weeks).**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - School re-opens at 8:40 am.**

# Gold Scroll

Aaliyah A

Reggie B

Momina F

Jessica C

Peyton Y

Oscar H

Noah N

Tawheed H

Ranae L

Rosie-Jade E

Zainab K

Skylar B

Zara K

Ruby Y

Zaid Z

Jasmine U

Jorja Mc

Arianna D

Ember B

Christophe N

Lexa L

Lucas R

Emmie T

Talia K

Thea H

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

### 1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

### 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

### 3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

### 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

### 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

### 6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

### 8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyInlo and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

### 9 RECONNECT

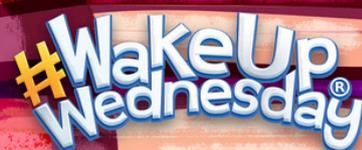
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

### 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

## Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



The National College®

See full reference list on our website

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

### GROUP CHAT PRESSURES



Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

### EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS



'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

### SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS



Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

### UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

### DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES



WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

### COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT



WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.



ONLINE

...ONLINE...

SECRET CODE

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER



Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

### TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS



Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

### BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS



Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

### TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI



Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

### 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.



See full reference list on our website