FRIDAY NEWS

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School

23RD OCTOBER 2026



Thank You and Have a Wonderful Half Term!

As we reach the end of another busy half term, I would like to thank all our families for your continued support. It makes such a difference to our school community, and we are grateful for the partnership we share.

As we head into the half-term break, please take care and stay safe when celebrating Halloween and Bonfire Night. We hope you enjoy some lovely family time together and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the next half term.

A few reminders for our return on Monday 2nd November:

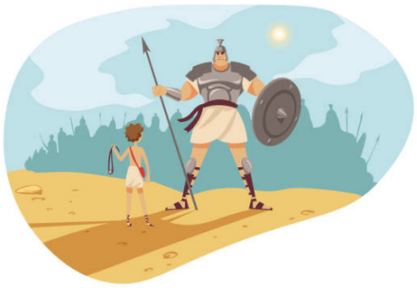
🏊 Swimming lessons will begin after half term, with Years 5 and 6 going first.

👟 PE kits – After half term, children can come to school wearing their PE kits on their PE days. Please ensure children wear the correct kit: a white T-shirt and navy-blue shorts, joggers or leggings. As the weather gets colder, navy-blue joggers or leggings are recommended to help keep children warm during outdoor activities. School jumpers can also be worn when needed.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Have a safe, happy and restful half term, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school soon!

STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception - Amelia B
Class 3 - Momina F
Class 4 - Noah N
Class 5 - Isaac A
Class 6 - Oscar H
Class 7 - Nene G
Class 8 - Jorja Mc
Class 9 - Minal H
Class 10 - Renesmae S
Class 11 - Aqeelah H



VISION AWARD

Reception - Sudais K
Class 3 - Axel W
Class 4 - Eli G
Class 5 - Aurora A
Class 6 - Muhammad A
Class 7 - Harley L
Class 8 - Daniel O
Class 9 - Blossom K
Class 10 -Dennis D
Class 11 - Bibi S

"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)



PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We are booking Parent Consultations a little differently this time. You child's class teacher will create an event on Class Dojo for their consultations. You will have opportunity to book your slot using this the booking system on Class Dojo.

Not a member of Class Dojo? Please see you child's teacher for their sign up qr code.

THINGS COMING UP

Monday 2nd November - Return to school.
Monday 2nd November - Swimming lessons start for Years 5 and 6.

WB 9th November - Parent Consultations - phone calls. Please sign up to Class Dojo as appointments will be made via this.
Tuesday 10th November - Reception Stay & Learn @ 2:15 pm
Wednesday 11th November - Class 11 Remembrance Assembly @ 2:45 pm
Friday 13th November - Trust Service for Year 5 & 6 at Bolton Parish Church
Friday 13th November - Children In Need (Non-uniform)

Monday 16th November - Swimming lessons start for Years 3 and 5. Information letters will go out soon.
WB 16th November - Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 16th November - Odd Socks Day

Wednesday 25th November - Worship Play Super Learning Day

Tuesday 1st December - Cafe Church @ 3:30 pm

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Gold Scroll

Lucas W

Anthony H

Zara U

India-Rae B

Isaac A

Isabella P

Jason L

Aurora A

Khadeejah H

Tomas G

Blossom K

Axel W

Momina F

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you **are** hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and **never** attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are **not** toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert



James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety

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