



FRIDAY NEWS

13TH
FEBRUARY
2026

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



TRUST MATHS CHALLENGE

Our Year 4 pupils took part in the exciting Trust Maths Challenge Day today, where teams from schools across the trust came together to compete for the title of Trust Maths Champions.

Throughout the day, children worked collaboratively to tackle a range of challenging maths problems, drawing on their number knowledge, reasoning skills and teamwork. The atmosphere was buzzing with enthusiasm, perseverance and healthy competition, as pupils explained their thinking and supported one another to solve increasingly tricky tasks.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our children to showcase their mathematical skills, build confidence and represent their school with pride. Well done to all involved for their hard work and positive attitudes – a great celebration of maths across our trust!

The winning school was St Maxentius.

STARS OF THE WEEK

- Class 1 - Ava B
- Class 2 - Mirha H
- Class 3 - Kadeejah H
- Class 4 - All of CL4
- Class 5 - Zina S
- Class 6 - Maggie R
- Class 7 - Arianna D
- Class 8 - Minal H
- Class 9 - Tomas G
- Class 10 -
- Class 11 - Lola C
- Class 12 - Finley S



VISION AWARD

- Class 1 - Axel W
- Class 2 - Asoomi F
- Class 3 - Yasmine J
- Class 4 - Wesley D
- Class 5 - Stella C
- Class 6 - Advika BR
- Class 7 - Ruby Y
- Class 8 - Henry W
- Class 9 - Bibi S
- Class 10 -
- Class 11 - Jaxon T
- Class 12 - Lewis B



Years 3 and 4 have been enjoying their geography lessons this week by using our school orienteering course. The children were fantastic at using the map-reading skills and working as a team. Our new orienteering course can be used for many subjects, and our staff are undergoing training to help them plan engaging lessons that utilise this exciting resource. Watch this space.

Thank you to all the parents who attended Little Saints Stay & Play. Everyone had a wonderful time taking part in Valentine's Day activities. We very much value parental engagement and are excited to arrange further fun days.

Another thank you to those who came to watch Class 5 deliver their worship on Wednesday. It was a lovely worship. The children worked hard at learning their lines, and they delivered them beautifully. Well done, Class 5.



Children have enjoyed exploring lots of activities to help their mental health and wellbeing this week. School has completed lots of work with children to understand who their trusted adults are and which areas of school they consider safe spaces. We have practised many of our usual techniques and tested out some new ones that have been helpful in the classroom and can be used at home.

If you would like further information about mental health and wellbeing and current offers in Bolton, please see our school website under the parents tab.



Thank you to the parents/carers who joined us for the parent workshop on Wednesday for '5 Ways to Happy Days'. They came away with lots of information and ideas to help children's health and wellbeing.

If you want to attend the next session, please join us on Wednesday, 25th February at 3:15 pm. A creche will be available to help with childcare needs.



We wish everyone a safe and restful half-term, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 23rd February at 8:40 am.

Coming Up

Friday 13th February - School breaks for half term (one week)

Monday 23rd February - School re-opens at 8:40 am

Tuesday 24th February - Book Fair opens

Wednesday 25th February - 5 ways to happy days - parent workshop (3:15 - 4:30 pm)

Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd March - Parent Consultations (booking forms to follow)

Wednesday 4th March - 5 ways to happy days - parent workshop (3:15 - 4:30 pm)

Friday 6th March - World Book Day (Children to dress as Fairytale characters)

Monday 9th March - Cafe Church at 3:30 pm. All Welcome.

Wednesday 11th March - Class 4 worship (Mothering Sunday) at 2:45 pm.

Wednesday 18th March - Class 3 worship at 2:45 pm.

Monday 23rd March - Class 6, 7 and 8 Stay & Learn at 9 am.

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

Tuesday 24th March - Class 3, 4 and 5 Stay & Learn at 9 am.

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

Wednesday 25th March - Class 9, 10, 11 and 12 Stay & Learn at 9 am.

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

Gold Scroll

Harrison S

Rohaan N

Oluoma N

Madison R

Abru T

Daniel O

Peyton Y

Caleb DD

Tomas G

Eleonora M

Zara U

Wesley D

Zayd R

Hibatullah S

We Love St James

Arabella H, “I love learning to draw in Art, and my favourite teacher comes here too!”

Paisley G, “I love how kind and caring all the teachers are.”

Mason C, “I love English lessons, especially when we had to draw the main characters from “The Tower””

Lucas R, “I love Art, especially sketching.”

Teddy C, “I love PE. I love boxing with the PE coach.”

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUp Wednesday®

The National College®