



FRIDAY NEWS

16TH
MAY
2025

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



SPORTS DAYS

Sports Days are due to take place next week. Hopefully, the weather keeps up and you are able to come and support your child.

- Thursday 22nd May - Classes 3, 4 & 5 at 9:30 am.
- Thursday 22nd May - Classes 6, 7 & 8 at 2:00 pm
- Friday 23rd May - Classes 9, 10, 11 & 12 at 9:30 am
- Friday 23rd May - Classes 1 & 2 at 2:00 pm.

Please note that these dates are weather-dependent and are subject to change if needed.

SPIRITBLAZER FUNDRAISER

Thank you for all your support in today's non-uniform day. The children and staff looked absolutely buzzin' in their yellow and black.

You should have received a letter regarding our yellow & black raffle. Please return any money and slips before the big draw on Wednesday. The winner will walk away with a box full of goodies with a yellow and black theme.

Remember, all money raised will go to the children's chosen charity to help the conservation of bees.

YEAR 6

Well done to all of our Year 6 pupils for completing their SATs. They showed great resilience, determination and grit, and took each test in their stride. We are all very proud of the progress they have made this year and the positive attitudes they have shown. Next stop... high school.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Nursery - Oakley S

Class 1 - Ollie W

Class 2 - Yusuf A

Class 3 - Nora C

Class 4 - Amelia B

Class 5 - Jaiden T

Class 6 - Bibi S

Class 7 - Michael M

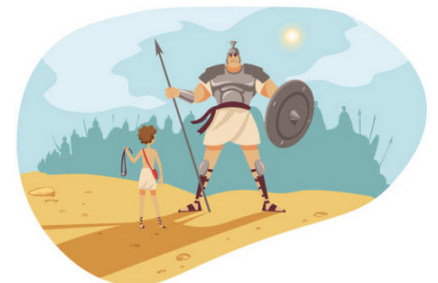
Class 8 - Zohan

Class 9 - Aziza L

Class 10 - Joan I

Class 11 - All of CL11

Class 12 - All of CL12



VISION AWARD

Class 1 - Genesis M

Class 2 - Joey G

Class 3 - Lilly-May H

Class 4 - Jon Y

Class 5 - Emmie T

Class 6 - Felicity P

Class 7 - Robyn G

Class 8 - Bobbi-Raye B

Class 9 - Jaasiel

Class 10 - Casey H

Class 11 - All of CL11

Class 12 - All of CL12

Gold Scroll

Jon Y
Olly BM
Burhan K
Willow BH

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 MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

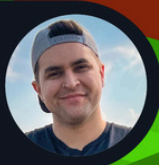
Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College