



FRIDAY NEWS

28TH
FEBRUARY
2025

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



SPIRITBLAZERS

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity” 1 Timothy 4:12.

Spirit Blazers is a group who come together weekly to be the voice of children and young people for the ‘Children Changing Places Board’ for Manchester Diocese. This academic year, we are part of the group that meets at St. James Secondary School every Wednesday.

Our next Spirit Blazer project is an art project related to the conservation of bees, and over the next couple of months, they will be working hard to raise money to aid in the upkeep of the Bee hives that are housed on the roof of Manchester Cathedral. They will also be engaging with other children in school to work with a visiting artist to produce work to be displayed in an exhibition at Bolton Parish Church.

Watch this space for more updates.

STARS OF THE WEEK

- Class 1 - Jack H
- Class 2 - Grayson R
- Class 3 - Chester HE
- Class 4 - Amelia B
- Class 5 - Teddy C
- Class 6 - Minal H
- Class 7 - Levi B
- Class 8 - Eesa W
- Class 9 - Soby H
- Class 10 - Joan I
- Class 11 - Gracie S
- Class 12 - Fatima Z



GOLD SCROLL

Ayokunmi O
Teddy C
Tamara B
Rohaam M

CHRISTIAN VALUES

Our Christian value this half term is **forgiveness**.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”

Ephesians 4:31-32

“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)

Things coming up in Spring

Week	W/C	Events
2	03/03/25	4 th - Parent Consultations (3:30-6:00pm) 5 th - Parent Consultations (3:30-4:30pm) 6 th - World Book Day - Heroes & Villains Dressup theme.
3	10/03/25	KS1 and 2 Stay and Learn at 2:30pm CL3, 4 & 5 - Tuesday CL6, 7 & 8 - Thursday CL9, 10, 11 & 12 - Wednesday
4	17/03/25	17 th - Year 6 SATs meeting @2:30pm 18 th - Class 9 Assembly @2:45pm Neurodiversity Week 21 st - Dress in a colour that represents you. (free of charge)
5	24/03/25	26 th - Reception Wiggle Stay and Learn (2-3pm) 27 th - Little Saints Stay and Play 27 th - Class 3 Assembly @ 2:45 - Mothering Sunday 28 th - Nursery Stay and Play 28 th - Non-uniform - chocolate egg donations
6	31/03/25	Experience Easter 3 rd - Class 7 Assembly @2:45 - Easter 4 th - Easter Bingo in school 4 th - Closed for Easter

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025

World Book Day - 6th March

This year's theme - Heroes & Villains

Calling all superheroes and dastardly villains! It's time to strut your stuff at school dressed as your favourite character! Stay tuned for more thrilling details about the epic day ahead!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except.... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College