



# FRIDAY NEWS

20TH  
MARCH  
2026

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



## COMIC RELIEF

What a fantastic and fun-filled day we had celebrating Break the Rules Day in support of Comic Relief!

The school was bursting with creativity and laughter as children arrived in non-uniform, showcasing an incredible range of outfits. From bright colours and cosy clothes to some truly imaginative combinations, it was wonderful to see everyone expressing themselves. The highlight for many had to be the amazing crazy hairstyles on display—spikes, colours and braids.

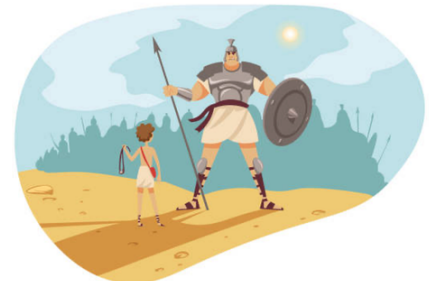
For one day only, the usual uniform rules were turned upside down, and the children embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm and big smiles. More importantly, they did so while supporting a truly worthwhile cause.

Thanks to your generosity, we have raised money for Comic Relief, helping to support people facing difficult challenges both in the UK and around the world.

A huge thank you to all our families for your support and for helping make the day such a success. It was a joy to see the children having fun while making a difference!

## STARS OF THE WEEK

- Class 1 - Dabira S
- Class 2 - Jaxon R
- Class 3 - All of Class 3
- Class 4 - Jason L
- Class 5 - Lilly-May H
- Class 6 - Arianna K
- Class 7 - Talia K
- Class 8 - Ana O
- Class 9 - Sarosh A
- Class 10 - Aqeelah H
- Class 11 - Autumn S
- Class 12 - Ayobami O



## VISION AWARD

- Class 1 - Olivia B
- Class 2 - Milena P
- Class 3 - Archie R
- Class 4 - Rupert C
- Class 5 - Jon Y
- Class 6 - Elif O
- Class 7 - Emmie T
- Class 8 - Isla W
- Class 9 - Ronnie B
- Class 10 - Emaan F
- Class 11 - Madison R
- Class 12 - Edita D

"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)

# EASTER BINGO

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, children are invited to wear non-uniform in exchange for a donation of Easter eggs or chocolate. This is to create our prizes for Easter bingo. Easter bingo will take place in classes on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Easter Bingo tickets are available for £1.50. This will give children access to all bingo games along with a snack and drink. Money for tickets will need to be given to the class teacher. Alternatively, tickets can be purchased via ParentPay.

## STAY & LEARN

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.

School is operating a new policy prohibiting the use of mobile phones when in contact with children. Please do not be offended if staff ask you to put phones away when visiting school.



## EGG DECORATING COMPETITION

We are excited to announce our Egg Decorating Competition!

Children are invited to decorate eggs and create a scene or display using them. You might make a character, a story scene, a garden, a sports theme, or anything else you can imagine!

Competition Rules:

- Your creation must fit inside a shoebox-sized space.
- You can use one or more eggs in your design.
- Eggs can be hard-boiled or artificial.
- Please make sure your name and class are clearly labelled on your entry.

Be as creative as you like – the more imaginative, the better!

There will be prizes for the most creative entries, and all designs will be displayed in school for everyone to enjoy.

Bring your entries into school by Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

We can't wait to see all your egg-cellent creations!



# Proud Post

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

*To Caleb DD, We are very proud of how well you said your lines in class assembly.  
From Miss Symonds & Mrs Patel*

*To Ella E, We are so proud of the kindness and generosity you showed on Mother's Day when you visited the care home with daffodils. From Mr Booth & Mrs Parkinson*

*To Jasmine U, You blow me away with your knowledge and understanding, making links with many subject and real experiences - I am very proud of you. From Mrs Nagar.*

*To Ruby Y, I am so proud of your detailed explanations in RE; you really demonstrate your listening and understanding skills. From Mrs Nagar.*

*To all of Reception, We are extremely proud of all your perseverance and effort when completing this week's lollystick challenges! From Mrs Whitton & Mrs Pilling.*

*To Kingsley & Wrehn, I am proud of the progress you have made in improving your communication skills. From Miss Bester.*

# Coming Up

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**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, including Easter Bingo.**

**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

Grayson R

Ella E

Tomas G

Willow C

Teddy C

Rohaam N

Peyton Y

Momina F

Zohan A

Elisabeth C

Hope C

Caleb DD

Hunter R

Yusuf A

Mia R

Peter O

Arianna K

Jasmine U

Arianna D

Talia K

Gracie-Mae H

Jan Y

Oscar W

Robyn G

Ellie-Rose B

Tallulah Rose L

Milena P

Teddy W

Mirha H

Kyla C

Mehmal M

Janaya E

Dabira S

Gideon Mc

Jaxson T

Gavin O

Jackson H

Thea H

Oliver S

Aaliyah A

Eesa S

Thomas P

Harley L

Isabella P

Seth R

Genesis M

Rosie E

Ilsa W

Dominic H

Renesmae S

Lexa L

Emmie T

Linkon K

Ruby Y

Skylar B

Theo S

Zaid ZA

Christophe N

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 91% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE

Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.

### WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK

Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'; however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.

### SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT

Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.

### FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION

Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glamorise gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to those groups.

### AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION

Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidant and isolating behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.

### TALK CRIME AND SAFETY

In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: "What could you do if you feel unsafe?" Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.

### DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as [reportharmfulcontent.com](https://reportharmfulcontent.com).

### ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION

Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via [childline.org.uk](https://childline.org.uk).

### Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.

