



FRIDAY NEWS

27TH
JULY
2026

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR

SUMMER

As we reach the end of another school year, I just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made St James such a special place to be.

To our children - thank you for making us smile every day. Your enthusiasm, kindness, resilience and determination have been a joy to see, and I couldn't be prouder of everything you have achieved this year. Keep believing in yourselves and never stop aiming high.

To our wonderful staff - thank you for your dedication, care and endless commitment to our children. You go above and beyond every single day, and the difference you make to the lives of our pupils is truly remarkable.

To our parents and carers - thank you for your continued support, encouragement and trust. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive school community, and together we have helped our children flourish.

To our Year 6 children, as you begin your next adventure, remember that although you are leaving St James, St James will never really leave you. We are all very proud of all you have achieved. Take our vision with you wherever you go, and we can't wait to see all that you achieve. We will miss you all very much.

Finally, I hope that everyone enjoys a safe, relaxing and well-deserved summer break. Take time to rest, make happy memories with family and friends, and enjoy the sunshine whenever it appears!

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday, 3rd September, for another exciting year of learning, friendship and opportunity.

**Thank you once again for making this such a memorable year.
Have a wonderful summer!**

"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)

Saying Goodbye

Mrs Lambert

After 17 wonderful years working with our pupils, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Lambert. Throughout her time at St James, she has inspired countless children with her expertise, creativity and unwavering commitment to helping every child achieve their very best. She has played such an important role in preparing our pupils for the next stage of their education, and she will be greatly missed by both children and colleagues alike. We wish her every happiness for the future.

Miss Neilan

We would also like to thank Miss Neilan as she leaves St James. Working with our youngest children in Little Saints, she has helped so many little learners take their very first steps on their educational journey. Her warmth, patience and enthusiasm have made a lasting difference to the children and families she has supported. We wish her every success and happiness in her new venture.

Miss Young

Finally, we say goodbye to Miss Young from our Rainbow Room as she begins an exciting new chapter - becoming a mum! Miss Young has been a caring and valued member of our team, providing wonderful support to the children she works with each day. We wish her and her growing family every happiness and can't wait to meet the newest addition.

PUPILS OF YEAR

ACHIEVEMENT

TEDDY W
IVY-ROSE R
AALIYAH A
NAETO A
HIBATULLAH S
AYOKUNMI O
DOMINIC K
SKYLER G

ATTITUDE

COLE L
OAKLEY S
MIRHA H
ISABELLA P
JON Y
ESHAAL M
WILLIAM H
GRACE M

HEARTS OF GOLD

CHARLIE H
CARTER HB

HEAD STUDENTS

ELLIE-ROSE B	TALLULAH-ROSE L	
OSCAR W	TOMAS G	SKYLER G

Gold Scroll

Jackson H

Eleonora M

Tadiwa N

Tamin K

Freddie D

Zahir A

Zina S

Chester HE

Destiny H

Lilly-May H

Lola C

Jean S

Jaasiel S

Ollie W

Autumn S

Michael Mc

Moeed M

Aziza L

Olly BM

Jack Mc

Anna E

Nora C

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.

Bubba Gaedert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.



The National College

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unsupervised bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide first aid when needed.



2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.



3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as, "Is the water too deep or too shallow? Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects?" Make sure children know never to enter water from a height, as what lurks below could cause serious injuries.



4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Tragedies strike when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly; instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature or exit easily if needed.



5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can float further out from shore and into more dangerous water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in spaces like appropriately managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.



6 SUPERVISION IS KEY



For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and educators to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently; therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

7 DON'T GO TOO FAR



When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Share advice with them such as only entering water up to a standing depth, and in the case of visiting the beach, swim parallel to shorelines. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED



For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor spaces and bathrooms tidy after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools after use and turning them over, returning lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

9 FLOAT AND CALL 999



If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should dial 999 or 112 immediately, then shout to reassure their friend, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

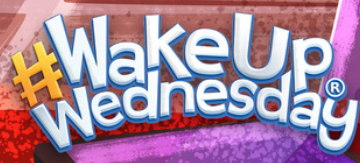
10 TEACH WATER SAFETY



Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated in school on water safety. Use RLSS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart Schools', which offers free lesson plans and resources on how to be safe on, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

Meet Our Expert

The Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) is a national water safety charity that gives children the chance to enjoy a lifetime of fun in the water, safely. Water safety education provided in schools is vital and, in some instances, could be a child's only opportunity to learn about the water.



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