



FRIDAY NEWS

6TH OCTOBER
2023

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Class 6's assembly for Harvest Festival will take place on Friday 20th October at 2:45 pm. Parents are welcome to attend.

To help us celebrate Harvest, we would love donations of non-perishable food items for children to offer at the harvest assembly. These could include tinned items, packaged food, dried pasta/rice, and other non-perishable goods.

All donations go to Store House Pantry at New Bury UCAN which provides support for the area.

MACMILLAN FUNDRAISING

Due to your generous donations and support, we have managed to raise £274 for Macmillan Cancer Charity. There are plenty of items left over from the coffee morning, so watch this space for a biscuit sale.

STARS OF THE WEEK

- Class 1 - Jon Y
- Class 2 - Lilly-Mae H
- Class 3 - Daniel O
- Class 4 - Lucas W
- Class 5 - Isla W
- Class 6 - Annabelle M
- Class 7 - Ashton B
- Class 8 - Tamin K
- Class 9 - Jessica N
- Class 10 - Poppy BM
- Class 11 - Flynn D

GOLD SCROLL

Bradley S, Levi B,
Harrison I, Ebony H,
Cole HC, Tiffe R,
Lexi F, Jayden L,
Kelsey J, Gideon M,
Destiny H, Zahir A,
Stella C, Freddie D,
Olly BM, Charlie HL,
Haider A, Eva-Rose S, Isla
W, Isaac W,
Ruby-River P, Tianna W,
Poppy A, Awab A

CHRISTIAN VALUE

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

BIBLE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*'Honor one another above
yourselves.'* **Romans 12:10**

"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)



ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE OUR TARGET IS 96%

It is essential that children are in school every day but **our school target is 96%**. This week was 94% which is getting closer to our target but we still need to improve this.

Time off means learning missed.

This is often difficult to catch up with and puts your child's learning at a severe disadvantage. The school closely monitors attendance and, if needed, will contact you before your child's attendance becomes a concern. We are here to support you and your child in attending school every day.

Did you know that we have a prize draw for children who have 96% attendance for each term? The winner from each key stage will receive £50 in Amazon vouchers.

Whole School	94.2%
Class 1	90.7%
Class 2	94.0%
Class 3	94.5%
Class 4	93.0%
Class 5	96.0%
Class 6	95.6%
Class 7	93.3%
Class 8	93.3%
Class 9	95.0%
Class 10	92.7%
Class 11	96.5%

CLASS 5 HOMETIME

Green: 100% - 95%
Yellow: 94.9% - 90%
Red: Below 90%

To reduce traffic and congestion at the end of the day, Class 5 will be dismissed from door 3 (the door they enter school through) from next week.

Thank you for your continued support in this.

THINGS COMING UP

- Wednesday 11th October - School photographs
- Friday 20th October - Harvest Assembly with Class 6
- Friday 27th October - School closes for half term

Don't forget that you can find lots of information on our website:
www.st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk or follow us on



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.



Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
DREAM • BELIEVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

School Holiday Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

INSET Day School Closed to Pupils	Monday 4 th September 2023
INSET Day School Closed to Pupils	Tuesday 5 th September 2023
School Reopens to Pupils	Wednesday 6 th September 2023
School Finishes for Half Term	Friday 27 th October 2023
School Reopens to Pupils	Monday 6 th November 2023
School Finishes for Christmas	Thursday 21 st December 2023
INSET Day School Closed to Pupils	Friday 22 nd December 2023

Spring Term 2024

School Reopens to Pupils	Monday 8 th January 2024
School Finishes for Half Term	Friday 16 th February 2024
School Reopens to Pupils	Monday 26 th February 2024
School Finishes for Easter	Thursday 28 th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

School Reopens to Pupils	Monday 15 th April 2024
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
School Finishes for Half Term	Friday 24 th May 2024
School Reopens to Pupils	Monday 3 rd June 2024
School Finishes for Summer	Friday 19 th July 2023

The above pattern equates to the children being in school for 190 days