

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 16TH MAY 2025

YEAR 6 SATS...

This week, our amazing Year 6 children took their Key Stage Two SATs tests. They took 6 papers, including Grammar & Punctuation, Reading and Maths. The children were amazing and took the tests in their stride. We are so proud of all their hard work and effort this year and we're looking forward to enjoying their final few weeks at St. James' Junior School. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the staff who have supported the Year 6 children during the build up to SATs and during this week.

BIKEABILITY...

Next week, children in Year 6 will be taking part in Bikeability sessions in school. They will be learning about how to keep their fit for road use and how to ride their bike safely on the road.

YEAR 5 CLEETHORPES TRIPS...

Next Wednesday, Year 5 will be visiting Cleethorpes for part of their Geography topic. During the day, the children will get the opportunity to play on the beach! Children will need to be in school for 7:50am as the bus will leave at 8am. Unfortunately, we can not wait for anyone who is late. Children will need to bring a packed lunch (children who are entitled to free school dinners will receive one). Children will also need a drink (no glass bottles) and a coat as it may be windy on the beach.

SCHOOL CLOSES...

A reminder that school closes on Friday 23rd May for half-term. School will re-open on Monday 2nd June.

YEAR 6 LONDON TRIP...

On Wednesday 4th June, our Year 6's will be going to London's West End to see the musical 'Matilda.' More details will be shared on Class Dojo in the near future.



This week's theme for the Golden Book is
'Someone who treats others with respect'

This week's winners are:

3H	Muna
3W	Frejara
3/4K	Omar
4A	Nihaat
4B	Masha
5F	Constantin
5R	Maryam
5/6B	Hamza
6F	Moiz
6Q	Desmond

A huge well done to all this week's winners.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users to the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking in locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

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.



Sources: Status of Mind Social media and young people's mental health | Life in Lines - Children's Commissioners Report | <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US/help/whats-new/snapchat-parent-review/> | [BBC.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56888888) | <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/technology/snapchat-status-snap-maps-europe-trust-e-safety-commissioners-2017-young-people-and-sexting-attitudes-and-behaviours-research-findings-from-the-uk-new-zealand-and-australia-a7888888.html>