

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY 2025

WELCOME...

We are delighted to welcome our new School Business Manager, Ms. Nadin, who has started at #TeamStJames this week. She will be working in the School Office with Miss Majid and Mrs Elliott.

SCHOOL DISCO...

We are holding another after-school disco on Wednesday 29th January. If your child would like to attend, tickets cost £2. Tickets can be purchased, in cash, from Mrs Wilcoxson or Mrs Akhtar.

There are a number of events coming up in the next few weeks. Make sure you keep your eye on Class Dojo for further updates.

GYMNASTICS EVENT...

A group of Year 3 and 4 children took part in a Gymnastics event yesterday at Derby High School. They were brilliant and thoroughly enjoyed the event. Their behaviour was outstanding.

OPEN AFTERNOONS...

This half-term we will be inviting parents in to school to celebrate their child's learning during an open afternoon. Every class completes theme work during the afternoons. These lessons include subjects such as science, history, geography, art and design and technology. The children often finish their learning with a celebration event, where they showcase their work. We would absolutely love to share this with parents too. Keep an eye out on Class Dojo for your child's class' open afternoon. If you have any questions, please speak with your child's class teacher.

SCHOOL UNIFORM...

A reminder that children should attend school in full uniform. This includes trousers/skirt, a white shirt or polo shirt and a navy jumper or cardigan. Children should wear school shoes. PE kits, including hoodies can only be worn on PE and club days.



This week's theme for the Golden Book is
'Someone who always shows outstanding
behaviour.'

This week's winners are:

3H	Peter
3W	Barin
3/4K	Ayesha
4A	Fatima
4B	Zoya
5F	Taiba
5R	Maria
5/6B	Zara
6F	Ricards
6Q	Luciano

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



Have an amazing weekend!

Ms. Nadin

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING

7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying; it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unnerve young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lots of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National
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#WakeUpWednesday