

# ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2025

### ADVENT SERVICE AT OZZY ROAD CHURCH...

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Advent service at Osmaston Road Church.

It was a truly special morning, made even more memorable by how beautifully the children read their parts and how confidently they sang. We are incredibly proud of them, and we are grateful to you for being there to share in such a lovely tradition.

### YEAR 3 TRIP TO CONKERS...

Year 3 children will be heading to the Winter Wonderland at Conkers on Wednesday 3rd December for a magical festive experience - and they will even get the chance to meet Santa! To ensure they are comfortable and prepared for the day, please make sure your child wears sensible footwear, their school jumper, and brings a warm coat. It promises to be a wonderful trip and a fantastic way to start the festive season.

### #TEAMSTJAMES PODCAST...

Our very first #TEAMSTJAMES Podcast went live today! You can listen to it on Class Dojo or via the school website. There are some interviews with staff, random facts, jokes and a Teachers vs Pupils quiz!

### CHRISTMAS DINNER & CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY...

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we will be having our Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner day. Children can wear their Christmas jumpers for the day. You can order your child a Christmas dinner on Arbor.

### YEAR 3 NATIVITY TO PARENTS

Our wonderful Year 3 children will be performing their Nativity play to parents on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. The performance will start at 9:15am. Last year's performance was very busy, so please arrive in school in good time to avoid being late and to ensure you get a seat!

### SCHOOL CLOSES...

A reminder that school closes to children on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December. There is no school on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Children return to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.



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

This week's winners are:

3R	Saifuddin
3W	Nicolas
3/4MS	Lara
4A	Maryam
4B	Aaliyah
5F	Ramin
5H	Emmanunel
5/6FB	Michelle
6K	Taiba
6Q	Luciannah

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



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

### PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

### VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

### SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College