

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

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



## NEW WEBSITE...

We have a brand new, shiny website going live from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February! Don't forget to check it out at: [www.stjames.derby.sch.uk](http://www.stjames.derby.sch.uk)

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

### PLANETARIUM...

Year 5 children have come away from the experience as real experts on planets and stars! They were full of fascinating facts, brilliant questions and plenty of enthusiasm, and they are very keen to share what they have learned. We would encourage parents to take them outside on a clear night and let them show off their new knowledge by spotting stars, planets and constellations – you may be surprised by just how much they know!

### PARENTS EVENING...

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening on Wednesday. We hope you found the sessions with your child's class teacher useful and that they provided a valuable opportunity to discuss progress, celebrate successes and talk about next steps. We really appreciate your continued support and engagement.

### DISCO...

Our after-school disco on Thursday was a great success, with the children having lots of fun and showing off some amazing dance moves. Despite a few questionable song requests, the atmosphere was fantastic and the energy on the dance floor was brilliant throughout. I'm pleased to report that I did not join in with the dancing – no one needs to see that!

### ATTENDANCE...

A huge well done to all the children who received an attendance award this half-term. We have had a strong focus on attendance and are pleased to be in line with national figures, which is a great achievement. Children who received Diamond Awards have already enjoyed their hot chocolate party with Mrs McCall, and those with 100% attendance are looking forward to their disco this afternoon! 💎🎉👧

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS...

As we come to the end of the half-term, we would like to wish everyone a very happy and restful holiday. Happy Chinese New Year to all those who are celebrating, and Ramadan Mubarak to those who are beginning their fast for the holy month. We also wish a Happy Lent and the very best of luck to anyone giving up a favourite treat. Finally, a huge good luck to the Down'ards and everyone taking part in Royal Shrovetide Football in Ashbourne on Tuesday and Wednesday. See you all on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.



This week's theme for the Golden Book is 'Someone who has improved their handwriting.'

This week's winners are:

3R	Haider
3W	Luqmaan
3/4MS	Silvester
4A	Mard
4B	Mylo
5F	Karolina
5H	Patricia
5/6FB	Zayn
6K	Nicolas
6Q	Oto

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



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TROLLING

The term "Trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

### HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

### 24/7 CONTACT

The internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

### HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

### IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

### NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

### ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

### DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

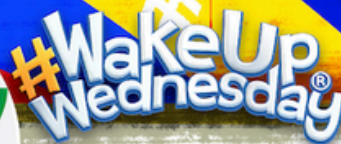
A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling)