

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

WELCOME BACK...

Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a fantastic February break and managed to enjoy some well-earned rest. We're now heading into a short but action-packed half-term, with lots of exciting learning opportunities and special events ahead. As the days begin to get a little lighter, it's a brilliant time to refocus, work hard and make the most of every moment. We're looking forward to seeing the children throw themselves into the weeks ahead with enthusiasm, resilience and big smiles!

ANGLO SAXONS...

On Tuesday, Year 4 travelled back in time when they welcomed a fantastic Anglo-Saxon visitor into school! The children had an incredible day packed with hands-on learning, discovering what life was like in Anglo-Saxon Britain and exploring the skills and traditions of the time. One of the highlights was learning how to form a shield wall – working together just like real Anglo-Saxon warriors! The children were brilliantly behaved, fully engaged and came away with a wealth of new knowledge (and a lot of excitement!).

SECONDARY SCHOOL OFFER DAY...

Next Monday is Secondary School Offer Day, when our Year 6 children will find out which secondary school they have been allocated for September. This is a big milestone in their journey and an exciting step towards the next chapter of their education. Notifications will be sent directly to parents and carers, so please be sure to check your emails carefully (and your post, if applicable) for confirmation of your child's place. We know this can feel like a significant moment for families, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

CYBER SECURITY INFORMATION SESSION...

We are pleased to be working in partnership with Rosehill Infant School, who are hosting a FREE Cyber Security Information Session on Thursday 5th March at 9:00am in their school hall. This expert-led session will provide practical advice on keeping children safe online, spotting risks and scams, securing devices, and supporting your child with confidence at home. Translation support is available. We strongly encourage parents and carers to attend this valuable session. Further details can be found on Class Dojo.



This week's theme for the Golden Book is 'Someone who has made a positive start to this half-term.'

This week's winners are:

3R	Abdul Raheem
3W	Omar
3/4MS	Aahil
4A	Yahya
4B	Jasmina
5F	Maria
5H	Adam
5/6FB	Hajrah
6K	Rayan
6Q	Wonuola

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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

POP-UP ADS

WARN

Pop-up advertisements have been a staple of the internet since they were first introduced in the late 1990s. This form of advertising causes a small window or banner to appear in the foreground while someone is browsing a website. Although these adverts are merely irritating for most people, pop-ups can present more severe risks to younger users.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DECEPTIVE TACTICS

Children sometimes don't understand that adverts (including pop-ups) are designed to sell a product – and can't distinguish between a legitimate feature of a site and an advertisement. Video games, for example, can be full of pop-up ads that tempt users into spending money, yet they might take the form of a mini-game or extra level.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While some adverts are targeted based on a user's interests and activity online, that isn't always the case. This means that children may unfortunately be exposed to ads for age-inappropriate goods or services such as tobacco products, alcohol and gambling sites.

MALWARE RISK

Most pop-ups from reputable advertisers are safe. However, in some cases, pop-ups can trick you into downloading malware – whereby cybercriminals install software on your device, allowing them to access your sensitive data. It can be difficult to know if malware has been installed on your device, so your best option is to avoid engaging with these pop-ups altogether. Be wary of sites that suddenly bombard you with ads or try to prevent you from leaving.

PRIVACY RISK

Many app and game developers will collect their users' personal data, such as their name, address, email address, geolocation information, unique numerical identifiers, photos and payment information. If a child clicks on an illegitimate pop-up laced with malware, all this information could be put at risk.

RACKING UP BILLS

If a child has access to a payment card on their device – be it a smartphone, laptop, or tablet – they could very quickly rack up a massive bill by interacting with pop-up adverts and buying products shown to them. Try to keep a close eye on their spending.

BEHAVIOURAL IMPACT

Research has found that pop-up ads can even have an impact on children's behaviour. Some of these adverts use manipulative tactics that take advantage of children's developmental vulnerabilities, intentionally or otherwise. This approach may cause a child's mood to shift: becoming more stubborn, for example, if they begin wanting their parents to buy a specific product for them.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START A CONVERSATION

It's important to have regular conversations with children about online advertising so that they understand the risks of interacting with pop-ups. For example, if a child asks for a product which has been advertised to them online, ask them why they want it and how they found it: this will present an opportunity to talk youngsters through the tactics used in online marketing.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child may be following pop-up ads to make online purchases or viewing content that could be harmful, it's important to be able to spot the signs. Due to the often-manipulative nature of these adverts, children who interact with them regularly may show signs of distraction, stubbornness and an increasingly materialistic worldview.

MONITOR CONTENT

It can often be difficult to spot when a pop-up advert is malicious – even more so for impressionable younger users. It's important to monitor the content they're consuming to prevent them from clicking on something dangerous. If a pop-up ad seems too good to be true – promising a free iPad, for example – it probably is.

PRIVACY SETTINGS

Most modern devices have privacy settings that let you limit the amount of advertising a child is subjected to while using apps or browsing the internet. You may also want to speak to teachers about avoiding sites and apps with advertising, as well as adjusting digital privacy settings on any education technology they use.

LIMIT SPENDING

Try to stay aware of what children are spending and ensure that payment details aren't linked to or saved on the gaming platform that they use. Most video games and internet-enabled devices have settings that can help you manage what children can or cannot purchase online.

CUT DOWN ON SCREEN TIME

Given the prevalence of pop-up ads (which can appear on everything from smartphones and tablets to internet-connected toys and games), it might be beneficial to limit the time children spend on digital devices to curb their exposure to digital advertising.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for *Forbes*, *TechRadar* and *Wired*, among others.



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