

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

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025

### AUTHOR VISIT...

On Monday, we are delighted to welcome author, Lanisha Butterfield in to school. Lanisha was the winner of the 2025 Children's Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing and the winner of Derby Book Festival's - Derby Children's Picture Book Award 2025 for her story, Flower Block. Throughout the morning, Lanisha will be working with children in Years 3 and 4, and will be answering any questions that the children may have.

### YEAR 3 READ WITH PARENTS...

A huge thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the Year 3 story session yesterday. It was amazing to see so many of you in school. We hope you enjoyed the story and we look forward to seeing you all in school again soon.

### SLEEP WORKSHOP...

Thank you to everyone who attended the Compass Changing Lives Sleep Workshop yesterday. We hope that you found the session useful and managed to take away some helpful strategies.

### ODD SOCKS DAY...

On Monday, children are able to come to school wearing odd socks! This is to mark the start of our anti-bullying week. Wearing odd socks is a simple, fun way to celebrate what makes each of us unique - and to reinforce the idea that differences are something to be celebrated, not bullied.

### PARENT CONDUCT...

At St. James' Junior School we pride ourselves on maintaining a respectful and supportive school community. We kindly remind all parents and carers that staff must be spoken to in a courteous and respectful manner at all times. We will not tolerate rude, aggressive or inappropriate communication towards any member of our team, whether in person, over the phone or via Class Dojo. Our staff work incredibly hard for our children and deserve to be treated with dignity. Thank you for helping us ensure that our school remains a safe and positive environment for everyone.



This week's theme for the Golden Book is 'Someone who walks around school wearing a smile.'

This week's winners are:

3R	Winter
3W	Minahil
3/4MS	Nella
4A	Dominic
4B	Zaynab
5F	Habia
5H	Maryam
5/6FB	Jana
6K	Zoya
6Q	Cristian

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



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That’s partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as ‘chapters’ – and within these sit shorter ‘seasons’.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

There’s no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you’re out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

## IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic ‘skins’, music tracks and LEGO items – which don’t really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game’s store for real money.

## POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite’s appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

## CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. ‘Crossplay’ lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they’re on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the ‘party chat’ feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

## VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there’s no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there’s no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

## FREQUENT UPDATES

The game’s developers release content in ‘seasons’ that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment’s map and a different over-arching theme (such as ‘medieval’, ‘pirates’ or ‘party’). These regular renewals help to hold players’ interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child’s social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they’re getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite’s rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite’s seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a ‘battle pass’, unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there’s no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite’s loading screens, they never ask for a player’s account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child’s friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they’re playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRcon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

