

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

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026

### BOOK FAIR...

The Book Fair has been with us this week! Thank you to everyone who purchased a book and supported the event - I hope you enjoy your new reads!

### YEAR 3 TRIP...

Year 3 had a fantastic time on their recent trip to Creswell Crags. The weather stayed kind to them, which meant the children were able to fully enjoy all of the outdoor activities. As part of their Stone Age learning, the children took part in cave painting, which they thoroughly enjoyed and found really brought their topic to life. It was a memorable experience for everyone involved, and the children represented the school brilliantly.

### YEAR 5 EASTER PERFORMANCE...

Year 5 delivered a fantastic Easter performance of Resurrection Rock! The children were amazing - full of confidence, energy and enthusiasm - and they truly did themselves proud. A huge thank you to Ozzy Road Church for hosting us, and to all the parents and carers who attended to support the children. It was a wonderful event and a great celebration of their hard work.

### EID CELEBRATION...

We were delighted to host our Eid Celebration in school, and what a wonderful afternoon it was. The children were amazing throughout, and it was especially impressive to see them confidently reciting in Arabic and Urdu - such a proud moment for everyone involved. A huge thank you to Amraiz for coming into school to lead the celebrations and make the event so special. We are also very grateful to all the parents and carers who attended and supported the occasion. It was a fantastic way to come together and celebrate as a school community.

### EASTER...

We would like to wish all of our families and staff a wonderful and peaceful Easter. This special time in the Christian calendar reminds us of the message of hope, new life and fresh beginnings, as we reflect on the resurrection of Jesus. We hope you enjoy a restful break with your loved ones and return refreshed for the term ahead.

### SCHOOL CLOSES...

A reminder school closes for Easter on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. School re-open to pupils on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.



Due to the Easter Egg Raffle this afternoon, we will be announcing our attendance winners when we return to school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

A reminder that all children who have achieved 95% attendance for this half-term will win our Gold Award and will be presented with a special sticker.

Children who have achieved 98% attendance for this half-term will receive our Diamond Award and will be presented with a special sticker and an invite for hot chocolate with Mrs McCall.

All children who have achieved 100% attendance for this half-term will receive our Platinum Award and will receive a giant sticker and an invite to our exclusive VIP Disco!

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

### MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

### MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

### ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

### ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

### UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

### QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

### IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

### PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College