

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL 2026

WELCOME BACK...

Welcome back to school – I hope you all had a wonderful and restful Easter break! It has been fantastic to see the children return with such enthusiasm, ready to learn and reconnect with their friends.

This term promises to be a busy and exciting one, with lots of opportunities for learning, growth and memorable experiences. As always, I value the continued support of our families and look forward to working together to ensure every child thrives. Here's to a positive and successful term ahead!

ATTENDANCE...

An impressive 68% of children achieved attendance of over 98% in the last half-term, which is truly fantastic. Regular attendance plays a vital role in ensuring children make the most of every learning opportunity, build strong routines and feel fully part of school life. I encourage all children to continue attending school every day so they can maximise their opportunities and achieve their very best.

YEAR 3 TRIP...

Next Tuesday, our Year 3 children will be visiting the mosque as part of their RE topic. This visit will provide a valuable opportunity for them to learn more about different places of worship and deepen their understanding of other faiths. Please note that children will not be taking part in any acts of worship during the visit; instead, they will be observing and exploring the mosque as a place of learning, helping to broaden their knowledge and respect for different beliefs and cultures.

CLASS READS...

I am pleased to share that we will once again be holding our Year group reading sessions with parents and carers this half-term. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to come into school, spend time with your child, and enjoy a story together in a relaxed and welcoming environment. I strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend, as sharing a love of reading plays such an important role in children's development and helps to foster positive attitudes towards books and learning. Please check Class Dojo for more information.

ORACY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS...

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who attended the oracy workshop this week. It was fantastic to see such strong support and engagement. Oracy skills – the ability to speak clearly, listen carefully, and express ideas effectively – are a vital part of children's learning. They underpin success across the curriculum, helping children to develop their thinking, build confidence, and engage in meaningful discussions. By strengthening their oracy skills, children are better equipped to explain their understanding, ask questions, and collaborate with others, all of which are key to their progress in school and beyond.

Golden Book AWARDS

Our theme for the Golden Book this week has been 'Someone who has served others this week'

The children in the Golden Book this week are:

3R	Ethan
3W	Rehan
3/4MS	Liani
4A	Mard
4B	Sofia
5F	Zoya
5H	Emmanuel
5/6FB	Aadam
6K	Shaheer
6O	Fatima

Well done to all this week's winners.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🍌 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Snap+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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