

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026

YEAR 5 ROLLS ROYCE DAY...

On Tuesday this week, Year 5 were delighted to welcome staff from Rolls-Royce into school to work alongside them on exciting STEM projects. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to explore science in a practical, hands-on way, developing their understanding of engineering and how it is used in the real world. It was a highly engaging day, and the pupils showed great curiosity, enthusiasm, and enjoyment throughout the activities.

YEAR 4 DOVEDALE TRIP...

Our Year 4 children had a fantastic time during their visit to Dovedale in the Peak District National Park on Wednesday, despite the challenging weather conditions. They embraced the day with great enthusiasm, exploring the stunning surroundings and making the most of their outdoor learning experience. Although they returned a little wet and muddy, they were in excellent spirits throughout, and we are incredibly proud of their outstanding behaviour and positive attitude.

COMPUTING WORKSHOPS...

I would like to extend my thanks to all the parents who attended the computer workshops led by Mrs Stuart this week. Your engagement and support made the sessions a real success, and it was wonderful to see such strong participation from families across the school community.

SINGING AT DERBY CATHEDRAL...

Next Tuesday after school, our Year 5 children will be taking part in a very special showcase performance at Derby Cathedral, where they will be singing as part of their celebration of the music learning they have undertaken this year. This exciting opportunity has come through their partnership with Derby Cathedral, during which the children have been working closely with cathedral musicians to develop their singing skills, confidence, and performance technique. The children are very much looking forward to sharing their hard work with an audience in such a beautiful and meaningful setting. Tickets for the performance are free and are still available, so please contact Mrs Herbert for further details.

ELECTRIC DAISY...

Next Wednesday, our Year 5 children will be visiting Electric Daisy as part of their science learning on plants. This exciting trip will give the children the opportunity to deepen their understanding of how plants grow, what they need to survive, and how they are cared for in different environments.

Golden Book AWARDS

Our theme for the Golden Book this week has been 'Someone who is grateful for their learning.'

The children in the Golden Book this week are:

3R	Kevin
3W	Stephanie
3/4MS	Mikail
4A	Noel
4B	Light
5F	Blessing
5H	Patricia
5/6FB	Aaliyah
6K	Azaan
6Q	Isaac

Well done to all this week's winners.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

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 and The New Statesman.



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