

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

SCIENCE WORKSHOP...

Next Tuesday, our Year 6 children will be taking part in an exciting Hands-On Science Workshop as part of their current science topic on Evolution. The workshop will focus on adaptation and camouflage, giving children the opportunity to explore how animals have adapted to survive in their environments. Through practical, hands-on activities, children will investigate how camouflage can help animals avoid predators and increase their chances of survival. We're sure it will be a fun and engaging opportunity for our Year 6 scientists to put their learning into practice!

Parents and carers are reminded that consent must be given via Arbor for their child to take part in the workshop; if you have not already done so, please log into Arbor and provide your consent as soon as possible.

VR WORKSHOP...

On Wednesday, our Year 3 children will be taking part in an exciting Virtual Reality (VR) Workshop as part of their current topic on Volcanoes and Earthquakes. The workshop will give children the opportunity to explore volcanoes in an immersive and interactive way, helping them to understand how volcanoes are formed, what happens when they erupt and the impact they can have on the surrounding environment. We're looking forward to seeing the children enjoy this exciting experience while developing their geographical knowledge! Parents and carers are reminded that consent must be given via Arbor for their child to take part in the workshop; if you have not already done so, please log into Arbor and provide your consent as soon as possible.

LOCAL GEOGRAPHY VISIT...

This half term, our Year 5 children will be learning about Local Geography, exploring the area around our school and developing their understanding of the local environment and community. As part of this learning, on Tuesday 6th October, the children will be going on a local geography walk, visiting Derby Cathedral, St Mary's Church and Riverside Library. This will provide children with an opportunity to see and explore places within their local area while making links to their classroom learning. Parents and carers must provide consent via Arbor for their child to take part in this visit. If you have not already done so, please log into Arbor and give your consent as soon as possible.

Golden Book AWARDS

Our theme for the Golden Book this week has been 'Someone who always remembers their manners.'

The children in the Golden Book this week are:

3R	Ramina
3W	Tish
3/4MS	Fatima
4A	Fatima
4B	Zaryab
5F	Amelia
5H	Aaliyah
5/6FB	Jennie
6K	Sarah
6Q	Ramin

Well done to all this week's winners.



PRACTISING OUR INVACUATION AND LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES...

At St James' Junior School, the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff is our highest priority. As part of our safeguarding procedures, we have plans in place to help everyone know what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be practising our invacuation and lockdown procedures with the children. We understand that this can feel a little frightening at first, particularly as the announcements can be loud. However, practising these procedures helps to ensure that children and staff are familiar with what to do and can respond calmly and safely if we ever need to use them.

What is an invacuation?

An invacuation is when we need to bring everyone into the school building and keep them inside because there is a situation outside that is not life-threatening, but could affect the safety of our pupils and staff. For example, this could be because there is an incident taking place nearby, severe weather, or another situation where it is safer for everyone to remain inside school temporarily.

What is a lockdown?

A lockdown would be used when there is a more significant risk to the safety of children and staff. This could be because of an incident within or around the school premises, or following advice from the police or other emergency services.

During a lockdown, children will be asked to return to the school building, move to a safe area and sit quietly underneath their desks until they are told that it is safe to come out.

We appreciate that talking about these situations, and hearing the announcements, may feel frightening for some children. We will therefore be doing lots of work with the children to explain why we practise these procedures, what they need to do and, most importantly, to reassure them that these practices are designed to help keep everyone safe.

You may also wish to talk to your child about this at home and reassure them that practising these procedures does not mean that we are expecting an emergency to happen. Just like practising a fire drill, it is about making sure everyone knows what to do should we ever need to use the procedure.

On Monday 5th October, we will play both the invacuation and lockdown announcements during Collective Worship. This will help children to become familiar with the sounds and understand what they mean before we practise the procedures.

Whenever we practise an invacuation or lockdown, we will let parents and carers know via Class Dojo. Thank you for your support in helping us to ensure that our children feel safe, secure and prepared.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK

Google Chromebooks were first introduced in 2011 as a budget-friendly alternative to Windows laptops. They have a cloud-based desktop operating system created by Google that performs internet-based tasks simply and quickly. Although primarily optimised for Google apps – such as Gmail and Google Drive – newer devices also support Android apps and offer a range of parental controls via the Google Family Link tool. Nonetheless, whilst these tools are comprehensive, there are some limitations which means there are a number of risks trusted adults should be aware of.



Advice for Parents & Carers

There are a number of safety features that you can enable to keep your child safe while using Google Chromebook:

- 1 Disable guest mode and control who can sign into your child's Chromebook
- 2 Restrict or block access to apps from the Chrome Web Store and the Google Play Store
- 3 Disable Incognito Mode so you can always track what sites your child has been on.
- 4 Manage the websites your children can visit on Chrome
- 5 Limit your child's ability to grant permissions to websites
- 6 Check Family Link to ensure the Chrome browser default is set to block sexually explicit and violent sites from being shown to children
- 7 Set bedtimes, screen-time limits, and lock devices when not in use

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

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