

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

PARENTS' EVENING...

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers that attended Parents' Evening on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many of you in school. If you were unable to attend Parents' Evening, but would still like a meeting with your child's class teacher, then please contact them via Class Dojo to arrange an appointment.

DDAT 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY...

On Tuesday, the 8 members of our GROW Council and an additional 3 children in the choir, took part in a ceremony at Derby Cathedral to mark the 10 year anniversary of Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT). The children took part in a number of readings and hymns and the choir sounded absolutely amazing.

GOODBYE...

Today, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Ali, who has been a mid-day supervisor at St. James' Junior School for 18 years! Mrs Ali is leaving to take up a new role at a different school and we wish her all the very best for the future.

NON-UNIFORM DAY...

A huge thank you to all the children who donated £1 for non-uniform day today. We are using the money to purchase some visualisers for the classrooms, so that staff can share children's work with the whole class, as well as demonstrating skills, such as handwriting practice.

COATS...

With the weather starting to get colder, please can parents/carers ensure that children attend school with their coats after half-term. We still want the children to be outside when possible, so coats will help to keep them warm. If your child does not have a coat, please speak with the School Office.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS...

After the holidays, our after-school clubs will begin. Sports Clubs will start the first week back and can be booked through Riley Sports and Fitness website. The school enrichment clubs, including Cooking, Sewing, Computing & Art will begin on the first Thursday back and can be booked through Arbor. The catch-up clubs for Maths will begin on Tuesday 11th November.

Have a wonderful holiday! See you on 3rd November.



This week's theme for the Golden Book is 'Someone who respects their environment.'

This week's winners are:

3R	Ethan
3W	Intesam
3/4MS	Nasima
4A	Kardo
4B	Sofia
5F	Demmy
5H	Skylar
5/6FB	Shameer
6K	Bella
6Q	Debra

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



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING

13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

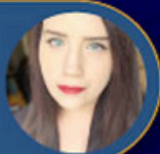
The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmw3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday