



NEWSLETTER

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Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God



Joyful Readers



Opportunities to Build Upon Knowledge and Skills



Understanding of British and Christian Values



Resilience and Perseverance



Nurture Curiosity



Encourage Articulate Learners



Your Wellbeing and Health

2024-2025 Issue Number 34 Friday 27th June 2025

**OUR VALUE THIS
HALF TERM IS:
RESPECT**



This week at St James

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we've had at school—full of creativity, teamwork, and memorable moments!

On Monday, some of our brilliant Year 4 and Year 5 children took part in a Softball competition. They gave it their all and represented St James beautifully—we're so proud of their effort and team spirit!

Tuesday was all about creativity for Year 3, as Mr C joined us for another Art Day. The children were completely absorbed in their work and produced some amazing pieces—we can't wait to show them off! We've also had some exciting news about some Year 6 artwork that was entered into a competition... more on that very soon!

On Thursday, a group of children attended our Trust Ethos Day, and we've heard glowing feedback about how well they represented our school—well done to them. And Year 2! Wow what a class assembly—Mrs Young told me how proud she was of you all! In the afternoon, all classes took part in workshops about hate and how we should treat others led by our local PCSOs.

To round off the week, Year 6 had their Golden Shells trip to the Shakespeare North Theatre. It was a brilliant opportunity to experience live theatre and learn more about Shakespeare in a fun and engaging way.

Looking ahead, we're really excited for International Week next week! Our theme is Africa, and we've got lots of exciting activities planned. The children will explore African art, music, food, geography, and daily life. We'll also be learning more about Rashidah, the young girl we sponsor in Uganda, and our ongoing work with the New Hope charity. It promises to be a week full of learning, culture, and connection.

Please check the message on School Spider for more details about International Week and Sports Day, which we're hoping to hold on Friday, weather permitting! Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Briers

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance Updates

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our **97% target**—this will help us to succeed!

Our Whole School attendance to date is 95.9%

The class with the highest attendance this week, and the winner of the virtual £5 is Year 1

There were 138 pupils with perfect attendance this week. Can we beat this next week?

Weekly Attendance

Whole School	96.3%
Reception	96%
Year 1	99.3%
Year 2	94.3%
Year 3	99%
Year 4	92.5%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	96.5%





Every Lesson Counts

At St James' CE Primary School



Days off school add up to lost learning and impact on your child's life chances.

175 Non School Days a year



175 DAYS TO SPEND ON HOLIDAYS, FAMILY TIME, VISITS, SHOPPING, HOUSEHOLD JOBS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

190 school days each year for your child's education
EXCELLENT
96% - 100%
Most effective way to success and sets your child off to a flying start.

10 days absence
180 days of education
CONCERNING
LESS THAN 96%
School monitors attendance; it is less than expected.

19 days of absence
170 days of education
WORRYING
Less than 90%
Less chance of success; harder to make progress in learning, friendships and relationships with others.

29 days absence
HALF A TERM MISSED
161 DAYS OF EDUCATION
Serious concerns
Less than 85%
This is not fair on your child. You risk prosecution and a jail term.



Summer Days: Every Day Matters Attendance Competition



At St James, coming to school every day matters!

The more you attend, the more you learn—and those with the best attendance achieve amazing things.

Each week, your class could win a special reward!

On different days each week, the class with the best attendance will earn an extra playtime that day!

It's simple—if you're in school and your class is the winner, you get extra time to play!

More fun, more fresh air, and more time to enjoy the sunshine with your friends.

So, let's show up, do our best, and see which class will take the prize.

Will it be yours? Keep coming in and find out!

Miss School Miss Out

If you're not coming to school, you will miss out on....



Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Whole School events Summer 2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
30/06/2025	International Week
30/06/2025	Reception Vision Screening Test
01/07/2025	Judo club 8.00am
01/07/2025	Year 3 and Year 4 Crazy Rounders
02/07/2025	Year 4 Swimming
04/07/2025	Sports Day - KS1 9.30am, KS2 1.00pm
07/07/2025	Reserve Sports Day
07/07/2025	Transition Week (further information to follow)
08/07/2025	Judo club 8.00am
09/07/2025	Year 4 Swimming
10/07/2025	Year 5 and Year 6 Ultimate Frisbie
15/07/2025	Zumbathon Sponsored Event
16/07/2025	Reception Assembly 9.00am
16/07/2025	Year 4 Swimming
18/07/2025	End of Year Report to go Home
22/07/2025	Year 6 to Lead Year 6 Leavers Assembly
22/07/2025	School Closes for Summer 2pm

Term Dates

2025-2026

Autumn Term		Days
Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	Friday 24 th October 2025	38
Monday 3 rd November 2025	Friday 19 th December 2025	35
Spring Term		
Monday 5 th January 2026	Friday 13 th February 2026	30
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Friday 27 th March 2026	25
Summer Term		
Monday 13 th April 2026	Friday 22 nd May 2026	29
Wednesday 3 rd June 2026	Friday 17 th July 2026	33
		190

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Keeping Our Children Safe – What Parents Can Do

At St James , keeping children safe is our top priority—and we know it's yours too. The latest government guidance, *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024*, highlights how important it is for families and schools to work together to protect children.

Here are a few simple ways you can help:

- **Talk regularly with your child** about their day, friendships, and how they feel.
- **Be alert to changes** in behaviour, mood, or routines—they can be signs something's not right.
- **Know where your child is online** and who they're talking to. Set clear boundaries and use parental controls where needed.
- **Encourage your child to speak up** if something makes them uncomfortable—remind them they can always talk to you or a trusted adult at school.
- **Stay connected with school**—read newsletters, attend meetings, and don't hesitate to ask questions or raise concerns.

Together, we can create a safe, supportive environment where every child can thrive.

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Nintendo Switch 2!



Nintendo's long-awaited Switch 2 has finally arrived, blending fresh hardware with fan-favourite franchises. From Mario to Pikachu, the familiar mascots are back – but so too are evolving online features, in-game purchases, and potential exposure to mature content. As ever, it's essential that parents and educators understand the risks to young players.

Among these are GameChat voice communication, camera-based gaming, and potential access to mature-rated titles. This week's guide outlines what to watch out for and how to keep children safe, engaged and having fun.

This week's free guide explores the Nintendo Switch 2, covering how its new features – from GameChat to a plug-in camera – could affect children's privacy, spending, and screen time.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 3* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of *Daily Star* and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *IGN*, *TechRadar*, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

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@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 25.06.2025

Spirituality Spotlight

As a school community we want to be:

**“Journeying together to Live,
Learn and Laugh with the Love of
God”**



Dear God,

Thank You for the people who help keep us safe and teach us how to treat others with kindness—especially our PCSOs who visited us this week.

Help us to remember the words of Jesus in the Bible:

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." – Matthew 7:12

May we always show respect, speak with love, and stand up for what is right.

As we journey together to live, learn, and laugh with Your love, guide our hearts to be kind, our words to be gentle, and our actions to be fair.

Amen.



Journey Driver Focus:

Each half term, one child from each class is nominated by their class teacher for 'living out' our value of the half term. The value for this half term is 'Encourage Articulate Learners'

RECEPTION	Olivia-Rose Preston
YEAR 1	Aria Hill-Price
YEAR 2	Emily Gartside
YEAR 3	George Braithwaite
YEAR 4	Isobel MCue
YEAR 5	Noah Jackson
YEAR 6	Finley Birkett

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

Clubs



We are running the following after school clubs this half term.

Tuesday-Judo at 8am (5 weeks 10th June -8th July)-Please see flyer

-Sports Club for YR, Y1 and Y2 with the Sports Coach

-FAB Club for Y2 and Y3-Miss Barratt.

Wednesday- Football Club for Y5 and Y6 with Mr Moon

Thursday- Sports Club for KS2 with the Sports Coach

PE Days

Monday Year 3

Tuesday Year 1 and 2

Wednesday Reception, Year

Thursday Year 5 and 6.

Friday Year 1 , 2. 3 and 4.

Y4 Swimming (4nd Jun – 16th July).



Please make every effort to ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform and that it is clearly labelled. Children should wear completely black shoes – not trainers. It is important that the P.E kit is seen as an extension of our school uniform, therefore our high standards should be kept.

A reminder that our school PE kit consists of a black tracksuit/red shorts and white t shirt. .Please note that children should not wear any form of jewellery (only stud earrings are allowed and should not be worn on PE days)



Sports day will take place on the school field, (weather permitting), on
Friday 4th July.

The times are as follows:

- Reception, Year 1 and 2 - 9.30am
- Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 - 1.30pm

Parents are most welcome to attend. Please enter via the bottom car park. All children are to wear their PE kit on sports day.

A reserve sports day has been pencilled in for Monday 7th July should we have to cancel due to the weather.

Thank you for your continued support

Lectio 365

Lectio 365 is a free daily devotional app that helps you pray the Bible every day.

Lectio 365 is a free daily devotional resource for adults that helps you pray the Bible every day.

Tune into God's presence and peace by slowing down, meditating on scripture, listening to God and praying for 10 minutes at the beginning and end of each day.



For iPhone

For Android

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.



Summer Fair & Fun Day



FREE Ice
Cream van!!

Scentsy
with Ange

Sweets

Toddler ride on
corner

FREE Amazon
goodies

At Christ Church URC
Haydock
On 28th June 2025

10am-2pm

Hand made

Books

cards

Burgers and
hotdogs

FREE
crafts

Beat the
goalie!

Hand made
jewellery

FREE face
painting

Crochet gifts
and goods

Home made cakes

Toys

Toiletries

Traditional Sri
Lankan food

*proceed from event will go
towards the Christ Church
community extension

Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God.

IN OTHER NEWS



players wanted
Haydock Lightning u12s

Rob - 07895654055

keith - 07717772999

Training
wednesdays

games
saturdays

warrington
jfl.