



FRIDAY NEWS

10TH
MAY
2024

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



ROAD SAFETY

We have had an increase in reports of near-misses between vehicles and children crossing the road whilst walking to school. We want every child that is part of our St James to be healthy and safe at all times.

Please remind your children about the importance of road safety. A good reminder is by using the **Green Cross Code.**

It is an oldie, but goodie, and is easy to remember:

1. Think
2. Stop
3. Look & Listen
4. Wait
5. Look & Listen again
6. Arrive Alive

You can find more info by visiting www.roadwise.co.uk

STARS OF THE WEEK

Class 1 - Willow BH

Class 2 - Libby M

Class 3 - Raphael F

Class 4 - Advika BR

Class 5 - Ella B

Class 6 - Tomas G

Class 7 - Casey H

Class 8 - Eesa S

Class 9 - Sophia D

Class 10 - Yara S

Class 11 - Rayan A

GOLD SCROLL

Kelsey-May J, Markela N,
Lara R, Jaxon T,
Tamin K, Rabiya B,
Eva-Rose S, Dua A,
Maggie R, Rogan J,
Thomas P, Willow R,
Tallulah-Rose L, Lexi F,
Hera S, Alisha C,
Rena L, Rose Jade E,
Blaine D, Talia K,
Atlanta C, Tomas G,
Willow C, Anabelle M

CHRISTIAN VALUE

Our Christian value this half term is
Honesty.

BIBLE QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Do that which is honest.

2 Corinthians 13:7

"With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him all things are possible."

(Matthew 19:26)



SATS

On Monday 13th May, Year 6 will begin their End of Key Stage 2 SATs. It is crucial that Year 6 pupils arrive at school on time to settle and prepare for these exams. Therefore, Year 6 pupils can come to school from 8:40 am where the school will provide sausage sandwiches (a vegetarian option will be available). I'm sure you will join us in wishing them luck!

SPORTS DAYS

Wednesday 22nd May - Year 5 & 6 at 1:30 pm.

Thursday 23rd May - Year 3 & 4 at 9:45 am.

Thursday 23rd May - Year 1 & 2 at 1:30 pm.

Friday 24th May - Reception at 2:00 pm.

Please note that these dates are weather-dependent.

OTHER EVENTS

Wednesday 15th May - Reception Assembly for Parents at 2:45 pm.

Friday 17th May - Phonic Screening Parent's Meeting for Year 1 children at 2:45 pm.

Thursday 23rd May - Year 6 trip to the Anderton Centre

Friday 24th May - School closes for half term.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

OUR TARGET IS 96%

Whole School	93.1%
Class 1	91.4%
Class 2	97.7%
Class 3	94.6%
Class 4	96.8%
Class 5	90.4%
Class 6	94.6%
Class 7	92.3%
Class 8	84.6%
Class 9	95.2%
Class 10	91.3%
Class 11	96.8%

Green: 100% - 95%
Yellow: 94.9% - 90%
Red: Below 90%



@stjamesfarnworth

YEAR 6 SATS HOMEWORK

Next week, you will be sitting your SATs. So, this weeks homework is very important and should be completed to the highest standard.

Watch a film

Play outside

Go for a walk

Phone a friend or family member

Get a good night's sleep

Have a lie in

Play a game

Eat your favourite food

Do whatever it is that helps you relax

Do NOT worry about next week - just do your best and show off what we know you can do!

We look forward to seeing you on Monday morning from 8:40am to enjoy a sausage butty to help you relax.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING



Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS



The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST



Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS



At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.

