



# FRIDAY NEWS



20TH  
DECEMBER  
2024

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



## STARS OF THE WEEK

- Class 1 - Emmanuel O
- Class 2 - Joey G
- Class 3 - MJ Jarrett
- Class 4 - Hope C
- Class 5 - All of Class 5
- Class 6 - Skylar B
- Class 7 - Decan M
- Class 8 - Tallulah-Rose L
- Class 9 - David O
- Class 10 - Avniel AF
- Class 11 - Tyler M
- Class 12 - Lucy G

## CHRISTMAS WISHES TO EVERYONE

As the festive season approaches, we at St James extend our warmest wishes to our valued pupils, their families, and our dedicated staff. This term has been a time of remarkable growth and achievement for our pupils in their school work, their behaviour and, not to mention, in swimming. We are incredibly proud of everyone's hard work and dedication.

We wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas filled with cherished moments and the warmth of loved ones. May the New Year bring happiness, success, and continued learning for all.

We look forward to welcoming families back to school on **Monday 6th January**. The pantomime will also be in school on this day - make sure you don't miss out!

## GOLD SCROLL

- Eva Rose S, Ruby Y,
- Theo S, Eshaal M,
- India B, Willow M,
- Tamara B, Jenson M,
- Emmie T, Tallulah Rose L,
- Jessica C, Lilly May H,
- Moeed M, Oluoma O,
- Tadiwa N, Gideon M,
- Anamta M, Elif O,
- Jan Y, Chester H,
- Rayyan M, Stella C

## CHRISTIAN VALUES

Our Christian value this half term is **Peace**.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."

**John 14:27**

"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)

# Things coming up in Spring

Week	W/C	Events
1	06/01/25	<p>6<sup>th</sup> - School re-opens            6<sup>th</sup> - Pantomime (2:00pm)            7<sup>th</sup> - Year 1 &amp; 2 Stay &amp; Learn @9 am            8<sup>th</sup> - Year 5 Stay &amp; Learn @9 am            9<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 &amp; 4 Stay &amp; Learn @9 am            10<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Stay &amp; Learn @9 am            10<sup>th</sup> - Rock Steady in school</p>
2	13/01/25	<p>13<sup>th</sup> - Parent leaflets out            17<sup>th</sup> - Bad Hair Day and non-uniform for £1 donation</p>
3	20/01/25	<p>23<sup>rd</sup> - Reception Stay and Learn @9 am            23<sup>rd</sup> - Class 8 Assembly @2:45</p>
4	27/01/25	<p>Assessment Week            27<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Stay and Play @9am &amp; 1pm</p>
5	03/02/25	<p>Children's Mental Health Week - Dress as future careers (free of charge) (Friday 7<sup>th</sup>)</p>
6	10/02/24	<p>11<sup>th</sup> - Safer Internet Day            11<sup>th</sup> - Class 10 Assembly @2:45            13<sup>th</sup> - Little Saints Stay and Play (Times TBC)            14<sup>th</sup> - School closes for half-term</p>

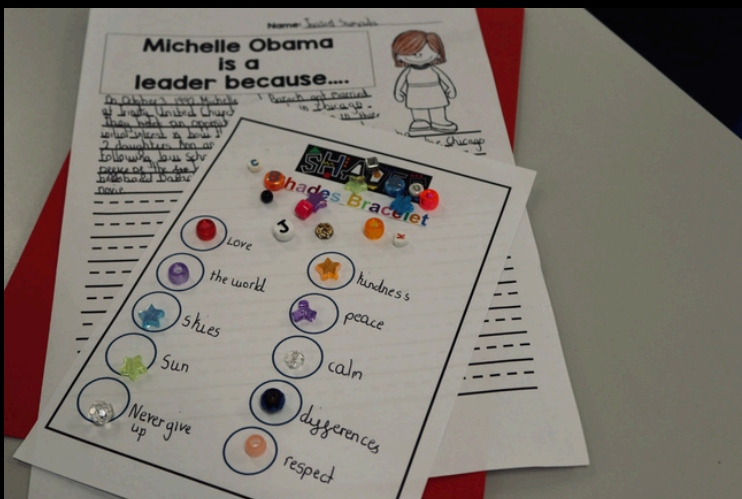
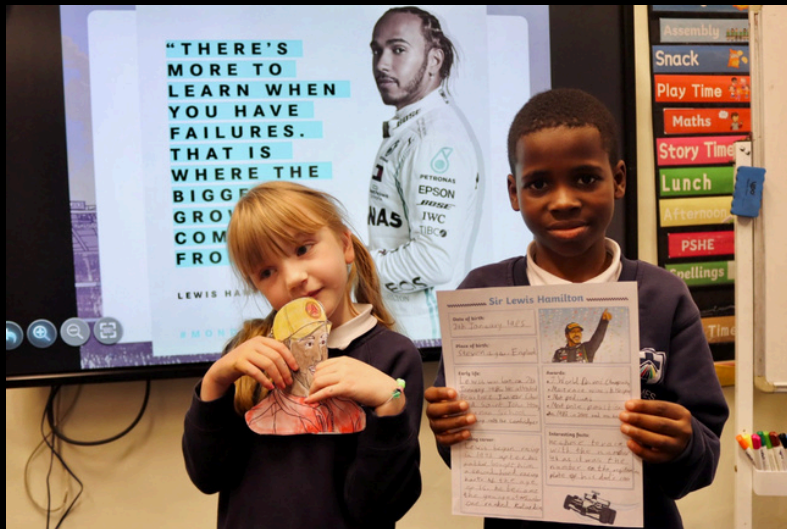


# SHADES

To help with our continued work on courageous advocacy, the SHADES team organised a Black History Hero super learning day.

On Monday, each class in school chose a Black History Hero, including Lewis Hamilton, Marcus Rashford, Usain Bolt, and Rosa Parks to name but a few. The children researched and produced fact files about their chosen hero and presented their findings to the rest of the school at the end of the day.

In the afternoon, the children made SHADES bracelets to symbolise their commitment to making our school community a safe place free of racism and other types of prejudice.





# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



#WakeUpWednesday

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