



# FRIDAY NEWS

29TH  
NOVEMBER  
2024

The official newsletter of St James CE Primary School



## NEW SWIMMING DATES

The children are absolutely loving having the swimming pool at school and lots of children have really overcome their fears to learn life-saving skills. However, due to the days missed because of unforeseeable interruptions to the timetable, we have had to adjust the days when classes are swimming.

**Year 6** - Swimming on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

**Year 4s** - Swimming on Tuesday & Wednesday

**Years 3 & 5** - Swimming everyday from Thursday 5th December.

## SEVEN SAINTS

A very warm welcome to Rev. Andy Jones who was licensed earlier this week to work with the Seven Saints parish. We are looking forward to working with him into our school and wish him lots of luck in his new role.

## THANK YOU

A huge thank you for your continued support for school everyday but especially at events like the Christmas Fair. It was amazing to see so many of our families and friends to help raise money for exciting opportunities for our children.

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Class 1 - Harriet QG

Class 2 - Rupert C

Class 3 - Ava K

Class 4 - Libby M

Class 5 - Bella W

Class 6 - Evan V

Class 7 - Willow R

Class 8 - Skyler G

Class 9 - Aziza

Class 10 - Emaan Q

Class 11 - Skye R

Class 12 - Raya T

## GOLD SCROLL

Hunter R, Jaxon T,  
Lara R, Ayobami O,  
Jaasiel S, Thomas P,  
Madison R, Ayokumni O,  
Eva Rose S, Teddy C,  
Ruby Y

## CHRISTIAN VALUES

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

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”

**John 14:27**

# THINGS COMING UP

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

### Tuesday 10th December

- Reception Nativity at 9:30 am.
- KS1 Christmas Performance at 2:15 pm.

### Wednesday 11th December

- KS1 Christmas Performance at 9:30 am.
- Reception Nativity at 2:15 pm.

### Thursday 12th December

- Christmas Dinner Day (more information to follow).
- Non-uniform in exchange for chocolate donations for Chocolate bingo.

### Friday 13th December

- Class 11's Christmas Assembly

### Tuesday 17th December

- Early Years & KS1 Christmas Party
- LKS2 Christmas Party

### Thursday 19th December

- UKS2 Christmas Party
- Little Saints & Nursery Pup-Up Nativity ()

### Friday 20th December

- Chocolate Bingo in school time (more information to follow)

## COMING UP SOON

### Monday 2nd December

Swimming begins for Year 3 & 5

### Tuesday 3rd December

Little Saints Stay & Learn at 2:15 pm

**Information for booking tickets to any of our shows will be sent out soon.**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



HOLIDAY DATES



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

### PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

### MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

### SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

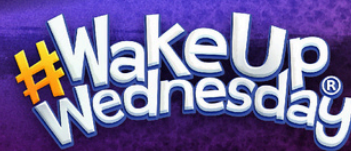
Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College®



### **Will the swimming pool be heated?**

Yes! The swimming pool will be heated to an average of 30.5 degrees Celsius, which is warmer than public swimming pools.

### **Will the changing rooms be outside?**

There are separate changing rooms for boys and girls. The pool complex you have seen has not been finished yet. The pool and changing rooms will be enclosed and heated within the marquee when finished. This is checked regularly throughout the day. The material the marquee is made from is very good at helping to retain the heat. The children will be kept warm.

### **Does my child have to take part?**

Yes – it is a national curriculum requirement for children to be taught swimming and be able to swim 25m by the end of primary. Unfortunately, swimming in just one year group does not provide enough opportunity, and a large percentage of children leave school unable to swim and perform safe self-rescue in water situations. School is now in a position to provide lessons for this life-saving skill for all classes in key stage 2.

# **SWIMMING FAQS**



### **Will my children need a swimming cap?**

Yes – all children are required to wear a swimming cap. These will be provided by school but children can wear their own if they want to.

### **Can they wear goggles?**

No, unless they are instructed to by the swimming instructor.

### **Do I have to pay for swimming lessons?**

Swimming lessons during the school day are paid for by the school. There is no cost to parents for these lessons.

**Parents are only required to pay if they would like additional lessons that are available before and after school. These are optional.**

### **Who will be teaching my child?**

Children will be taught in small groups of up to 12. They will be taught by a trained swimming instructor and a lifeguard.

They have had lots of experience teaching children of all abilities, including non-swimmers, how to swim. All swimming aides, such as armbands, will be provided.

# **SWIMMING FAQS**

## **What will they need?**

- A plastic bag for wet towels and clothes
- A full swimming costume for girls/swimming trucks or swimming shorts above the knee for boys
- A swimming cap (see above)
- A towel

**All jewellery must be removed and not covered.**

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