



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 26th January 2024

Diary Dates

6th February

Safer internet day

9th February

FOPS Bingo night 6pm

14th February

Ash Wednesday service
in church 9.10am

16th February

Break up for half term



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Collective worship theme: Imaginative and The Creation Story

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all for acting quickly on Monday when we informed you that we were unable to provide any school dinners. It was greatly appreciated that you were active in spreading the word far and wide and I heard that some parents heard the message 4 times. Just a reminder that the cut off for ordering school dinners is 9am on a Thursday and if you make any amendments after this time you will need to speak to the office as the report has already been run.



We have Bingo Night on Friday 9th February in the school hall at 6pm in the school hall. Tickets are selling fast so please make sure that you drop the money into the school office to secure your place.

On Friday last week, KS2 were lucky enough to take part in a musical performance looking at music from different cultures. It was lovely to see the children so actively engaged and asking lots of questions. Koala class even got up and had a little dance.



There has been lots of exciting learning this week linked to our topics. Panther class turned their classroom into the trenches with No Man's land in the middle. The children had to work in cramped conditions for the afternoon and duck every time they heard the whistle. They even got to use the periscope to see over into their enemies' trench. Owls were lucky enough to see a tipper truck (who became stuck on our field following a delivery) and a tractor that was trimming the hedges outside of school. We took the opportunity to stand in the street and watch the amazing event. If you have any access to amazing transport that would engage our Owl class in their topic of transport and travel, then please let us know.

This week we have been celebrating the Creation story and how being imaginative can help us with our learning. We have shared the Creation story and today in Collective worship, we created the sound-scape that could make the story come alive. The children used their imagination to make the noises of wind, water animals and even stars and we all had a really great time.

As we are all 'Curious to explore the wider world' each week Mr Chinnery leads collective worship looking at world news and this is a great way for children to keep up to date with what is happening in the world. Each week, in the newsletter I will share some world news articles that you can share at home with your children. This will help them to continue being curious at home.

Have a lovely weekend. Miss Gage

United we strive for excellence-

together we shine



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

	This Week	YTD
Infants	96.25%	96.08%
Lower Juniors	97.37%	95.11%
Upper Juniors	90.28%	95.34%
Whole School	95.07%	95.60%

If your child is off sick from school, please notify the school office no later than 9.20am—school policy states we need to be notified every day of absence. Please either email admin@st-john.essex.sch.uk or phone and leave a message if no answer.

Please Note: Trainers are not permitted. Black shoes for boys and girls only. Children can bring trainers into school to change into at breaktime if they wish to.

Long hair needs to be tied back safely, no jewellery to be worn in school apart from small stud earrings and a watch. No nail varnish.

Feel free to pack a healthy snack for your child to have a breaktime, crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted.

Unexpected School Closures

If we have to close school unexpectedly - information will be posted on the Home Page of the school website:

<https://www.st-john.essex.sch.uk/>

Alternatively, information can be found on the Essex School

Closures page at:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/emergency-school-closures>

The decision to close the school is never taken lightly.

Please select your child's school meals as far in advance as you can—but no later than 9am on Thursday for the following week. Any orders placed after this time will not be processed .Thank you.



Gold awards 26th January 2024

Pebmarsh Cup – Freddie

Freddie, this week your class have voted you to receive the Pebmarsh cup. You are really thoughtful and helpful to everyone in the class. You are a very hard worker and you achieve so much. You deserve this award because you are funny and very imaginative and we all like you A LOT!! Thank you for always being honest and nurturing us as your friends.

Upper Juniors - Astrid

Your imagination is a wonderful and wild force of nature. As an avid reader, you have developed a wonderful voice in writing and your knowledge of vocabulary always amazes me.

Keep up being an imaginative reader and writer and remember us when you're a famous author!

Lower Juniors – Fleur

For the last two weeks, your class were asked to create a voyage story. You used your imagination to guide your writing and as a result, your story was filled with creativity that really captured the audience. Keep up the hard work, we are all very excited about what else you will bring to our class this year.

Lower Juniors—Griff

Griff, this week you have really impressed us all with your creative and imaginative response **to the poem writing competition. Your imagination has no limits and we can't wait to hear where it takes you next!** Fabulous work Griff, keep it up!

Infants – Leo

Leo, you have blown Mrs Watkins away this week with your non-chronological report writing. You have embraced your writing, researching and introduction writing with enthusiasm and a **'just get on with it' attitude. You have used your imagination to add just a little something else to your writing that makes it stand out.** Well done Leo.

Highest attendance award goes to Lower Juniors this week!

If you intend to take your child out of school for any reason other than illness or medical appointments, please complete a leave of absence form. These are available from the school office .

Dinosaur Discovery

A new giant dinosaur species, called *Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis*, has been discovered in New Mexico, USA. Palaeontologists made the announcement after examining parts of the animal's fossilised skull that had been found at the Hall Lake Formation, a geological formation in Sierra County. The skull is currently on display at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science (NMMNHS). 'Once again, the extent and scientific importance of New Mexico's dinosaur fossils becomes clear – many new dinosaurs remain to be discovered in the state, both in the rocks and in museum drawers!' said Dr. Spencer Lucas, Paleontology Curator at NMMNHS. The massive carnivore, thought to have lived approximately five million years before the *Tyrannosaurus rex* (*T. rex*), is thought to be its closest relative! The huge theropods that lived between 71 and 73 million years ago, would have been similar in size to their relative the *T. rex* – 12m long, up to 4m high and weighing around 8.8 tonnes. Like the *T. rex*, their humongous skulls



Picture: An image of *Tyrannosaurus mcraeensis* released by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. Source: NMMNHS Paleontology (@NMMNHS_Paleo X page.

were balanced by their long, heavy tail. Discussing how the identification of the new species was made, Dr. Nick Longrich, a co-author of the study from the University of Bath, said, 'The differences are subtle, but that's typically the case in closely related species. Evolution slowly causes mutations to build up over millions of years, causing species to look subtly different over time.'

Scotland's 'biggest ever' snowball fight?

What started out as a joke between an Aberdeenshire couple, may have turned into Scotland's biggest ever snowball fight! During the heavy snowfall experienced this month, Roxanna Miskelly suggested that they organise a fun snowball fight at their local park in Inverurie for the community. The idea 'snowballed' on social media, and they created two teams out of the over 300 people, who met them at Strathburn Park! Organisers claim that this was Scotland's biggest snowball fight – there is no doubt that it was large, but no one knows how to prove this statement. The opposing teams were given three minutes to get their snowballs ready, before dramatic music started to play, indicating the beginning of the match. Organiser Roxanna said, 'It's been amazing - it started from a



Picture: The community fun snowball fight at Strathburn Park. Source: Garloch Sports Centre Facebook page.

kind of half-baked idea of 'wouldn't it be funny' and then 24 hours later, to potentially having Scotland's biggest snowball fight is unreal and it's been such a good atmosphere. As long as it snows - definitely an annual thing.' She also thanked Garloch Sports Centre, who turned on their floodlights and allowed them use of a generator to illuminate the event. Karla, who was there on the night said, 'It kind of lets you relive your youth a little bit. Us adults don't get to have this much fun and it's just something really wholesome that brings the community together.'

How do you think it would feel to be involved in a snowball fight with hundreds of people? How many people do you think have been in the largest snowball fight ever?



Picture: Playing in the snow. Source: Canva.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Why Wag?



Pictured: A Dog Walk. **Source:** Getty.

Researchers from Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands and the University of Rome have been looking into why dogs might wag their tails. The four scientists have recently published their results and some of them might surprise you! Most people think that dogs wag their tails when they are happy or excited, but this may, in some cases, show nervousness or submission. The scientists said they found that dogs wag their tails much more than other animals that are closely related to them, for example, wolves. Canines in the wild use their tails to improve their balance and to swat away insects. These experts looked at the existing research on tail-wagging and concluded that there may be two reasons why dogs wag their tails so much. The

first theory is that people intentionally selected dogs that wag their tails to breed because humans find the rhythm of it soothing and enjoyable. The second reason is a side effect of choosing to breed dogs with other desirable traits, such as tameness. Dr Taylor Hersh, a co-author of the article said 'We may not be able to take a time machine back to the beginning of the dog-human relationship, but we can look at dog behaviour today in tandem with human behaviour to try and understand what that domestication process looked like. Tail wagging is a very apparent and interesting behaviour to start with.'

Why do you think dogs wag their tails? Do you think being involved in research like this would be interesting?

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

Last week's topic:
Is an e-reader better than a book?



I think e-reader is better, because it helps the environment... and you can also read your books anywhere without having to carry a bunch of books around.

Jackie

Print reading is better.

Imaya

I think they are both good but in some cases a book is better like when you want to read sometimes everything about the book is better when you are on a plane an e-reader is best.

Janaya

Let us know what you think about this week's news.



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Parent/Carer Autism Online Workshops

Whether your child is awaiting a diagnosis or has already been diagnosed, these workshops are a great opportunity to learn more about Autism & ask questions within a supportive group of other parents & carers.

- **Monday 5th February - An introduction to Autism**
An opportunity to explore what Autism is, the many strengths and the differences that make each child so wonderfully unique.
- **Monday 12th February - Communication**
Identifying what communication is and the different communication methods that may be helpful for Autistic children.
- **Monday 19th February - Sensory Processing**
Explaining the 8 sensory systems, how the environment can impact on a child with sensory processing differences/challenges and strategies to meet an individual's sensory needs.
- **Monday 26th February - Pathological Demand Avoidance**
A look into the interesting subject of PDA, how this may present and what is the best approach to take to avoid conflict.

Workshops will be held 7:30-8:30pm via Zoom.

£25 per workshop for each family.

To book your place... Email enquiries@theautismtrainingnetwork.com

Or scan the QR code



FOPS FAMILY FUN

BINGO

NIGHT

Friday 9th February 2024

6pm – 8pm

Adults £7

(includes 6 books for 8 games)

Children £1

(includes 1 book for 8 games)

Prizes

(Line & Full House)

Tuck Shop

(crisps - sweets - soft drinks)

**Spaces are limited
so buy your tickets ASAP!**

(Books will be issued on the night)

PLEASE PARK IN VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK



This is a fundraising bingo evening
and all profits raised by FOPS will be used by
St John the Baptist CEVA Primary School



St John the Baptist Primary School

Spring Term January-March 2024

Parent calendar

Date	Yr Group	Event
4 th January	Whole school	Back to school
5 th January	Whole School	St John's got Talent
8 th January	Lower Juniors	Forest school
8 th January	Whole School	Clubs start
15 th January		Applications for primary school places September 2024 closing date
15 th January	Infants	Forest school
18 th January	Whole School	National Thesaurus Day- Come dressed as a word!
19 th January	Parents	FOPS meeting- come and we what we are all about
19 th January	KS2	A lesson in Spanish guitar and Violin
22 nd January	Upper Juniors	Forest school
22 nd January	Whole School	Energy saving week
29 th January	Infants	Forest school
5 th February	Lower Juniors	Forest school
6 th February	Whole school	Safer internet day
9 th February	All welcome	FOPS bingo night 6pm-8pm
12 th February	Infants	Forest school
14 th February	Whole school	Ash Wednesday service in church 9.10am— all welcome
16th February	Whole school	Break up for half term
26th February	Whole school	Return to school
26 th February	Upper Juniors	Forest school
4 th March	Infants	Forest school
7 th March	Whole school	World book day
11 th March	Whole school	Parents' evening consultations
11 th March	Lower Juniors	Forest school
12 th March	Lower Juniors	Learning together-Science week
14 th March	Infants	Learning together-Science week
15 th March	Upper Juniors	Learning together-Science week
13 th March	Whole school	Parents' evening consultations
18 th March	Infants	Forest school
25 th March	Upper Juniors	Forest school
28 th March	Whole school	Easter service in church 9.10am — all welcome
28 th March	Whole school	Break up for Easter