



# St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 9th February 2024



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Collective worship theme: Empathy and the story of Naomi and Ruth

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another exciting week of learning this week including a visit from John Day with his amazing green bus. The Owl class had amazing questions and had a great time on the bus learning lots of different things. They were even lucky enough to pretend to drive the bus. Panther Class have also been working very hard creating their own website all about World War One. You can check it out here: <https://sites.google.com/pebmarsh.school/ww1website-pantherclass/home> We would love to hear what you think.



Just a reminder that the gate is open from 8.40-8.55 am. If you are later than this then you will receive a late mark. If you are 5 minutes late every day your child misses 25 minutes of learning a week which equals approximately 950 minutes a year which is 16 hours a week which is the same as nearly 3 days of school. During the times of 8.40-9.55 there is always learning happening in class and is a vital time for interventions and extra support. Please make every effort to be here when the gate opens.



We have noticed an increase in the amount of appointments that are happening in the school day. Can I please ask that when you book appointments for doctors or dentists that you try, where you can, to avoid the school day. If a child misses out on learning it can cause them to not understand what is being taught the next day.

This week we had Safer Internet day and the children took part in different learning opportunities to discuss how to stay safe online. Mrs Lock has shared some information on page 4 of this newsletter about safeguarding online and how to protect your child when on phones, tablets and the web.

Thank you to everyone that has completed the survey regarding our lunchtime provision. I have been working closely with the team to implement some changes we hope will address some of the concerns raised. Some comments were made about the portion sizes of the children, we have decided that from Monday children will be given their portion of dinner including all of the veg/salad choice and then children can eat what they desire, with some encouragement. We have found that children are saying 'no' to the vegetables and this does not mean they get anything extra and are actually missing out on a third of their meal. Did you know, a child has to see food on their plate 10 times before they are willing to try? We hope this approach will broaden the children's food preferences. As always, if you have any concerns please call, email or talk to me and I can help.



Are you an aspiring baker? Do you think you could compete on the Great British Bake Off? Or do you just love cake? We are holding a Bake Off after half term. Please see further details on page 5.

Hope you have a wonderful weekend. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Bingo tonight!  
Miss Gage

## Diary Dates

**14th February**

Ash Wednesday service  
in church 9.10am

**16th February**

Break up for half term

**26th February**

The Great Pebmarsh

Bake Off

**7th March**

World Book Day

# ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

	This Week	YTD
<b>Infants</b>	90.33%	95.88%
<b>Lower Juniors</b>	97.25%	95.22%
<b>Upper Juniors</b>	97.78%	95.34%
<b>Whole School</b>	94.26%	95.54%

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](mailto: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 9th February 2024

Pebmarsh Cup – Luke

Luke, you have impressed the rest of the Koalas this week with your contribution in class and how you share your ideas and answers with everyone. Your class members have described you as being a self-motivated, kind and caring individual and someone who really does channel our school values. Well done Luke!

Upper Juniors - Harry P – Empathy

During P.S.H.E. this week, you showed great empathy and understanding about how we should respect everybody in our world. It is great to have such a caring and empathetic person in our class. Keep being kind.

Lower Juniors – Luke – Excellence

Luke, this week you have not only impressed your classmates, but also Mr Chinnery and Mrs Bain with your growth mindset towards your learning.

You have an excellent attitude to your learning across the curriculum and have taken it upon yourself to continue your learning projects outside the classroom. This week, I have observed you helping others out in the classroom, evidencing your caring and helpful nature.

Infants – Frankie - Empathy

Frankie, you have shown real empathy this week, being helpful and attentive towards others in the class – including the adults. You are quick to learn and your attitude to all forms of learning is incredible. You have shown true kindness and a growing understanding of others. Well done.

Highest attendance award goes to Upper 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 .

## For Parents - Assessing Smartphone Readiness

"Is my child old enough to have a phone?" It's a common, understandable question that I get from many parents, but it's also one that is very difficult to answer as there are so many factors involved. For younger children it's often peer pressure, with older children social isolation is very common. Often, advice has to be given particular to that child/family, rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

The Institute for Digital Media and Child Development have put together some tip sheets for parents which I think are really useful. There are 3 parts:

- Assessing readiness.
- Preparing for healthy use.
- What now?

You can view all the tip sheets [HERE](https://www.childrenandscreens.org/learn-explore/research/introducing-a-smartphone-assessing-readiness/), <https://www.childrenandscreens.org/learn-explore/research/introducing-a-smartphone-assessing-readiness/>

and

## or Parents - Social Media Influencers

The things social media influencers do and say online can be quite impactful. Around a third of children and young people think that, because the influencer is a 'celebrity', what they share is always good. But we know that isn't the case, sometimes it can be advice based on pseudo-science, selling something because they've been paid to and much more.

Internet Matters have a great article where various specialists offer advice and guidance to parents/carers to help them to to their children think critically about social media influencers. You can find the article [HERE](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/how-can-i-help-my-child-think-critically-about-the-social-media-influencers-they-follow/), <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/how-can-i-help-my-child-think-critically-about-the-social-media-influencers-they-follow/>

## Meta - New Protections

Social media companies are coming under more scrutiny and pressure around the world (at last!) to protect under 18's using their services. Last week Meta announced new policies to further protect under 18's when using Facebook and Instagram which includes further restricting content recommendations and hiding age-inappropriate content. For certain searches Meta will direct the user to expert resources. Due to email filters I can't mention the specific content, but you can find out more in the SWGfL article [HERE](https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/meta-announces-new-protections-to-safeguard-teens-from-harmful-content-online/), <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/meta-announces-new-protections-to-safeguard-teens-from-harmful-content-online/>

## Snapchat - New Parental Controls

In April 2023 Snapchat introduced My AI, essentially a chatbot. There was no choice, it was an embedded feature, and whilst many users are reporting a positive or mixed experience there have been some significant concerns over the advice being given to younger users (see [HERE](https://katten.com/snapchat-snaps-into-ai-trouble-icos-preliminary-enforcement-notice-raises-concerns-over-my-ai#:~:text=ICO%27s%20Concerns%20and%20Snapchat%27s%20Response,satisfactory%20risk%20assessment%20is%20conducted,and) <https://katten.com/snapchat-snaps-into-ai-trouble-icos-preliminary-enforcement-notice-raises-concerns-over-my-ai#:~:text=ICO%27s%20Concerns%20and%20Snapchat%27s%20Response,satisfactory%20risk%20assessment%20is%20conducted,and> and [HERE](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/tech/snapchat-censor-chatbot-kids-weed-sex-b1072536.html) <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/tech/snapchat-censor-chatbot-kids-weed-sex-b1072536.html> for examples).



United we strive for exCellenCe-together we shine



# The Great Pebmarsh



# Bake Off

**Monday 26th February 2:30pm in the hall**

Prizes awarded for presentation, uniqueness and taste

£1 Entry (please bring entries to hall at time and date)

Open for students and parents

**Cakes to go on sale at the end of the day!**

**Life is what you bake it!**

**ACL**

# FAMILY LEARNING

## ADHD or Anxiety

A choice of FREE sessions to support you to understand  
ADHD in children, teens and/or anxiety in adults

@Halstead Library



Understand ADHD (EYFS/KS1)	26/02/24	12:30
Understand ADHD (Teen Edition)	04/03/24	12:30
Understand ADHD (Adult Late Diagnosis)	11/03/24	12:30
Understand Anxiety (Adults)	18/02/24	12:30

**TWO WAYS TO SIGN UP TO A FREE COURSE TODAY!**



call our friendly team on  
**03330 321 017**



Search 'Family Learning' at  
**aclessex**



Essex County Council

# St John the Baptist Primary School

## Spring Term January-March 2024

### Parent calendar

Date	Yr Group	Event
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole school	Back to school
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole School	St John's got Talent
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Lower Juniors	Forest school
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole School	Clubs start
15 <sup>th</sup> January		Applications for primary school places September 2024 closing date
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Infants	Forest school
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole School	National Thesaurus Day- Come dressed as a word!
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents	FOPS meeting- come and we what we are all about
19 <sup>th</sup> January	KS2	A lesson in Spanish guitar and Violin
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Upper Juniors	Forest school
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Whole School	Energy saving week
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Infants	Forest school
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Lower Juniors	Forest school
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole school	Safer internet day
9 <sup>th</sup> February	All welcome	FOPS bingo night 6pm-8pm
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Infants	Forest school
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole school	Ash Wednesday service in church 9.10am— all welcome
<b>16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Whole school</b>	<b>Break up for half term</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Whole school</b>	<b>Return to school</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Upper Juniors	Forest school
26 <sup>th</sup> February	All welcome	The Great Pebmarsh Bake Off 2.30pm
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Infants	Forest school
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school	World book day
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school	Parents' evening consultations
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Lower Juniors	Forest school
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Lower Juniors	Learning together-Science week
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Infants	Learning together-Science week
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Upper Juniors	Learning together-Science week
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school	Parents' evening consultations
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Infants	Forest school
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Upper Juniors	Forest school
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school	Easter service in church 9.10am —all welcome
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school	Break up for Easter