



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 27th June 2025



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic couple of days with our Year 6 children visiting local secondary schools, and every child here had the opportunity to explore their new classes! It was a complete success, and the excitement in the air was palpable! We hope this experience has helped them feel more confident about the transition.

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined me for our 'Cuppa and Chat' session. It was lovely to connect with you and share our thoughts. Don't forget, our final gathering this academic year will be on 15th July from 9-10 am—do pop in if you can!

Koala and Panther class had a brilliant time at the Essex Food and Farming Day. They absolutely loved it, and I'm pleased to say we'll definitely return next year! Although we didn't win the scarecrow competition this time, there's always next year to aim for that first prize!

Today marks our last choir practice of the year! We'd love your support as our choir performs at Colne Engaine Church on Sunday at 3pm. Tickets will be available at the door, so come along and enjoy the show!

Diary Dates

27th June

Last choir practice for the academic year

29th June

Concert in Colne Engaine church 3pm

30th June

Primary English Day at Heddingham School for Year 5's & some Year 6's

3rd July

Sports Day

Parents to come at noon for a picnic on the field before races commence at 1pm

With summer approaching, Essex Libraries are gearing up for their summer reading challenge—check out pages 6 & 7 for all the juicy details. It's a great way to keep our little ones engaged with reading over the holidays.

Class photographs are ready and the codes have been sent to parents—please order before the 7th July for free delivery to the school.

Just a quick reminder: it's going to be incredibly hot at the beginning of next week, so please ensure your children come equipped with hats, water, and sun cream. A calm, relaxed afternoon of learning is much easier when everyone is safe and comfortable!

Lastly, a big thank you to Halstead Road Runners for recently hosting the Halstead Marathon and donating £5000 to local schools! We are very grateful and will spend our share on new sports equipment for the PE department. And thank you to Mrs Baldock for attending the event on our behalf. Next year marks their 30th marathon, and if we have any parents or carers who would like to participate, please let the school office know.

Have a lovely weekend! Miss Gage

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

	This Week Fri-Thurs	Year to date
EYFS	94%	90.89%
Infants	91.72%	94.25%
Lower Juniors	96%	95.74%
Upper Juniors	96.19%	94.65%
Whole School	94.42%	94.16%

Well done to Upper Juniors who won the highest attendance award for the month of May 2025

PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY TELEPHONE OR EMAIL (NOT CLASS DOJO) IF YOUR CHILD IS OFF SICK OR WILL BE COLLECTED BY A DIFFERENT ADULT - THANK YOU.

If your child is off sick from school, please notify the school office no later than 9.25am—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.

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment during school hours, please complete a Medical Leave of Absence form which are available in the school office.

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.

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.



Want to know more?

Visit the [official Summer Reading Challenge website](#) for free activities, videos, book recommendations and more.

Keep up-to-date! Follow @EssexLibraries on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

What do families think?

“I never liked reading before because of this challenge I got the **courage** to read more books and I have more interest in books. This has been the **greatest experience** ever in my life to read more books than before thanks.”

“My daughter has **moved up a reading level** at school thanks to the Summer Reading Challenge!”

“As a mother of a five-year-old boy I am so happy and thankful for this free summer reading challenge. My boy was putting in effort to read the books so that he will be rewarded with a medal and certificate at the end of the reading challenge. This has **motivated** him to get reading and he was so **excited** to read more.”

“My children are reluctant to read during school holidays but the structured Summer Reading Challenge helps **overcome their reluctance**.”

“We have taken part for the last 10 years with all of my children. It’s almost a tradition to do it. **Staff were brilliant** with my autistic child.”

Forest School Holiday Club

Spaces are now available at the following events:

What's On at Holly's Forest Sessions 2025?

Wild Bushcraft Holiday Club - day 27/May 25

Wild Bushcraft Holiday Club - day 23/Jul 25

Wild Bushcraft Holiday Club - day 27/Aug 25

Home Ed Families - morning 22/Jul 25

Family Fun Session - morning 24/Jul 25

Birthday Parties year round: <http://www.hollysforestsessions.com/parties>

Bookings: <http://www.hollysforestsessions.com/payment>

All are welcome to book in advance onto the children's holiday club and family mornings, spaces are limited.

Holly Hilder | Forest School Leader | Holly's Forest Sessions

WEB [hollysforestsessions.com](http://www.hollysforestsessions.com)

EVENTS [facebook.com/hollysforestsessions/events](https://www.facebook.com/hollysforestsessions/events)

BOOK/PAY [hollysforestsessions.com/payment](http://www.hollysforestsessions.com/payment)

JOIN EVENTS MAILING LIST



EXPLORE ALL EVENTS AT
WWW.HEDINGHAMCASTLE.CO.UK/EVENTS

Summer Open Days (Open 11am - 4pm)

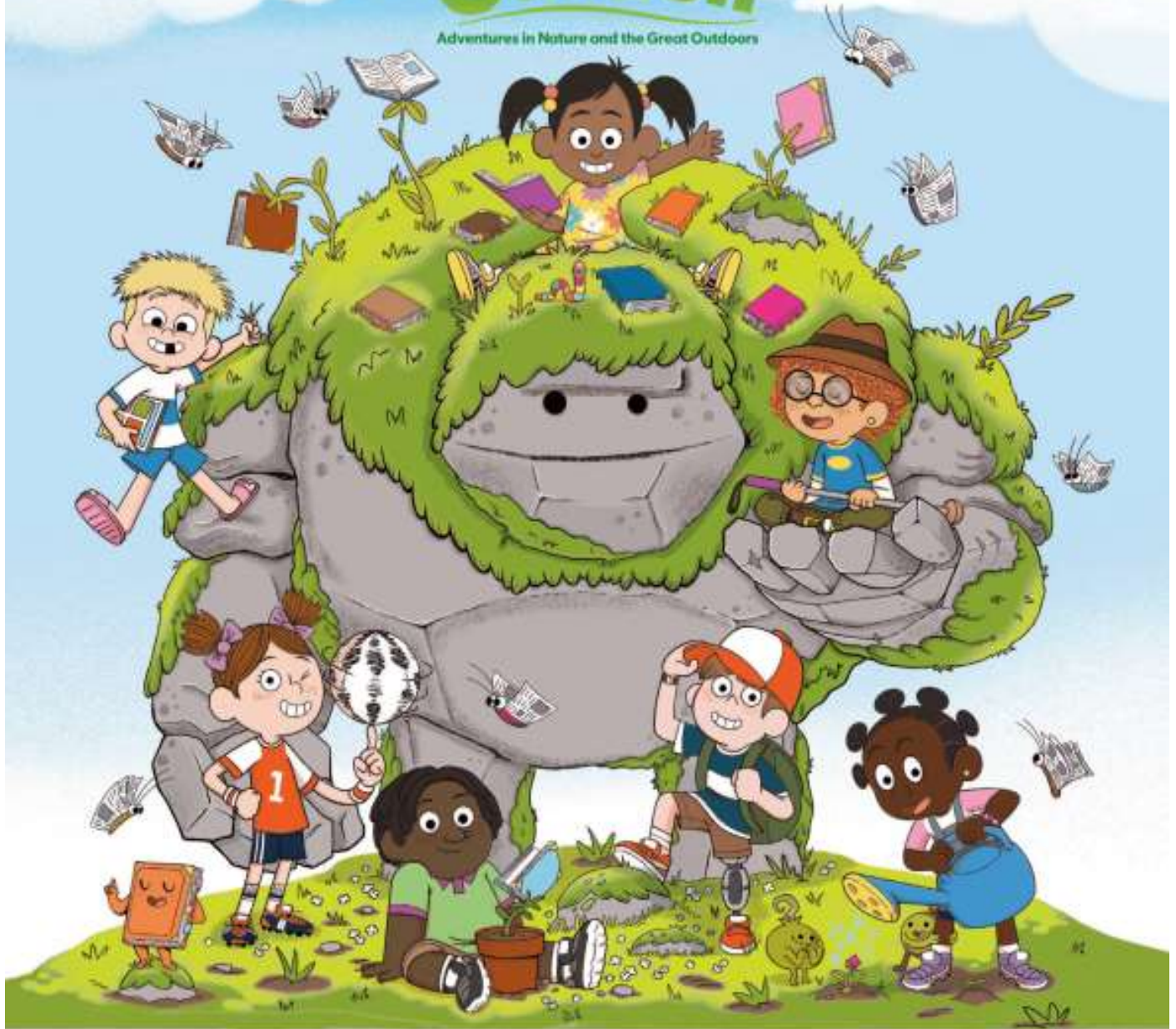
Sunday 27th July
Tuesday 29th July
Wednesday 30th July
Sunday 3rd August
Wednesday 6th August
Thursday 7th August
Wednesday 13th August
Thursday 14th August
Sunday 17th August
Monday 18th August
Tuesday 19th August

Special Summer Events

Sunday 27th July - Outdoor Theatre: Most Perilous Comedie of Elizabeth I
Wednesday 6th August - Outdoor Theatre: Pantaloons presents Hamlet
Sunday 10th August - Classic & Vintage Car Show
Monday 18th August - Wonderland Puppet Show
Sunday 24th & Monday 25th August - Knight of Albion Joust
Friday 29th August - Fairytale Fest Suffolk

Story Garden

Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors



summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Saturday 19 July to Saturday 6 September
At your local Essex library or mobile library -
see libraries.essex.gov.uk for library opening times

Dear Parent / Carer

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's [Summer Reading Challenge](#). Sign up for FREE at your local library!

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the school summer holidays – and to enjoy reading anything they like! All children are invited to read books and/or complete reading-related activities, and collect rewards. It's completely **FREE** to take part.

It is an amazing way to boost children's confidence – last year 72% of children taking part felt more confident reading.

Why should my child sign up?

They will be **better prepared to return to school** in the autumn.

The Challenge **supports the move into a new year group**.

Becoming more independent in their reading boosts children's **confidence and self-esteem**.

The library provides **free access** to books and fun family activities all through the summer.

Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations.

Your child will be part of a UK-wide programme developed by [The Reading Agency](#) and delivered in partnership with the [public library network](#).

How can my child take part? (Library OR online)

In the library. Visit your [local library](#) and sign up. Your child will:

Aim to borrow and read six books (any combination of books, eBooks and audiobooks) and/or complete a range of reading-related activities.

Receive a Challenge folder and collect special stickers and rewards for reading.

OR

If you can't get to the library, take part in the **Online challenge** at: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Sign up on the [official Challenge website](#).

Set a reading goal and get book recommendations and tips.

Unlock digital badges and online rewards, including a printable certificate.

When?

Throughout the summer holidays from 19 July to 6 September. Unsure where your closest library is? Use the Essex Library Service [website](#) to check.

Head to your local library this summer and sign up! If you have any questions, please ask staff in the library.

We look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes

Essex Library Service



Heddingham United Wolves.

We will be U9 next season and are looking for new players to join us as we go into 7 a side.

For more info please contact Mel on 07817621936 or
Nikki on 07554440813

Current school year 2 or 3.

Great Yeldham Rec, Toppesfield Road, Great Yeldham,
Essex. CO9 4HD

