



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 4th July 2025

Diary Dates

5th July

FOPS Summer fair 1-4pm

7th July

Year 4 Learning Together at
Forest School 2pm

8th July

KS2 summer performance of
'Hairspray' 1pm

9th July

KS2 summer performance of
'Hairspray' 9.30am

10th July

KS2 summer performance of
'Hairspray' 5pm



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic sports day we had yesterday! A massive well done to everyone involved, especially our enthusiastic parents who took part in the races too. The team spirit was amazing to see, reminding us all of the wonderful community we have here at school. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mr Nichols for arranging such a fantastic day, Jess Soper for her incredible photography, to the parents for their unwavering support, and to the teachers for helping to make everything run smoothly. It truly was a team effort!

Looking ahead, we are very excited to welcome our new Reception children on Monday and Wednesday for picnics and play. It's always a joy to see our youngest learners getting settled in, and we cannot wait to meet them and their families.

In Key Stage 2, our children have been working incredibly hard in preparation for the summer performance, which is happening next week. If you haven't yet purchased your tickets, fear not—some are still available! Do speak to the school office to secure your place and witness the talent of our amazing students.

On Wednesday, we will have a visit from Halstead Library, who will be talking to the children about the summer reading challenge. This is a fantastic, free event that runs throughout the summer and can be completed at any Essex library. Encourage your children to get involved; it's a great way to foster a love of reading! See pages 4-6 for more information.

And don't forget, the summer fair is happening tomorrow! The weather forecast is looking dry (at the moment!), and we're hopeful to raise lots of money to help subsidise school trips and other events throughout the year. We'd love your support at the fair, but if you can't make it, please consider purchasing some raffle tickets. A big shout-out to FOPS for all of their hard work in organising what promises to be an amazing event!

Have a great weekend and I will hopefully see many of you tomorrow

Miss Gage

United we strive for excellence-together we shine

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is 96%

	This Week Fri-Thurs	Year to date
EYFS	88.67%	90.83%
Infants	92.07%	94.16%
Lower Juniors	97.33%	95.79%
Upper Juniors	91.90%	94.56%
Whole School	93.16%	94.12%

Well done to Panthers who won the highest attendance award for the month of June 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.



Gold awards 4th July 2025

Pebmarsh Cup – Finley

Finley, this week, you have been chosen by the class to receive the Pebmarsh cup! They have described you as kind, empathetic, nurturing and thoughtful. You are a great learner but just as importantly, a great friend to everyone (and a few have said you make them laugh too!) Well done Finley, we love having you in Panther Class.

Panthers - Isaac - Nurturing

Isaac, over the last few weeks you have been a fantastic role model to everyone in the class. This was especially evident when we had our transition days. During those two days you stepped up and not only demonstrated that you are ready to be in year six but also that you are a leader who can be looked up to and relied upon. Well done Isaac! I look forward to seeing what next year holds!

Koalas- Amelia - Nurturing

Amelia, since you have joined our school, you have been nothing but kind and caring to everyone. I have seen you helping not only those in our class but others in the playground when they need help or just someone to talk to. You have an infectious smile that lightens up our day. Continue being the kind and respectful girl you are.

Owls – Harriet – Self-motivation

Harriet...what can we say? You are like a learning sponge and soak up everything we do in every single lesson. Your writing is amazing in Curious Quests and your application to your Maths work just blows us away. You love a challenge and you always work hard. You are a role model with your behaviour to the other children. I could talk about all the positive things you do all day. Harriet, never stop being you. You are quite simply amazing.

Owlets – Harrison for self-motivation

Harrison, you have truly blown us away with how independent you have been the last two weeks. Even though you have been a little worried you have taken all the changes in your stride, showing everyone how incredible you are. You have also shown great self-motivation in your learning carrying on your curious quest in Owlets coming up with great ideas to defeat that villainous Greap!

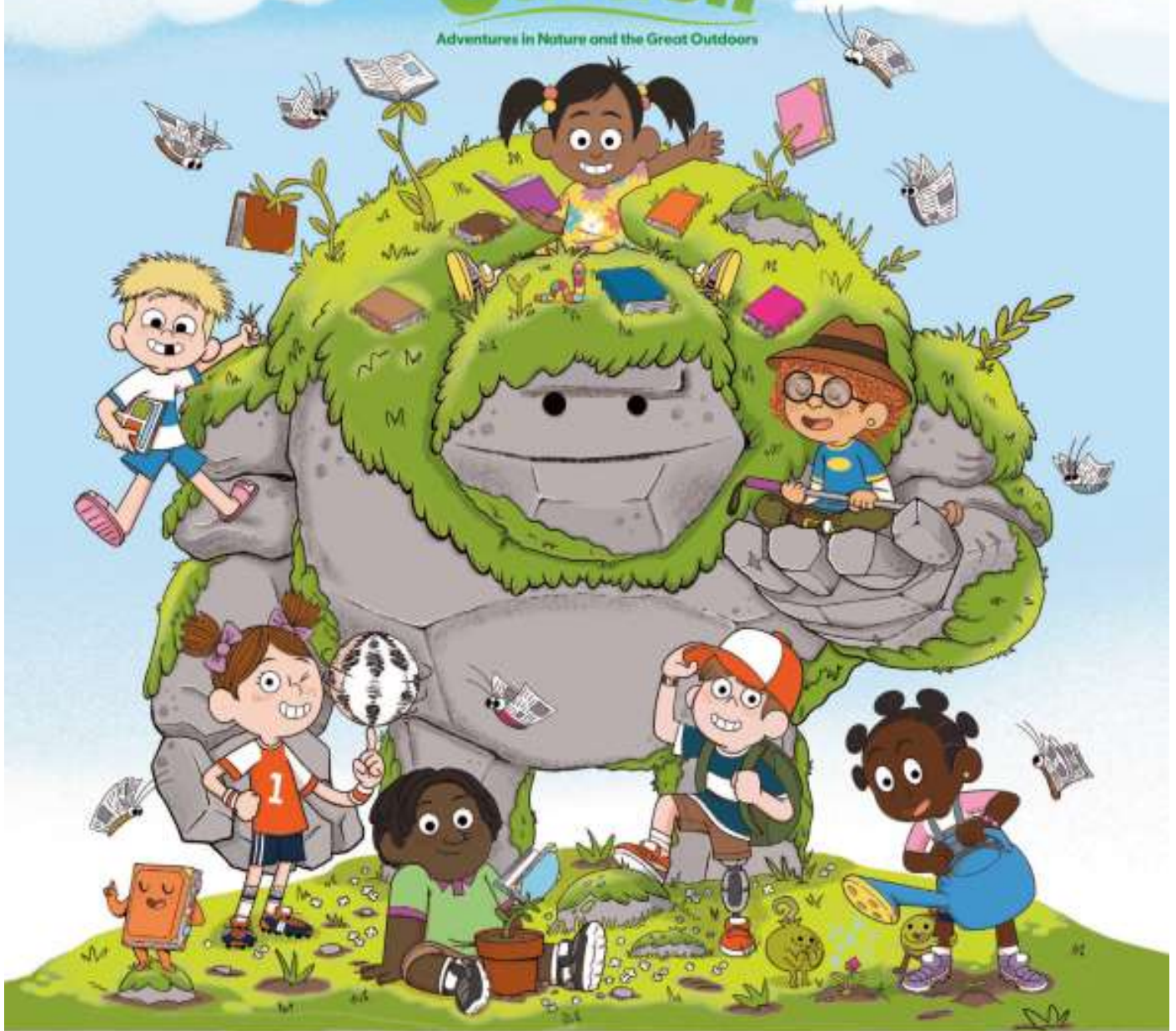
Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:

Mr Nichols

Your first sports day with us where you completely ran the show. You were a cool cucumber the whole day and everything went off without a hitch! Same again next year?

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

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.”

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

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



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

