



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 3rd October 2025



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week we have had at our school! Our Panther class has recently returned from an exhilarating trip to Bawdsey Manor, and we can't wait to hear all about their adventures! I had the privilege of spending the day there on Thursday alongside Mrs Jinks, and it was heartwarming to see the children pushing themselves to try new things, all while brimming with excitement. A special thank you goes to Mr Nichols, Mrs Lincoln, and Miss Batten-Jones for generously giving up their time and energy to make this trip possible.

Next up, we are thrilled to announce our Harvest Festival, which will be held in the church on Wednesday next week at 9:15 am. We warmly invite everyone to join us as we celebrate this wonderful occasion. We kindly request all food donations, which will be gratefully accepted and passed on to the Braintree Foodbank to support those in need within our community.

A huge well done to Owl class for achieving the highest attendance across the month of September! Your dedication has earned you the prestigious attendance cake—what a fantastic achievement! We all know how competitive this can get between the teachers...

We would like to remind everyone that our individual school photographs are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday next week, so please ensure that the children come dressed in their full uniforms. Key Stage 1 will have their photographs taken on Monday, followed by Key Stage 2 on Tuesday.

Exciting news on the horizon! Our new building on the field, affectionately known as 'The Cabin', will be opened for use starting Monday. If you are dropping your child off or collecting them from Little Oaks, please use the side gate from the car park and ring the doorbell. Sam will be on hand to greet you and assist with the collection or return of your child. If there are any problems please let me know and watch the video on Class Dojo if you are unsure where to go!

We ask again that you return the pupil information forms that have been emailed out—the school office can send paper copies home if needed—these forms keep us up to date with contact details and permissions so it is important that we have them back asap. Thanks.

Thank you for your continued support!

Best wishes,

Miss Gage

Diary Dates

6th (KS1) & 7th (KS2) October

Individual class photos

7th October

Coffee, cake and a chat with
FOPS

(see page 5 for details)

8th October

9.15am Harvest Festival in
church

31st October

Year 7 applications close

10th November

Applications for primary school
place September 2026 open

United we strive for excellence-together we shine

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is 96%

	This Week Fri-Thurs	Year to date
EYFS	100%	95.44%
Infants	97.08%	97.78%
Lower Juniors	95.26%	95.81%
Upper Juniors	96%	92.66%
Whole School	96.65%	95.55%

Congratulations to OWL CLASS for the highest attendance in September!

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 3rd October 2025

Koalas – Leo - Self-motivation

You have shown a real maturity since starting Year 4, taking pride in your work ensuring it is presented to a high standard, impressing your peers and the adults. You take your time and plan your work through, challenging yourself to make improvements where needed. Well done!

Owls –Huckleberry—Self-motivation

Huckleberry you have settled into Owl Class really well and it is as if you have been with us forever. Your confidence has grown in all areas and you give your best all of the time to everything that you do in class. You have an amazing imagination and we love the fact that you ask questions to check your understanding or to find out more. We are SO pleased that you have joined our class and we are excited for the year ahead together.

Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:

Amelia –Panther class



Your sheer determination and go-get attitude was a breath of fresh air on the trip this week. Although you were scared, and unsure, you gave everything a go and with a huge smile on your face! I want you to remember this going forward—YOU can do hard things!



HOLIDAY COURSES

Bikeability Level 1 & 2 and Learn to ride courses.

Venues: Witham, Harlow & Chelmsford

To book, please visit link

essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking

There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee

**SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER**



Essex County Council

THIS SUNDAY Kids' Church



**ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH | HALSTEAD**

From 10.15 in the St Andrew's Centre

STORIES - CRAFTS - GAMES - SONGS

Children of all ages
welcome; children under 5
must be accompanied by an
adult



Let's eat **CAKE!**

**The Friends of Pebmarsh invite you to
Cake, Coffee and a Chat!**

Tuesday 7th October – 9.30am

Carters Cafe at Spencers Farm Shop

Join the fun and meet us for a free coffee and cake!

**Let's get to know each other and chat about how we can raise money
and support our fabulous school.**



WEDNESDAY WORKSHOP

28.10.25
8am-3pm
White Colne

DANCE
CRAFTS

GAMES

PRIZES

£28



Book Now: www.amadanceacademy.com

St John the Baptist Primary School

Autumn term 2025-2026

Date	Yr Group	Event
2nd September	Whole school	Back to school for Autumn Term
4 th September	Koalas	Forest School
11 th September	Owls	Forest School
17th September	Panthers	Meeting regarding residential trip 3.20pm
18 th September	Panthers	Forest School
23rd September	Year 6	Let' Talk Trash day at Braxted Hall Park
25 th September	Owls	Forest School
1st October	Panthers	Residential to PGL
2nd October	Koalas	Forest School
6 th & 7 th October	Whole school	Individual class photographs
8th October	Whole school	9.15am -Harvest Festival in church –all welcome
9 th October	Owls	Forest School
16 th October	Panthers	Forest School
20 th & 21 st October	Panthers	Bikeability course (for children who have already signed up)
23 rd October	Owls	Forest School
24 th October	Whole school	Break up for half term
31st October	Year 6	Secondary school applications close
		Half Term
3 rd November	Whole school	Non pupil day
6 th November	Koalas	Forest School
12 th November	Owlets	Road safety presentation (parents welcome) 8.55am
13 th November	Owls	Forest School
14th November	Whole school	World Diabetes Day—sponsored walk
17th November	Owls	Parents' consultations 8.40am-12.00pm & 1pm-3pm
18th November	Owlets	Parents' consultations 8.40am-12.00pm
19th November	Koalas	Parents' consultations 8.40am-12.00pm & 1pm-3pm
20th November	Panthers	Parents' consultations 8.40am-12.00pm & 1.00pm-3pm
20 th November	Panthers	Forest School
27 th November	Owls	Forest School
28th November	Whole school	Pantomime Trip to Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds
4 th December	Koalas	Forest School
8th December	EYFS & KS1	9.00am Nativity dress rehearsal
9th December	EYFS & KS1	Nativity performance in church at 2pm
10th December	EYFS & KS1	Nativity performance in church at 9.30am