



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 17th October 2025



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good spirits! Next week, we have an exciting event lined up for our Panther class. Some of our Year 5 and 6 students will be participating in the Bikeability course! Please ensure that your child brings their bike and helmet on Monday. It's essential that the bike is roadworthy, meaning good brakes and a functional chain, so do take a moment to check this over the weekend. We want all our children to have a fantastic and safe experience during the course.

On Thursday, I'll be hosting our first eco council meeting, and I'd like to extend a warm invitation to all children to join. If any parents would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Friends of Pebmarsh School (FOPS) Movie Night this evening! It will be a fun event, and I'm pleased to say that we raised funds that will directly benefit all our children. Your continued support means so much to our school community.

Our Perform Workshop to celebrate Black History month has been rescheduled to next Friday, the 24th October—please make payment via Parentpay if you haven't already done so. Thank you.

Club letters are being sent out today, and just a friendly reminder that places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If there's a club your child is particularly keen on, please return the form as soon as you can to secure their spot.

Additionally, keep an eye out for letters regarding our annual trip to the pantomime, which will be sent home early next week. Timely payment will help us secure our booking, so do look out for these important updates!

Lastly, the Essex Dental Clinic in Earls Colne is hosting an open day for children who may not have recently visited a dentist. More details can be found on page 5, so please take a moment to check that out.

Just a gentle reminder: the NHS has published guidance regarding whether your child is too ill for school. If you're ever in doubt about sending your little one in, please follow the link provided. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend!

Miss Gage

Diary Dates

20th & 21st October

Bikeability

23rd October

Eco Club meeting

(1230hrs in the cabin)

24th October

Break up for half term

31st October

Year 7 applications close

3rd November

Non pupil day

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	96.92%	96.39%
Infants	91.67%	95.81%
Lower Juniors	97.24%	96.34%
Upper Juniors	92.64%	92.99%
Whole School	94.27%	95.32%

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 17th October 2025

Pebmarsh Cup – Frank

Frank your classmates have nominated you to win the Pebmarsh cup. They say that you're a fantastic friend who is always great fun and brings a smile to people's faces. They also commented on how they appreciate all your help in English and Maths which shows your nurturing nature. Well done Frank!

Panthers – Lana for Nurturing

Lana, this week we have welcomed a new member to Panther class, you have shown your incredibly empathetic and nurturing nature to ensure they feel comfortable and safe in this new environment. You have gone out of your way inside and outside the classroom to ensure our new classmate has had a fantastic start to life in this school. We are incredibly proud of your nurturing nature, you are a fantastic role model and demonstrate this every day. Well done Lana!

Koalas – Harriet for Self-motivation.

Harriet, since joining the Koala class you have been non-stop, sharing your ideas with others and using your creativity in your writing, your recount of the Iron Man blew us away.

We are all so proud of how you have settled in so well to our class and we all look forward to what you will bring for the rest of the year. Keep up the hard work.

Owls –Lola - Self Motivation and Honesty

Lola, you have come into Year 2 brimming with confidence and a willingness to give everything a go. Because of this your learning has shot through the roof and Mrs Watkins and I have noticed a huge difference in your reading, writing and Maths. You wear a smile on your face and just crack on and if you come up against something you do not know you are honest enough with yourself to just ask! WOWSERS. Lola, you are awesome. Keep shining brightly.

Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:

Frankie S Wiffen



You are very empathetic towards others in the school. If anyone hurts themselves you are there in a second to lend a helping hand. Thank you for being so kind and caring!





Messy Church



**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
MESSY LIGHT PARTY ON
SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
2.30PM - 4PM**



**This is a free
afternoon of
crafting, messy play,
games, food and
learning about
JESUS THE LIGHT OF
THE WORLD.**

**At St Andrew's
Church Hall,
Halstead**

**Everyone is welcome to attend this event!
To book a free place or for more information email:
messychurchhalstead@gmail.com**



OPEN ORAL HEALTH SESSIONS WEDNESDAY 22ND AND 29TH OCTOBER 2025

For all children, especially those who have not seen an NHS Dentist.

NO APPOINTMENT NEED

Session includes

- Free Dental Check up
- Familiarisation
- Oral Health advise
- Free brush and toothpaste



The Essex Dental Clinic
01787222828

The Essex Dental clinic, 14b Field House, The Essex Business Park, Earls Colne, Essex, CO6 2NS

SPACES AVAILABLE ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Classes for 4 years and up

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@AADANCEBRAINTREE

07773067577

Laura

CONTACT US NOW



Exciting opportunity to learn Halloween themed singing and dance skills from 2 industry professionals, Musical Theatre Director Rob Miles and Creative Academy Grace Gray.

This 2 day workshop is open to students age 6 – 16yrs.

Come and join us for two days of singing, dance, fun and games.

Held at Stanway School.

Email jowhite.csod@gmail.com to book on.

www.colchesterschoolofdance.co.uk

St John the Baptist Primary School

Date	Yr Group	Event
14th October	Whole School	Perform Workshop in school—Black History
16 th October	Panthers	Forest School
17th October	Whole school	FOPS movie night 3.20pm—5.15pm (no choir club)
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
11 th December	Owls	Forest School
17th December	KS2	9.15am—Carol concert in church—all welcome
18 th December	Panthers	Forest School