



# St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 7th November 2025



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone managed to have a restful half term—welcome back! We're thrilled to kick off this term with some exciting events and news.

Next Friday, we'll be hosting our sponsored walk in honour of World Diabetes Day. It would be absolutely wonderful to raise as much money as we can for this incredible cause. Millions of people live with diabetes every day, including members of our own school community. Every penny we raise can contribute to vital research into managing this condition, so let's put our best foot forward!

Applications for primary school places open on Monday. If you know families with children set to start school in September 2026, please do encourage them to book a tour so they can discover all the amazing things our school has to offer.

If you haven't yet arranged an appointment to meet your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible—appointments are taking place during the week commencing 17th November.

A quick reminder to order your school photos by today to take advantage of the discount! If you would like to save on postage, you can have them delivered directly to school—just make sure to order by Monday.

We also want to give a huge congratulations to Owlets, who won the cake for having the highest attendance in October! Fantastic job, team!

Most of our after-school clubs still have spaces available, so if your child is interested in joining, please reach out to the school office.

Finally, Halstead Road Runners are celebrating their 30th anniversary with a marathon next year and have kindly offered us a free place! If you're an experienced runner, this could be a great fit. Do consider applying and let's raise some sponsorship money for our wonderful school! More details can be found on page 4.

Here's to a fantastic term ahead!

Warm regards,

Miss Gage

## Diary Dates

**10th November**

Applications for primary school place  
September 2026 open

**12th November**

Cross Country at St. Peter's Primary  
School, Sible Hedingham  
(selected children only)

No Art club today

**W/C 17th November**

Parents' consultations

**27th November**

Pantomime workshop

**28th November**

Trip to the pantomime

# ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

	<b>This Week</b> <b>Fri-Thurs</b>	<b>Year to date</b>
<b>EYFS</b>	98.11%	96.61%
<b>Infants</b>	93.97%	95.33%
<b>Lower Juniors</b>	93.53%	95.94%
<b>Upper Juniors</b>	96.15%	93.45%
<b>Whole School</b>	94.99%	95.20%

**Congratulations to OWLETS CLASS for the highest attendance in October!**

**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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Pebmarsh Cup – Beatrice

Beatrice, you have been chosen by your class to receive the Pebmarsh Cup this week because they say that you are extremely kind. They also say that you help them build Lego and helped others to think of brilliant building ideas. Someone also said that you are the BEST friend EVER. Keep being you Beatrice because the world needs kindness and people with brilliant ideas.

### Panthers – Kieran – Self motivation

Kieran, this first week back you have been even more fantastic than usual! Not only have you shown great resilience when completing your assessment but you have also shown a great deal of creativity and curiosity in our other subjects. It is fantastic to see you embrace this side of your learning! Well done, Kieran!

### Koalas – Grace – Self-motivation

Grace, you have returned to Year 4 self-motivated, with a mature attitude towards your learning. Your presentation has come so far in your work, showcasing your hard efforts towards your learning. You are contributing more and becoming more confident each day, well done.

### Owls –Frankie SW - Imagination

Frankie, you have blown Mrs Watkins away this week in Writing Club and Talk Club. She found that you have an amazing imagination and a wealth of words inside you that you have been hiding secretly under a bush. Mrs Watkins said you showed determination and resilience and worked hard at all times with that HUGE smile of yours on your face. Well done Frankie. Keep smiling and keep showing us all just how amazing you are.

### Owlets – Rafe – Self- motivation

Rafe you are a fantastic member of Owlets' class. You try your best in every lesson, your hand is always up and you are always ready for your learning. You are a great friend to the other Owlets and always ready to help open the door and we every say you trying to tie someone else's shoelaces earlier in the week! Keep shining, Rafe!

## **Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:**

**Mark Weaver**

Thank you for giving up your time to build our tepees, the children are obsessed with them already!

**Aimee and Scarlett Wendt**

For giving up your spare time to paint the tepee to protect them from the weather. We could not have done it without you!





"Absolutely Fantastic ... superbly organised, and brilliant goody bag, really friendly and helpful marshalls and beautiful course."

REVIEW ON RUNNERS WORLD

Halstead Road Runners invite you to enter the 30th Halstead & Essex Marathon, on 10th May 2026. Are you ready for the challenge? Entry numbers are limited, so avoid disappointment and enter today!



Halstead & Essex Marathon is an undulating, rural race, incorporating many quiet and picturesque country lanes - ideal for runners. North Essex is relatively unrecognised as an area of extreme beauty and has an abundance of hidden back roads amongst rolling hills, woods and farmlands.



The marathon has been consistently rated in the top 5 marathon races in the UK, attracting athletes from across the UK and abroad. We aim to donate a percentage of any profits to charities.

The race is also part of the Essex champs series. Don't forget that course record breakers win a £200 prize (male and female).



**ENTER NOW**



[halsteadroadrunners.org.uk](http://halsteadroadrunners.org.uk)



## St John the Baptist Primary School

Date	Yr Group	Event
14th October	Whole School	Perform Workshop in school—Black History
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Panthers	Forest School
17th October	Whole school	FOPS movie night 3.20pm—5.15pm (no choir club)
20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Panthers	Bikeability course (for children who have already signed up)
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Owls	Forest School
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Whole school	Break up for half term
31st October	Year 6	Secondary school applications close
		<b>Half Term</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Whole school	Non pupil day
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Koalas	Forest School
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Owlets	Road safety presentation (parents welcome) 8.55am
12th November	Year 5	Pedestrian safety presentation
13 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> November	Panthers	Forest School
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Owls	Forest School
27th November	Whole school	Pantomime workshop
28th November	Whole school	Pantomime Trip to Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds
4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December	Owls	Forest School
17th December	KS2	9.15am—Carol concert in church—all welcome
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Panthers	Forest School