



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 14th November
2025

Diary Dates

W/C 17th November

Parents' consultations

27th November

Pantomime workshop

28th November

Trip to the pantomime

16th December

Christmas dinner/Wear a Christmas
jumper day



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Guardians,

What an exciting and reflective week we have had at our school! On Tuesday, we gathered at the war memorial to honour and remember those who bravely gave their lives for our freedom in our Remembrance service. It was a poignant occasion, and we were thrilled to invite the community back to school for refreshments afterwards. We also raised £181.83 for the Poppy Appeal!

On Wednesday, our Reception and Year 5 children attended a fantastic road safety presentation. Their exemplary behaviour was commendable, and they truly showcased what it means to be an asset to our school community.

Today marks 'World Diabetes Day' and to celebrate, we held our sponsored walk! We kindly ask that all sponsorship money be handed into the school office in a named envelope. Your support is invaluable!

For any families with children starting school in September 2026, please note that the applications portal is now open. Even if you already have a child at the school, a new application must be submitted for your little ones.

Next week, we look forward to our parent consultations. We kindly ask everyone to arrive on time so that our dedicated teachers can provide ample time for each consultation.

A highlight approaching on our calendar is the Christmas lunch on Tuesday, 16th December! Menus are being sent home today, and we encourage you to return your completed forms along with payment via ParentPay. Don't forget, Christmas jumpers may be worn on this festive day!

We are also thrilled to share that Mr Nichols will be running the Halstead Marathon next year to raise money for our school—what a fantastic challenge he has taken on! Additionally, our Year 2-6 children represented our school brilliantly at a recent cross-country event at St Peter's school. Not only did we show off our best dressed, but we were also the loudest! Well done to all participants! As we gear up for the pantomime trip, please ensure that payments are made by next Friday, 21st November. This includes the workshop we will be hosting the day before. Unfortunately, we cannot subsidise these events, so your contributions are essential for their continuation.

Lastly, a special mention to the children who participated in today's wet welly walk for National Diabetes Day. It was a fantastic event, and we hope to see lots of sponsorship forms returned by next Friday!

Thank you for your continued support!

Best wishes,
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	100%	96.96%
Infants	92.07%	94.99%
Lower Juniors	96.90%	96.04%
Upper Juniors	95.77%	93.70%
Whole School	95.57%	95.23%

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 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 14th November 2025

Pebmarsh Cup – Lola-Rae

Lola, your friends have described you as being a nurturing and imaginative friend. You inspire others with your creative ideas and stories that you come up with. The Koala class believe that you are a kind and caring individual who makes other people feel welcomed and loved and love working and playing with you. Well done Lola.

Panthers – Poppy – Self-motivation

Poppy, since returning from our half term break you have worked tirelessly inside and outside the classroom to ensure the school is a better place. Last week you volunteered as scooter monitor and did such a professional job to ensure everyone had the best lunch time possible. This week you have taken it upon yourself to join in more classroom discussion and show everyone what a lovely and knowledgeable person you are. Well done Poppy, you are a star!

Koalas – Octavia – Self-motivation

Octavia, you really do wow us all with your positive can-do attitude. This week you took on the cross-country challenge and totally gave it your own. You have also absolutely smashed your assessments this week, showing your knowledge and skills. Continue being that amazing friend that you are to all the class, we are all very proud of you.

Owls –Reuben - Self-motivation

Reuben you have really been impressing Mrs Watkins and myself with your 'can do' attitude. You really give everything your best shot. In Writing Club, you are trying hard to remember your spaces and use your Fred Talk to help you spell. The other great thing you now do is ask if you need any help at all. This is brilliant because it means together we can take your learning further. This growing confidence is fab to see. Well done Reuben.

Owlets –Esme Self-motivation and imagination.

Esme you are just amazing, you have blown us away with your enthusiasm to learning and writing. Every opportunity you get, you are writing. Whether it is a story, a sign or a picture, you are working hard to use your phonics to write the words. Well done Esme, keep writing, I expect to see you as a famous author one day!

Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:

Thea-Koala class



Nothing phases you and the fact that you are an incredible athlete outside of school is spectacular. Recently competing in a Quingda (Kung Fu) Judo competition you were able to win gold and we think you are amazing. Never stop reaching for the stars.



Opens Thursday 27th November

Maplestead Farm
**CHRISTMAS
BARN**

Every
Thurs - Sun
10 to 4

**Maplestead Farm
Christmas Trees**

- ★ Gifts & Decorations ★
- ★ Beers & Mulled Wine ★
- ★ Tea, Coffee & Cake ★

Maplestead Farm - CO9 2SL
www.maplesteadfarm.co.uk

St John the Baptist Church Pebmarsh



CAROL CONCERT

Sunday 14th December 2025



5 pm

With the Long Melford Silver Band

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
12th November	Year 5	Pedestrian safety presentation
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
27th November	Whole school	Pantomime workshop
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