



# St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 21st November  
2025



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news from our school community! So far, we have raised a staggering £955 for Diabetes UK—a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sponsored the children and to the brave little ones who faced the wet and rainy conditions to support this amazing charity. Your generosity truly makes a difference! Can we make it to £1000? Please bring hand any more money raised in at the school office.

We also want to extend our gratitude to everyone who attended the parents' consultations this week. It's always a pleasure to share how wonderful your children are and to celebrate their achievements together! Also, for the teachers who were incredibly flexible, fitting in parents all around the school week.

Last week, we sent out the Christmas menus. If you haven't done so already, please return the forms and make payment on Parentpay at your earliest convenience.

Looking ahead, we are excited about our pantomime trip next week! Oh yes we are, we can't wait! Please remember that today was the due date for payments, so if you haven't made that yet, kindly do so. All children will need a packed lunch for the day. If you had ordered a school dinner, please note that this has been cancelled, and any money has been refunded to your ParentPay account.

We are incredibly proud of all our children and families this week, as we have reached our attendance target for the second time this academic year—well done, everyone!

Lastly, a big thank you to Maplestead Barns for donating our beautiful Christmas tree for the school hall. Please see page 4 for more details about their Christmas Barn.

Wishing you all a lovely week ahead!

Miss Gage



## Diary Dates

27th November

Pantomime workshop

28th November

Trip to the pantomime

5th December

FOPS Christmas disco 3.30-5pm

6th December

FOPS Christmas Fair 12-2pm

W/C 8th December

Sports club finish this week

9th December

KS1 nativity in church 2pm

10th December

KS1 nativity in church 9.30am

16th December

Christmas dinner/Wear a Christmas jumper day

17th December

KS2 carol concert in church, 9.15am all welcome

# ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

	<b>This Week Fri-Thurs</b>	<b>Year to date</b>
<b>EYFS</b>	98.46%	97.10%
<b>Infants</b>	93.79%	94.88%
<b>Lower Juniors</b>	96.90%	96.12%
<b>Upper Juniors</b>	97.69%	94.09%
<b>Whole School</b>	96.39%	95.34%

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 21st November 2025

### Pebmarsh Cup – Finley

Finley, your class have nominated you for the Pebmarsh cup! They have said that you are an incredibly kind and supportive friend who shows an incredible level of empathy and always nurture those in need. They have also commented on how impressed they are with your work in class and how you support others with their work when they are struggling. Well done Finley! You are a fantastic role model and continue to be a superstar every day!

### **Panthers – Amelia for Self-motivation.**

Amelia, since beginning year five I have noticed a tremendous increase in your self-motivation. You give everything your best effort, and you're not scared to ask a question when you're unsure. This attitude towards your learning has also increased your independence and your confidence! It is fantastic to see you taking a proactive approach to every challenge life throws at you. Well done, Amelia, keep being amazing!

### **Koalas – Daisy - Imaginative.**

Daisy, this week you have blown away our class away by your creative imagination in your song writing. You stood up in front of our class and sang the song you created, taking yourself out of your comfort zone. It has been so lovely to see your confidence blossom this year and to see you contributing more in our class. Keep up the hard work

### **Owls – In Forest School this week**

### **Owlets – Hettie for self-motivation**

You have really come out of your shell these past few weeks it has been lovely to see your wicked sense of humour and hear your cheeky giggle. You have grown in confidence putting up your hand and joining in with group activities which is not easy! You have also wowed us with how independent you are becoming particularly with getting changed for PE. Keep being you and making us laugh every day!

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

**Mr Chinnery nominated by Aimee Wendt**



**He's has taken on a whole new cohort and in under 10 months integrated them seamlessly into the school ways of working and with his colleagues helped close the gaps in learning. What a star!**



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](http://www.maplesteadfarm.co.uk)

## New SPACE - Supporting Parents and Carers in Essex

Space is a free parent to parent service, offering 1 to 1 support and online group sessions, run by peer educators. All the peer educators are parents and carers with lived experience of having a child with SEND.

SPACE offers:

- One to one support – a telephone conversation or a video call
- Online group sessions

Supportive resources through the website <https://parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk/>

You can also come along to a community event and chat to one of the team for support and advice around any area of SEND. The service support parents of children aged 0 to 25.

### Advice on SEND



#### Sensory Needs

Understand and manage the sensory needs of children and young people with SEND.



#### Eating

Advice on helping children and young people who are selective eaters or have ARFID.



#### Sleeping

Methods to help your child enjoy better and more regular sleep.



#### Toileting

Advice on helping children learn to use the toilet and dealing with problems.

## Online group sessions

Book a place at a SPACE online event. Each webinar will focus on a topic and allows time to listen and talk.

Wednesday 3 December	9.30am to 11am	Toileting
Thursday 4 December	12pm to 1.30pm	Sensory needs
Monday 8 December	10am to 11.30am	Demand avoidance
Tuesday 9 December	12pm to 1.30pm	Sleeping
Wednesday 10 December	6.30pm to 8pm	Attendance difficulties (EBSA)
Tuesday 16 December	11.30am to 1pm	Eating
Thursday 18 December	10.30am to 11.30am	Drop in (daytime)
Monday 22 December	9.30am to 11am	Anxiety

*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 <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
5th December	Whole school	FOPS Christmas disco 3.30-5pm
6th December	Whole school	FOPS Christmas fair 12-2pm
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