



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 5th December 2025



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week it has been at our school! A huge well done to our children who participated in the Cross Country event at Hedingham School on Wednesday. We couldn't be prouder of you all! Your determination and teamwork truly shone through.

It was lovely to see so many of our families at the torch procession in Halstead. What a lovely community event.

We are also looking forward to seeing lots of our school community at the FOPS Christmas Fair tomorrow between 12 and 2 pm. Please do come along and support this festive event, which will help raise money that benefits all of our families in the coming weeks and months. It promises to be a lovely afternoon filled with fun and festive cheer! Thank you to everyone who is helping out, we really appreciate everything you do for our school.

November was a fantastic month for attendance—well done everyone! For the first time ever, we had two classes with exactly the same attendance across the whole month. Congratulations to Owlets and Panthers! We hope you enjoy your well-earned cake as a reward for your fantastic commitment.

Next week, we are excited to invite you to our KS1 nativity in the church. There will be no charge for entry, but we will be collecting donations for the church, so please bring any spare coins (or notes!) that you can share. Every little bit will be greatly appreciated!

Lastly, one of our parents will be running the London Marathon for Farleigh Hospice next year. If you would like to support this worthy cause, please click on the following link: [Donate Here](#). Every pound donated will mean so much, as this charity is very close to their heart.

We were also fortunate to host Carrie Prior, the Director of Education from the Diocese, and Andy Wolfe, Executive Director of the National Society of Education in school this week. They visited to discuss the sustainability of schools in the future and how AI can assist in this journey. It was a great visit, and they thoroughly enjoyed exploring our school.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend! Miss Gage

Diary Dates

6th December

FOPS Christmas Fair 12-2pm

9th December

KS1 nativity 2pm in church

10th December

KS1 nativity 9.30am in church

16th December

Christmas dinner/Wear a Christmas jumper day

17th December

KS2 Carol Concert in church 9.15am

United we strive for excellence-together we shine

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

	This Week Fri-Thurs	Year to date
EYFS	90.77%	96.28%
Infants	95.86%	95.20%
Lower Juniors	98.28%	96.16%
Upper Juniors	97.69%	94.84%
Whole School	96.39%	95.54%

Congratulations to **OWLETS AND PANTHERS 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 5th December 2025

Pebmarsh Cup - Oscar J

Oscar your friends have chosen you for the Pebmarsh cup. They say you are kind, fun to play with and know everything about Nightfury! Well done Oscar keep being you.

Panthers - Luke for self-motivation.

Luke, you have had a fantastic start to year 5, you constantly challenge yourself and others (including me) in the pursuit of knowledge. This reflects in your work on a daily basis as you are always willing to learn new methods and apply them to your previous learning. You have also shown that you can be a great model to younger children in the school and your classmates. You are always willing to help and explain when people are struggling and you always lead by example when showing respect to our classroom and school.

Koalas – Esmæ - Self motivation.

Esmæ, you have really impressed us all with your positive attitude towards your learning inside and outside the classroom. You are a very determined individual who is looking to progress further with your learning, especially in maths. Well done for settling in to Year 3 so well. Keep up the hard work.

Owls – Idris – All our school values

Idris, you are all our school values rolled into one with a good dose of fun, humour and joy thrown in. Mrs Watkins and I have been really impressed with your work in absolutely everything recently and at all the brilliant knowledge and information you bring to the class. It is a pleasure to have you in our class Idris. Thank you for being you.

Owlets – Greyson for Imaginative

Greyson you have blown us away this week trying your best in drawing club. Your imaginative ideas are just amazing! You have used your phonic skills to independently write your own codes. Not only have you drawn the characters, you have also made them out of play dough. Well done Greyson, we are so proud of you, never stop being you!

Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:

Herbie-Owl class



Herbie, I watched you be a fantastic brother last week but had to hold onto this one as we had no shining star last week. You helped your sister when she was upset with your amazing solution solving and it was so lovely to see! Keep being a caring brother.



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
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**PARENT COFFEE
AFTERNOON**



**FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN
WITH NEURODIVERSITY**

WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER AT 2PM

**COME FOR A COFFEE AND A CHAT
& MEET A MEMBER OF THE
ESSEX CHILD & WELL-BEING SERVICE**



Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities







SPACE

SPACE offers free support to families of children and young people with SEND.

Delivered by peer educators – all parents and carers with lived experience.

Get support your way:

-  **in person** – meet us at Local Offer roadshows, coffee mornings, and community events
-  **by phone** – talk one-to-one with a peer educator
-  **online** – join webinars on key topics, led by peer educators
-  **on the SPACE website** – find helpful info and guidance anytime



Book your place for an online session, or a phone call today!

parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk





**ELF THE MUSICAL
WORKSHOP**

COME AND LEARN THE CHOREO
FROM THE HIT CHARTER HALL
PRODUCTION

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER
THE STANWAY SCHOOL
AGE 6+ . 10AM-3PM
£40 FOR ONE DAY

EMAIL: JOWHITE.CSOD@GMAIL.COM






Acro Intensive

LAST MINUTE
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?
BOOK NOW

EARLS COLNE VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER
11AM - 4PM
AGE 6+
£40




To book contact Jo: jowwhite.csod@gmail.com



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
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 th December	Owls	Forest School
17th December	KS2	9.15am—Carol concert in church—all welcome
18 th December	Panthers	Forest School