



# St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 12th December  
2025

## Diary Dates

**16th December**

Christmas dinner/Wear a Christmas jumper day

**17th December**

KS2 Carol Concert in church 9.15am

**19th December**

Break up for Christmas

**5th January**

Non pupil day

**6th January**

Return to school

**W/C 12th January**

After school clubs start



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the FOPS Christmas fair on Saturday! What a wonderful afternoon it was, filled with festive cheer and community spirit. We are thrilled to announce that FOPS raised a very impressive £1525.48, which will go towards enhancing our children's experiences at school. I must remind all parents that the school park is for staff use only. Unfortunately, parents are not permitted to use it as it is in constant use throughout the day. If you do park there, please expect to be asked to move your car. Additionally, for safety reasons, I kindly ask that parents do not block the gate or park on the zig-zag lines, as we need to keep access clear to the school car park.

On page 6, you will find a survey. We would be very grateful if you could take a moment to complete this, as your feedback is invaluable to us.

A huge well done to our KS1 children for putting on a fantastic nativity! We are so proud of you all, and a special thanks to our Owls and Owlets teams for making it happen. We are eagerly looking forward to the KS2 carol concert in church on Wednesday morning at 9.15 am—everyone is welcome! We will be collecting money to add to the funds raised at the nativity, which will all be donated to the church. So far, we have collected £157.31, and I know the church will be incredibly grateful for your generosity. Thank you also to Jess Soper for taking incredible photographs of our children. They captured precious memories.

Clubs will start in the second week of January, and letters will go out after Christmas, so please keep an eye out and sign your child up as early as possible, as spaces are limited. If your child is going to join the football club on Mondays, please remember they will need shin pads—perhaps Father Christmas will bring some!

Lastly, please remember to order your child's lunches for the first week back in January by no later than 9 am on Thursday, 18th December. The school office will send a reminder, but it is always appreciated if you can order as far in advance as possible.

Essex Libraries are running a winter reading challenge, so do check page 4 for details.

Let's make our last week of 2025 in school a fantastic one! We are looking forward to seeing everyone's Christmas jumpers on Tuesday for our Christmas lunch!

Warm regards,

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	93.48%	96.06%
Infants	95.17%	95.19%
Lower Juniors	95.17%	96.09%
Upper Juniors	95.00%	94.85%
Whole School	94.89%	95.49%

Congratulations to **OWLETS AND PANTHERS CLASS** for the highest attendance in November!

**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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Pebmarsh Cup - Evie

Evie, Owl Class have voted for you to receive the Pebmarsh Cup for our class this week. Your friends think you are funny and kind and they see your caring streak in you too. They love the games that you play and the way you create your amazing written stories and drawings. Keep being you Evie we would not have you any other way.

### **Panthers - Alfie for being imaginative.**

Alfie, over the past couple of weeks we have been planning and writing our Sci-fi stories. Not only have you written a fantastic story that has included all of the key components that we have used in our lessons, but you have also taken time to improve and add to your story at home. This dedication to your work and the passion you have shown is a fantastic representation of who you are as a learner and a person. Well done, Alfie! Keep it going!

### **Koalas – Alora for being wonderfully nurturing.**

Alora, you are such a kind and caring individual who goes out your way to help others. You are always comforting friends, offering help without being asked and you always make people feel wanted and included. Your caring attitude makes our classroom a happier place and we are all very proud of you.

### **Owls - Whole class**

Owl Class you have been amazing over the last couple of weeks learning our Nativity performance. You learnt all the lines to the songs, when to come on and off the stage, where to sit and stand and, for some of you, what to say. Well done. Then, to top it all off you were amazing performers to your audiences. Whoops-a-Daisy would have been proud of you all too. Well done. You are superstars.

### **Owlets – Isobel Wilkins – Self-motivation**

In the past few weeks, you have become increasingly independent, persevered in your learning even when you have found it tricky and shown great pride in your achievements. You are always so kind to your friends offering them hugs and helping them if they are sad or stuck. Keep being you Isobel, you are truly amazing! Well done Isobel.

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

### **Rosie in Panthers**



This week you injured yourself in school but it did not stop you!  
You then went and competed in a swimming event and even though you were in pain you persevered and got a personal best.  
Rosie, you show up everyday and give 110% and then go home and give it 1000% and I think you are a role model to everyone!



**Keep being amazing!**

10 January  
to 22 February  
2026

# Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawprofessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: [libraries.essex.gov.uk](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk)

# Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



[libraries.essex.gov.uk](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk)

  
[@essexlibraries](https://twitter.com/essexlibraries)

Essex County Council  
\*\*\*\*\*  
ESSEX YEAR  
OF  
OPPORTUNITY

# Messy Christingle

Come and raise some money for the children's society  
and enjoy some free messy church activities.



# Essex Family Forum Family Impact Survey 2025



## [Family Impact Survey -2025 is now OPEN!](#)

We are pleased to announce that the 'new look' Essex Family Forum 'Family Impact Survey 2025' is now live.

We are conducting this survey to measure the current levels of parental satisfaction with local services for SEND families and to compare with the data collected within our previous surveys. We took on board feedback from our previous surveys and have reduced the number of questions so completing the survey should take approximately only 10 minutes.

Your voice really does make a difference, so please take the time to complete this survey by scanning the QR code on the right or by visiting the 'have your say' section on our website ([www.essexfamilyforum.org/have-your-say/family-impact-survey](http://www.essexfamilyforum.org/have-your-say/family-impact-survey)).

## [About Essex Family Forum](#)

Essex Family Forum (EFF) is the parent carer forum in Essex for families whose children and young people have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). We need to hear your views and experiences to represent your voice. Visit our website at [www.essexfamilyforum.org](http://www.essexfamilyforum.org) or via the QR code to find out more about what we do, to access our 'Supporting your Neurodivergent Child' resource pack, to sign up to our mailing list and to share your experiences and feedback via our virtual graffiti wall.

SCAN ME!



Family Impact  
Survey  
2025

SCAN ME!



EFF Website

## 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