



# St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 19th December  
2025

## Diary Dates

**19th December**

Break up for Christmas

**5th January**

Non pupil day

**6th January**

Return to school

**W/C 12th January**

After school clubs start

**21st January**

Young Voices concert at the O2



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic last week of the year in school! On Tuesday, the children and staff enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner—thank you to everyone who made this happen. It was a lovely occasion filled with laughter, music and festive cheer.

On Wednesday, we gathered for our carol concert at the church. We are thrilled to announce that the grand total raised, which includes the money from the nativity, is £214.58. The actual total is even more, as many generous donations were made via card payment. A big thank you again for your generosity; the church is very grateful for your support.

Next term promises to be another busy one! We will kick off with swimming lessons for Koala class, and our school choir will be performing at the O2 in London in January. Please keep an eye on the back page of the weekly newsletter, as the diary dates page is constantly being updated with important information.

Halstead Swimming Club are looking to take on new members, please see page 5 for more details if this is something your child may be interested in.

As I have mentioned before, after-school clubs will commence in the second week of term in January. Letters will go out in the first week, so please sign your child up as early as possible to secure their place.

We have been blown away by all the wonderful gifts from you—thank you so much! They are truly appreciated by all the staff.

Just a reminder that Monday, 5th January 2026, is a non-pupil day, but we can't wait to see everyone on Tuesday, 6th January, and hear all about your Christmas break.

From all the staff and Governors at St. John the Baptist, I would like to wish our families and school community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Over the holidays, I will continue to check Class Dojo, so if you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,  
Teresa 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	94.29%	95.93%
Infants	90%	94.84%
Lower Juniors	97.24%	96.17%
Upper Juniors	95.77%	94.92%
Whole School	94.29%	95.40%

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 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Pebmarsh Cup - Charles

Charles, our class have voted for you to win the Pebmarsh cup. You have won this award because you are always kind and caring to everyone around you. You are a wonderful friend who includes others, helps when someone is upset, and uses kind words every day. You try your very best in your learning, even when work is challenging. Well done Charles.

### **Panthers - Indie for SHINE.**

Indie, since joining this school you have made tremendous progress in every single aspect of life, and you have grown up to be a fantastic person. When you started in Owl class Mrs Lock has vivid memories of you hiding under the table! She isn't that scary... As soon as you joined Koalas you became the Indie we know today, full of life, energy and enthusiasm; I know that you would brighten the days of Mr Chinnery and Ms Bain when they needed it the most. Then you joined me in Panther's and continued to share your caring and optimistic attitude with myself and all the adults we have had in Panther class this year. Every single person in this building will miss you when you are gone, you bring a fantastic energy and a 'nothing can stop me approach' to everything you do, the school will not be the same without you but we wish you all the happiness and luck at your new school. They're lucky to have you. Thank you for spending so many fantastic years with us, I'm sure we will one day see the fantastic person you become.

### **Koalas – Cade for Self-motivation**

Cade, you have won our Gold award this week for being self-motivated. You have transitioned so well in Year 3. You come in ready and eager to learn, writing down the date and the learning question as soon as you have your book.

This week you have shown strong determination and have taken pride to completing your work to a high standard.

### **Owls – Leo – Self-motivation**

Leo, you have been nothing short of amazing and you work hard to share and show all of our school values. You have really settled into life in Owl Class. You are incredibly polite, curious and eager share to what you know. You try your hardest in everything and it is a joy to have you in our class. Keep being you Leo because you are AMAZING.

### **Owlets – Oscar W for Self-motivation.**

Oscar you are just amazing! This past half term you have become so independent in all areas. You blow us away with your incredible reading and it has been a joy to watch your friendships blossom. Keep being you Oscar, you make us smile every day!

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

**Amalie– Panthers**



**You are an incredibly kind and caring individual,  
who puts their friends thoughts and feelings  
ahead of your own and we are very lucky that you  
joined our school. You are a role model!**



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](http://libraries.essex.gov.uk)



# Winter Reading Challenge

10 January to 22 February

Join at your local library!



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



New Year  
Sport  
Alert!!!!

**Love swimming?**

**Are you 6 years or older?**



**Want to be professionally coached?**

**Want to compete in national leagues?**

**Want a free trial at a top local club?**



**SwimMark**

We would love to hear from you if you are 6 years or older, swimming at stage 5 or higher and interested in having a one month free trial with Halstead Swimming Club.

Please contact: [info@halsteadsc.co.uk](mailto:info@halsteadsc.co.uk) to arrange your trial.



THE ESSEX  
TENNIS AND PADEL



PLAYTOMIC



# Non Members Welcome!

The Essex Golf  
and Country  
Club  
Tennis Junior  
Programme

Book Via Playtomic App, Download,  
Search The Essex, Click 'Academy'

## Christmas Offer

Sign Up Before Christmas and  
Enjoy Member Prices for Next  
Term's Groups!

Ages - 3-16 years

**All Abilities Welcome**

Timetable - Six Days a Week

Mondays to Saturdays

All Sessions are **Indoors**

Cost - **£7.50 Per Session**

*Christmas Offer available to new customers only*

Classes From Monday to Saturday

[essex.tennis@theclubcompany.com](mailto:essex.tennis@theclubcompany.com)

