



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 30th January 2026

Diary Dates

13th February

Break up for half term

23rd February

Back to school-

ALL CHILDREN WILL NEED

A PACKED LUNCH



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wet week it has been! Despite the rain, we had a fantastic time at the car show on Tuesday. A big thank you to Miss King for organising the event, and to everyone who contributed their vehicles, braving the pouring rain! The children absolutely loved it. A special thanks to Ryan from the Kings Head, who kept our adults supplied with hot drinks – much appreciated! The children also enjoyed a warm hot chocolate upon their return to school, which was a lovely treat.

We have been busy booking some exciting trips for the children. Letters will be sent out to relevant families in due course, but please see the back page for details of any trips taking place before Easter. We are sure the children will have wonderful experiences to look forward to!

Thank you to all our families for your support and understanding during our emergency school closure on Tuesday. Your co-operation was greatly appreciated, and the teachers were very impressed with the work produced at home. A big thank you to everyone who supported remote learning on that day, and to our dedicated teachers for adapting so quickly. Lock TV was a hit!

On page 6, you will find details of a holiday club being run by Little Oaks, our wraparound care provider. This is a great opportunity for children to engage in fun activities during the holidays.

We would like to inform you of suspected cases of Strep A in school, although they have not been confirmed. If your child has any symptoms, they may need antibiotics, and we kindly ask you to inform the school, as we need to notify public health. We have increased hand washing in school and ensured proper ventilation. The best way to stop the spread is through personal hygiene, using tissues, and covering mouths when sneezing or coughing. Thank you for your continued vigilance around this matter.

Finally, children may come home excited about a new kitchen! We are thrilled to announce that our new kitchen will start to be built during the February half term and will be completed by Easter. We will keep you updated with any plans as they develop.

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	93.85%	94.60%
Infants	97.94%	94.39%
Lower Juniors	96.19%	96.04%
Upper Juniors	96.60%	95.14%
Whole School	96.15%	95.10%

Congratulations to KOALA CLASS for the highest attendance in December!

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 permitted but they must be black with no other colours. Otherwise, black shoes must be worn.

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 - parents will be informed via email and Class Dojo

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 30th January 2026

Pebmarsh Cup – Sam

Sam, this week you have been awarded the Pebmarsh Cup, and it is truly well deserved. The children in our class feel that you are a wonderful role model who consistently represents our school values in everything you do. You always approach each day with a positive attitude and a smile on your face, which helps to create a happy and welcoming environment for everyone around you.

Panthers – Rosie for Self- motivation.

Rosie, during our school closure on Tuesday I received a message from your adult explaining that they were working from home and would only be able to assist you sporadically throughout the day. Despite this, you were still self-motivated to complete and upload your work independently and to our usual school standard. This example of pro-activity and taking responsibility for your learning demonstrates what a fantastic learner you have become alongside all of the activities you do outside of school. Well done Rosie! We are very proud!

Koalas – Nicholas- Self motivation.

Nicholas, on Tuesday we all had to work from home, and you handled this brilliantly. Your mum sent me all of your work, which was full of inspiring and imaginative ideas. It was clear that you put a great deal of thought and effort into everything you completed. You showed excellent independence and creativity, and you should be very proud of yourself. Well done!

Owls – Ivy - Imaginative

Ivy, you have received Owl Class Gold Award this week because of your amazing imagination. At the beginning of the week you had to think of really thoughtful and detailed questions to ask the visitors at the car show. Your questions blew Mrs Watkins and I away. They were imaginative and really showed a deep curiosity to know more. We would not have thought of those questions ourselves. Well done. Keep being curious. Keep asking why so that you keep on learning.

Owlets – Betsy – Imaginative

Betsy, you have won this week's Gold Award for the incredible models you have been making. You have used the knowledge you gained in Art lessons and put your new skills to good use, and have been thinking outside the box to solution solve. You also helped others when they were struggling with theirs. Well done Betsy!

Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:

Oscar W



**You brighten my day when you say 'Hello' every time you see me.
You never pass my office without stopping and giving me a huge
smile and a warm greeting. Thank you for always cheering me up!**



You are a shining star!

What to do if your child is unwell

A guide for parents

Scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness. Symptoms include a sore throat, headache, swollen neck glands, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. The rash may be harder to see on darker skin tones but you should be able to feel it. Contact your GP or NHS 111 if you think your child has scarlet fever.

In very rare occasions the bacteria that causes scarlet fever can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called **invasive Group A strep**. If your child seems seriously unwell contact your GP or call NHS 111. Do this if your child is feeding or eating much less than normal, has a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or seems dehydrated, feels hotter than usual (for a baby under 3 months a temperature of 38°C, for older than 3 months a temperature of 39°C or higher) or is very tired and irritable.

Call 999 or go to A&E if your child is having difficulty breathing, there are pauses when your child breathes, your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue or your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

Visit www.what0-18.nhs.uk for more information.

NHS



What to have in your first aid kit

- Liquid paracetamol or ibuprofen.
- A thermometer – always test your child's temperature before contacting or visiting a health professional.
- Antiseptic cream and plasters.
- Oral rehydration solution suitable for your child's age.
- Your pharmacist can help with all of these.

JOIN THE PEBMARSH YOUTH CLUB!

COME AND JOIN THE FUN

LET KIDS BE KIDS, PLAYING, CHATTING, AND HAVING
FUN IN A SAFE, WELCOMING SPACE.

IT'S TIME FOR FUN, LAUGHTER, AND REAL FRIENDSHIPS. OUR YOUTH
CLUB GIVES CHILDREN AGES 8 - 13 A CHANCE TO STEP AWAY FROM
MOBILE PHONES, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND ENJOY ACTIVITIES
TOGETHER.



LOCATED AT PEBMARSH VILLAGE HALL (NEXT TO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL)

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

THE 4:30 - 6:30 PM

CONTACT: CAROL PARSONS

VIA THE PEBMARSH YOUTH CLUB PAGE ON FACEBOOK



FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2026

Little Oaks Holiday Club



**Action packed
holiday club**

Mon 16th Feb
Tues 17th Feb
Wed 18th Feb
Thurs 19th Feb

Whacky STEM
Outdoor adventures
Arts & Craft
Baking fun
Engineering challenges

**Belchamp St Paul Primary
School, CO10 7BP**

8.30am-3.30pm

Open to all local children
aged 3-11 years old.

BOOK NOW

belchamp@littleoakskids.com

Fun activities each day including:
Arts & Crafts, Baking, Whacky Science, Exploring Nature,
Engineering fun, Forest School and more!

littleoakskids.com/holiday-clubs | 07704 296484

