



St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 13th February 2026



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful half term we have had in school! It feels like Christmas was ages ago, doesn't it? Our Owlets class had a little glimmer of sunshine on Thursday morning at Forest School, which was very welcome after all the rain we've had lately!

Speaking of the wet weather, the children are getting quite muddy during their Forest School adventures. We have used up our supply of spare socks, so if you have any at home that you could return, or if you have any that your children have grown out of, we would be very grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support!

A quick reminder that ALL children will need a packed lunch on our first day back—Monday 23rd February. Lunches can be ordered up until Easter, so please do try to order as far in advance as possible to ensure your child has their favourite meal.

Diary Dates

13th February

Break up for half term

23rd February

Back to school-

ALL CHILDREN WILL NEED

A PACKED LUNCH

On page 4, you will find details of some exciting events happening at Halstead Leisure Centre over the half term break. Be sure to check it out!

After school clubs will resume in the first week back after half term. There are still some spaces available, and forms can be found in the office foyer if you need one.

Parents' consultation appointment slots will be available to book upon our return to school. Please see the back page for your child's class allocated date. Tomorrow marks the beginning of our kitchen works! This is very exciting, and while we hope to keep disruption to a minimum for the children, there will be some changes in school. We cannot wait for this opportunity to enhance our facilities!

Looking ahead, there are lots of trips planned after half term, including outings for Eco Club, the British Museum for the Koalas, and Duxford for the Owls and Panthers. Keep an eye out for these letters!

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our school community.

Happy Half Term, 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	95.39%	93.50%
Infants	92.86%	94.16%
Lower Juniors	96.55%	96.21%
Upper Juniors	94%	94.99%
Whole School	94.70%	94.89%

Congratulations to **OWLETS CLASS** for the highest attendance in January!

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 13th February 2026

Pebmarsh Cup – Rafe

Rafe, our class have chosen you to win the Pebmarsh cup! They said you help them with writing, you help them tidy up and you play with them! Lots of your class friends say you are their best friend! Well done Rafe, we love having you in our class.

Panthers – Saffron for Self-motivation

Saffron, since the beginning of the new year you have shown exactly what it means to be a Year 6 learner. You constantly strive to complete a high level of work and always do your absolute best despite how difficult some of our learning may be. This attitude has reflected in your work, which has improved in quality an immense amount. It is fantastic to see the pride you now take during your learning. Well done Saffron, you are fantastic role model for not only the class, but the whole school. Keep it up!

Koalas – Alfie - Self-motivation

Alfie, since the start of this year you have really impressed me with how much more engaged and motivated you are in your learning. You are trying hard in your lessons and showing that you want to do your best every day. You are developing a mature and grown-up attitude towards your learning, which is fantastic for an 8-year-old. You are also becoming much more confident about sharing your ideas and thoughts with the class. I love how you put your hand up and explain your thinking clearly. Well done.

Owls - Frankie F - Honesty

Frankie, you have smashed it this week in many things. You remain focused in Maths to interpret pictograms and tally charts using what you already know to help you answer the questions. Your fluency in reading has shown real progress too. You are being honest with yourself and realising that it is not all about being the first finisher but being the person who takes their time to connect to what they know so that their work is accurate and the best that it can be. Keep it up Frankie and you will go far. On a completely different note you have also been incredibly supportive to others in class this week, including to Mrs Lock and Mrs Watkins and this care and nurturing does not go unnoticed. Thank you for being you Frankie - you are amazing.

Owlets – Oscar J – Self-motivation

Oscar you have won our gold award this week for working extremely hard in Phonics. You never give up easily even when you find it tricky. You have started to independently write in choosing time which is great to see. You are working so hard on waiting patiently on the carpet to share your amazing ideas. Keep up the great work!

Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:

Willow

It blew me away this week that you raised money outside of school for Eco Club! Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed and we think you are amazing! Thank you for being a

super star!



February half term Holiday activities

at Halstead Leisure Centre

Activities include:

- **Pool Party - Monday 16 Feb**
with foam floats & music
- **Affordable Football**
Reduced football pitch hire prices for juniors
- **Tot's Bounce**
Bouncy castle, inflatable & soft play sessions
- **Teen Rebels**
Supervised gym sessions for teens
- **Arts & crafts sessions**
- **Floats & Fun sessions**
- **Badminton sessions**



Book your session online, via our app
or contact our Reception team

Halstead Leisure Centre
01787 472480

www.freedom-leisure.co.uk



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 - 8:30 PM

CONTACT: CAROL PARSONS

VIA THE PEBMARSH YOUTH CLUB PAGE ON FACEBOOK



THE ULTIMATE MULTISPORTS CAMP

FEBRUARY HALF TERM



- 📍 GREAT DUNMOW LEISURE CENTRE
- 📍 ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEDINGHAM
- 📍 CRESSING PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRAINTREE

16-20 FEBRUARY

8AM-5PM

ACTIVITIES

- Laser tag
- Arts and crafts
- Glow dodgeball
- Racket sports
- Invasion Games
- Forest School (some sites)
- AND MUCH MORE

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT



BOOK NOW

- 📞 01371 829 216
- 🌐 primary-education.co.uk
- ✉ admin@primary-education.co.uk

“MY CHILD HAD AN AMAZING TIME — A **BRILLIANT VARIETY** OF ACTIVITIES AND STAFF WERE REALLY FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING!

PARENT - DEC 25

USE YOUR TAX FREE CHILDCARE | CHILDCARE VOUCHERS WHEN BOOKING



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

