



# St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 15th May 2026



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another wonderful week in school, full of hard work, kindness and plenty of reasons to feel proud. A huge thank you goes to Mr Nichols, who has raised a fantastic £2003 for our playground equipment. We are so grateful for his dedication and commitment, and we would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who sponsored him. What an amazing effort for our children to benefit from!

A special well done to our Year 6 pupils for completing their SATs this week. You were amazing, resilient and it really did not faze you. We are incredibly proud of the calm, mature attitude you showed throughout. Please remember that these tests do not measure how amazing you are at being awesome — they simply capture a snapshot of a few days, not the brilliant children you are every day.

Owlets also had a very exciting visit from the dentist. They learnt all about how to keep their teeth clean and healthy. The dentist will be back next week to have a look at the children's teeth.

We would also like to share some important updates for families. In the very near future, we will be using Arbor as our main MIS system. This means we will not be using ParentPay for much longer. To help with this change, we ask all parents and carers to download the Arbor app. Next week, we will send further instructions on how to set yourselves up. Please also click on this link <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://8475353.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/8475353/1.%20Sales%20Enablement%20Hub/Handouts/Handout:%20Arbor%20Parent%20App%20poster.pdf> for more information.

If you are struggling for childcare during the May half term, please take a look at page 5 for details of a holiday camp being run by our wraparound care providers at various locations.

For those of you who have already used our new wraparound care facility, which started this week, we would be very grateful if you could complete a review here: <https://uk.trustpilot.com/review/primary-education.co.uk?>

Finally, please remember that next week we have an INSET day on Friday, so school will be closed for staff training. That means just a four-day week left for this half term.

A final attendance reminder: please do not ask children to keep secrets from us about upcoming holidays. We are trusted adults in their lives, and being asked to keep a secret goes

against all of our beliefs as a school and is detri- **United we strive for excellence-together we shine** our school

## Diary Dates

### 21st May

Panther Class Trip to Braintree Museum

Break up for half term

### 22nd May

Non pupil day

### 1st June

Return to school

# ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

	This Week Fri-Thurs	Year to date
EYFS	90%	91.71%
Infants	92.31%	94.10%
Lower Juniors	95.33%	95.91%
Upper Juniors	94.44%	95.25%
Whole School	93.02%	94.24%

Congratulations to Owl Class for the highest attendance in April!

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 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 15th May 2026

### Pebmarsh Cup – Thea in Koalas

Thea, you have been chosen by the Koala Class to receive the Pebmarsh cup this week. They say you follow the school rules, you are kind and caring, always determined to help others, . You are funny and honest, friendly and nurturing to everyone. Everything you do, you do with style! Someone even said your Greek myth was AMAZING! Well done Thea, you are a fantastic member of the Koala class.

### Panthers – Year 6 – SHINE

Year 6, this week you have all shown incredible bravery, determination and perseverance to make it through your SATS week. Despite all of the challenges, you have all done your absolute best and we are all very proud of you. SATS doesn't just happen over a week. It is a culmination of years of hard work and you should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved this week. Well done for getting through it and setting a fantastic example to the rest of the school.

### Koalas – Otille - Imaginative

You are receiving this Gold Award for being incredibly imaginative and creative in everything you do. I am extremely impressed with the fantastic ideas you came up with for your Greek myth story plan, and I am so excited to read the finished result. I was also so proud of the amazing role play you performed with your partner. You showed great confidence, expression and teamwork, and it was wonderful to watch how much effort you both put into your performance. You should be very proud of yourself and all the effort you put into your learning. Keep believing in your ideas and continue being such an amazing, imaginative role model to others.

### Owls – Amelia – Self-motivation

Amelia you have been working so hard in class and it is shining through in all that you do. You walk through the door with a smile on your face and a spring in your step and you are developing a growing 'can do' attitude. Mrs Watkins and I have seen huge improvements in every area of your learning and in you as a person who is a valued and loved member of our class. Keep going Amelia because this means that there is no limit to what you can positively do and achieve in all areas of your life

### Owlets –Rafe – Self motivation

Rafe, you are such a helpful and kind member of the class, always offering to do a job and showing so much compassion. Not only that, but has it been wonderful to watch your confidence grow in phonics and become an independent learner. Well done Rafe, never change!

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

Mr Nichols

There is only one person that can receive this star this week and that is Mr Nichols. It was his first ever marathon and he absolutely smashed it! Well done!





# Open Farm Sunday

Visit a farm & discover  
the world of farming!

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Hunts Hall,  
Colne Road,  
Pebmarsh  
CO9 2QE**

**11am - 5pm**

Tractor Trailer Rides

Farm Machines on Display

Country Walks

View Glamping Site

Food Truck – Brittens Bites

Tea, Coffee and Cake Stall

Donations – Essex Air Ambulance

Contact: 07952 023630



Frontier

JOHN DEERE



M&S  
EST. 1844



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WAITROSE

[www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org)

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# MULTISPORTS CAMP



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



**MAY**  
26<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup>

**8AM - 5PM**

**AGE**  
5-11

### Activities

- ✓ Go Karting
- ✓ Inflatables
- ✓ Arts and Crafts
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Lazer Tag
- ✓ And MUCH MORE...

**SCAN ME!**



## 25% DISCOUNT CODE: EARLYBIRD25

WHEN YOU BOOK BEFORE 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY

“The best holiday camp we've used. Professional, friendly and stress-free.”

PARENT FEEDBACK - FEB 25



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**£25**  
PER DAY

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primary-education.co.uk



admin@primary-education.co.uk

11-14 June 2026

# COLNE ENGAINE FESTIVAL



SAVE THE DATE!

**Thursday** Evening Ticket event - Quiz Night!

**Friday** Evening Ticket event - Family Disco!

**Saturday** Daytime - Family day with shows, inflatables & lots of stalls!  
Evening Ticket event - Band night with headline act  
Funk Soul Lovers!

**Sunday** Daytime - Family day with shows, inflatables & lots of stalls!

MORE INFO TO FOLLOW!



@colneengainefestival



colne\_engaine\_festival

colneengainefestival@gmail.com

# The Great Grid Upgrade

Bramford to Twinstead

## Road closure on Oak Road, north of Pebmarsh – 11 May to 8 June 2026

National Grid is getting ready for the main construction phase of the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement. In preparation for this, we need to build a new, widened site entrance (known as a bellmouth) so vehicles can safely access our working areas.

To keep everyone safe while Balfour Beatty carry out this work on behalf of National Grid, part of Oak Road (north of Pebmarsh) will be closed near Collins Road **from Monday 11 May to Friday 8 June**. A full road closure is needed as the narrow carriageway means that the works cannot be carried out safely whilst keeping the road open.

We will display advance warning signs and clearly mark the work area prior to the closure. We will also clearly signpost the diversion route, which you can see on the map to the right.

We know this diversion might delay your journeys, and we apologise for the disruption this causes. Our teams will work hard to finish these activities as safely and quickly as possible.



000025



View the exact location by typing `nowadays.hiker.drawn` into What3Words.

# Flatford Nature Day

## Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Visit Flatford for our May half-term Nature Day

Join in for free, nature-themed activities and crafts including:

- Pond dipping
- Bug hunting
- Tree trails
- Making nature's colour palette
- Using a solar telescope



...and much more!



➔ Drop in activities 11am – 4pm



Enjoy the outdoors around Flatford for the day.

There will be something for all the family!

River Stour Trust boat trips are free for children under 14 when accompanied by £8.00 fare paying adult.

There is a charge of £6.00 for use of the National Trust car park for non-members.

Call Field Studies Council Flatford Mill on 01206 297110 for more details.



River Stour Trust



Dedham Vale National Landscape



National Trust



PACE Manningtree's Earth Festival

Discovering what we can do



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