



# St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 23rd October 2026

## Diary Dates

### **31st October**

Closing date for Year 7 Sept  
2027 applications

### **2nd November**

Non-pupil day



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see all the odd socks today! Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped us to gather tombola prizes.

A big well done to our Cross Country runners, who kept on smiling even in the rain. Thank you, too, to the parents who braved the weather to bring their child and support the event.

After half term, we will be welcoming a new member of staff. Our new LSA will be working in Panther Class on Mondays and Tuesdays, while Mrs Lincoln will be working from Wednesday to Friday. The ladies will work side by side for a while to ensure that there is a smooth transition.

If your child did not have their flu immunisation this week, and you would like them to have it, please book an appointment at:

<https://www.essexchildrensimmunisations.co.uk/Book-a-clinic-vaccination>

Monday 2nd November is a non-pupil day. We will welcome everyone back to school on Tuesday 3rd November.

A reminder that lunches must be ordered by Thursday for the following week. We have limited space to order and store food in our kitchen, so if you order after Thursday, your child may be given a deli option. We need to order ingredients ahead of the week.

After half term, Owlets will begin their Forest School adventures. A kit list has been sent out. On Thursdays, Owlets should come to school wearing their Forest School base layer. Please send their waterproof overalls, wellies and other items in a separate bag so that they can add these at school.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy half term.

Miss Gage

United we strive for excellence-together we shine

# ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

|               | This Week<br>Fri-Thurs | Year to date |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| EYFS          | 97.33%                 | 96.48%       |
| Infants       | 96.79%                 | 96.19%       |
| Lower Juniors | 91.28%                 | 95.34%       |
| Upper Juniors | 91.07%                 | 94.72%       |
| Whole School  | 93.65%                 | 95.58%       |

**Congratulations to OWL class for having the highest attendance across the month of September 2026!**

## 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 see our school website for our attendance and uniform policies**

<https://www.st-john.essex.sch.uk>



## Gold awards 23rd October 2026

### Pebmarsh Cup - Olivia G – Panthers

Olivia, this week, your class friends have chosen you to receive the Pebmarsh Cup this week! They say you have been a great role model over the years, you work really hard in class and always find a way when things are hard, and you make people laugh! We love having you in our class Olivia and you really do deserve this award. Well done.

### Panthers – Oliver K for Self-motivation

Oliver, throughout this first half term you have taken a fantastic pro-active approach to your learning and have fully embraced what it means to be a year six learner. You seek out challenges, find the next step without being told and take responsibility for your learning, knowing when to ask for help and when to give it your best go independently. Recently, I have been very proud to have other members of staff telling me how polite and confident you are when talking to them and other adults. You are a fantastic role model for the class and the rest of the school! Well done Oliver, keep it up!

### Koalas – Matthew – Self-motivation

Matthew, you have made a fantastic start to Year 4! You should be very proud of the positive attitude you bring to your learning each day. You are developing a growth mindset by embracing challenges, learning from your mistakes and understanding that effort and perseverance help you improve. Keep believing in yourself, giving things a go and approaching new learning opportunities with enthusiasm. Well done, Matthew.

### Owls – Foxx for all of the values.

WOW! WOW! WOW! What a half term you have had Foxx. You have been a superstar and you show all of our school values every single week, every single day. This includes your incredible imagination (especially about animals and countries), your super self-motivation to try your hardest at everything you do, your humbling honesty when talking about yourself and actions, your natural nurturing of those around you and your expanding empathy to the world around you. May there be a Foxx in every class, as you light up Owl Class every single day. Thank you for being you Foxx - don't ever change

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

**Frankie W-Owls**



Frankie, I saw you this week show incredible kindness and empathy towards a child in your class who had hurt themselves. You stopped the game to check they were ok and it was very lovely to see. Keep being a shining star.

# Attendance & Punctuality

Working together to give every child the best start

Every minute matters.  
Every day counts.



## ARRIVE ON TIME

Gates open at **8:40am**  
Gates close at **8:55am**

- If you arrive after **8:55am**, please bring your child to the school office where you will need to sign them in as late.
- Regular lateness can be disruptive for your child and the rest of the class. If your child is regularly late, we may invite you in for a meeting so we can offer support and seek solutions.



## IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT

Please contact the school office by **9:20am**.

- You must contact us **every day** your child is absent.
- You can:
  - Phone the school
  - Leave a message on the answerphone
  - Email the school office
  - Speak to a member of staff on the gate when dropping off a sibling



Please do not use **Class Dojo** to report absence.

- If we have not heard from you, or cannot make contact, we may carry out a home visit as part of our safeguarding duty to know where your child is.



## HOLIDAYS & LEAVE

- All requests for leave must be made using a Leave of Absence form (available from the school office).
- Family holidays during term time will not normally be authorised and will be recorded as unauthorised absence.
- Unauthorised holidays may result in the possibility of a penalty notice.



## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

- Where possible, please avoid making medical appointments during the school day.
- If an appointment cannot be avoided, please complete a Medical Leave of Absence form (in the school entrance foyer) and hand it to a member of staff.
- We may ask for evidence of medical appointments to monitor absences.



## OUR ATTENDANCE TARGET

# 96% OR ABOVE

We monitor attendance daily, weekly, monthly, termly and annually.

If we believe your child's attendance is a cause for concern, and there are no underlying health conditions, we will invite you in for a meeting so we can work together to improve their attendance.

Thank you for your continued support.



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www.st-john.essex.sch.uk

Brighter futures start with great attendance!



United we strive for excellence – together we shine

Self-motivation ♥ Honesty ♥ Imaginative ♥ Nurturing ♥ Empathy



# UPCOMING EVENTS 2026-2027

## SEPTEMBER

29<sup>th</sup> FOPS - AGM

## OCTOBER

7<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>

Order Children's  
Christmas Design

23<sup>rd</sup> Odd Socks Day

## NOVEMBER

30<sup>th</sup> Elfridges Shop

## DECEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> Elfridges Shop

11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Disco

14<sup>th</sup> Santa's Grotto

## JANUARY

21<sup>st</sup>

Break the Rules Day

## FEBRUARY

11<sup>th</sup> Movie night

## MARCH

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

'Someone Special' -  
Mother's Day stall

## APRIL

15<sup>th</sup> Spring disco

## MAY

21<sup>st</sup> Non Uniform  
Day

24<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June

Raise £20.27  
Challenge in 2027

## JUNE

24<sup>th</sup> May - 11<sup>th</sup>

Raise £20.27 Challenge

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

'Someone Special' - Father's  
Day stall

27<sup>th</sup> Summer Fete

## JULY

19<sup>th</sup> Leavers Disco



Essex County Council  
Libraries

**This is a digital poster, please do not print**



# Saturday Crafts

## Halstead Library

Every Saturday, 11am to 1pm

- Try some fun crafts
- Drop in and discover what we are making each week!



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

# St John the Baptist Primary School

## Autumn Term 2026-2027

### Parent Calendar

| Date                                               | Yr Group     | Event                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2nd September                                      | Whole school | Back to school for Autumn Term                                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> September                         | All welcome  | School's 60 <sup>th</sup> birthday party 6.30pm-10.30pm       |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> September                         | Koalas       | Forest School                                                 |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> September                         | Panthers     | 'Let's Talk Trash' Day at Braxted Park                        |
| 24th September                                     | Owls         | Forest School                                                 |
| 1st October                                        | Panthers     | Forest School                                                 |
| 2nd October                                        | Whole School | Harvest festival in church 9.30am                             |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> October          | Whole School | Individual school photographs                                 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9th<br>October | Panthers     | Bikeability (if you previously signed your child up for this) |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> October                            | Owls         | Forest School                                                 |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> October                           | Whole School | Perform Workshop **new date 20th October**                    |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> October                           | Koalas       | Forest School                                                 |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> October                           | Whole School | Flu immunisation                                              |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> October                           | Owls         | Forest School                                                 |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> October                           | Whole School | Break up for half term & Odd Sock Day                         |
|                                                    |              | HALF TERM                                                     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> November                           | Whole School | Non pupil day                                                 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Panthers     | Forest School                                                 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Owls         | Forest School                                                 |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Koalas       | Forest School                                                 |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> November                          | Owls         | Parent consultations 9am-3pm                                  |
| 23rd November                                      | Whole School | Pantomime workshop in school                                  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Owlets       | Parent consultations 1.00pm-3.00pm                            |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Whole School | Parent consultations 3.30pm-5.00pm                            |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Koalas       | Parent consultations 9am-3pm                                  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> November                          | Whole School | Pantomime trip                                                |
| 27th November                                      | Panthers     | Parent consultations 9am-3pm                                  |
| 30th November<br>& 1st December                    | Whole School | FOPS Elfridges shop                                           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> December                           | Panthers     | Forest School                                                 |
| 7th December                                       | Key Stage 1  | Nativity dress rehearsal in church 9.00am                     |
| 8th December                                       | Key Stage 1  | Nativity performance in church 2pm                            |
| 9th December                                       | Key Stage 1  | Nativity performance in church 9.30am                         |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> December                          | Owls         | Forest School                                                 |
| 11th December                                      | Whole School | FOPS Christmas disco                                          |
| 14th December                                      | Whole School | Santa's grotto                                                |
| 17th December                                      | Key Stage 2  | Carol Service in church 9.30am                                |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December                          | Koalas       | Forest School                                                 |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December                          | Whole School | Break up for Christmas                                        |