St John the Baptist Primary School

Friday 6th November 2026



Self-motivation Honesty Imaginative Nurturing Empathy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back from half term, everyone.

Pantomime letters have now been sent home. Please could we ask that payment is made as soon as possible so that we can continue to organise this event smoothly for the children.

Parents' consultation booking slots will be available next week, so please keep an eye out for the information when it comes through. Teachers will also be available after school on Monday to help with booking these appointments in, should you need any support.

We would also like to remind everyone to please name all items belonging to your child. We are receiving more and more messages from parents who have discovered that items have gone missing, but unfortunately many of these belongings do not have names in them. Without a name, it is much more difficult for us to help reunite lost clothing and other items with the correct child, so please do take a moment to label everything clearly.

If you are able to pick up a bottle of 6+ Calpol when you are next out shopping, we would be very grateful for any donations to school. Having a small supply in school helps us to support children more quickly when they are feeling unwell. If you are able to contribute, please bring any donations to the school office. We really appreciate your support with this.

It was lovely to welcome the Multi-School Councils into school this week. During their visit, they had thoughtful discussions with our Koalas and Panthers about what autism is, and we were incredibly impressed by the kindness, empathy and understanding shown by the children. The visitors were truly blown away by how thoughtful and respectful the children were, and we are very proud of them. We are looking forward to a follow-up session next week, when the children will be learning and talking together about ADHD.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very happy weekend. We hope you enjoy any firework displays or Remembrance Sunday events that you may be attending.

Miss Gage

United we strive for excellence-together we shine

Diary Dates

W/C 23rd November

Parent consultations (please see back page for your child's class)

23rd November

Pantomime workshop in school

26th November

Whole school trip to the pantomime

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Our schools attendance target is **96%**

	This Week Fri-Thurs	Year to date
EYFS	96.67%	96.50%
Infants	93.75%	95.95%
Lower Juniors	93.33%	95.14%
Upper Juniors	92.86%	93.50%
Whole School	93.81%	95.11%

Congratulations to OWLETS class for having the highest attendance across the month of October 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

Ofsted Good Provider

Gold awards 6th November 2026

Pebmarsh Cup - Esme

Esme you have been chosen by Owl Class to receive the Pebmarsh Cup this week. When they were asked why they say it was because you are kind. They say that you are a good friend and that you always help them out when it is needed. They spoke of your smile which always makes them smile inside too and they notice that you are an amazing learning. Thank you, Esme, for being you and Owl Class thinks you are quite simply AWESOME.

Panthers Willow for Empathy

Willow, you have shown a tremendous amount of empathy this week and I have been hugely impressed. When there was an issue with people in the class you immediately stepped in, calmed everyone down and help to sort out the situation, this not only shows how mature you have become but how kind and selfless you are. You are also always willing to share your ideas with others in class helping to improve their learning and give a different perspective on our learning. Well done, Willow, you should be very proud!

Koalas – William for Self-Motivation

You have shown fantastic enthusiasm, initiative and a real willingness to get involved. We were particularly impressed with your contribution during our visitors' session this week. Our visitors were so impressed with your input, the thoughtful ideas you shared and the confidence you showed when taking part. You should feel incredibly proud of yourself, William. Keep up the fantastic work and continue being such a brilliant role model!

Owls –Reuben for Nurturing

Reuben, you have been chosen for the Gold Award this week because you truly nurture yourself as a learner. You always try your hardest and are always keen to do better. You are ready at every task and try hard to manage distractions and focus when on the carpet. You value yourself as a learner. You have been working really hard with Mrs Watkins in Maths and this has really shone through because you have made amazing progress in your Number skills. You left Mrs Watkins and I speechless. Well done Reuben - keep being your own shining light.

Owlets - Rocco for self-motivation.

Since coming back from half term you have not stopped smiling! All day long you are trying your best and the smile never disappears. You have worked so hard in phonics and it has well and truly paid off when you realised "I am literally reading it". We are so proud of you for trying new things and challenging yourself. Never stop showing us that huge cheeky smile!

Miss Gage's Shining Star of the week is:

Theo Dav-Koala Class

Theo, I was touched to hear that you shared our vision statement with sign language to our visitors this week. They were blown away by your actions and you left a lasting impact. Thank you for being a star!

St. John the Baptist
Church of England
Voluntary Aided
Primary School

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.

Brighter Futures start with great attendance!



Thank you for your continued support.

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United we strive for excellence – together we shine

Self-motivation ♥ Honesty ♥ Imaginative ♥ Nurturing ♥ Empathy

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026-2027

SEPTEMBER

29th FOPS - AGM

OCTOBER

7th - 20th
Order Children's Christmas Design

23rd Odd Socks Day

NOVEMBER

30th Elfridges Shop

DECEMBER

1st Elfridges Shop

11th Christmas Disco

14th Santa's Grotto

JANUARY

21st
Break the Rules Day

FEBRUARY

11th Movie night

MARCH

1st & 3rd
'Someone Special' - Mother's Day stall

APRIL

15th Spring disco

MAY

21st Non Uniform Day
24th -11th June
Raise £20.27 Challenge in 2027

JUNE

24th May - 11th
Raise £20.27 Challenge
8th & 9th
Someone Special' - Father's Day stall
27th Summer Fete

JULY

19th 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

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
11th September	All welcome	School's 60th birthday party 6.30pm-10.30pm
17th September	Koalas	Forest School
22nd 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
6th & 7th October	Whole School	Individual school photographs
7th, 8th, 9th October	Panthers	Bikeability (if you previously signed your child up for this)
8th October	Owls	Forest School
13th October	Whole School	Perform Workshop **new date 20th October**
15th October	Koalas	Forest School
21st October	Whole School	Flu immunisation
22nd October	Owls	Forest School
23rd October	Whole School	Break up for half term & Odd Sock Day
		HALF TERM
2nd November	Whole School	Non pupil day
5th November	Panthers	Forest School
12th November	Owls	Forest School
19th November	Koalas	Forest School
23rd November	Owls	Parent consultations 9am-3pm
23rd November	Whole School	Pantomime workshop in school
24th November	Owlets	Parent consultations 1.00pm-3.00pm
24th November	Whole School	Parent consultations 3.30pm-5.00pm
25th November	Koalas	Parent consultations 9am-3pm
26th November	Whole School	Pantomime trip
27th November	Panthers	Parent consultations 9am-3pm
30th November & 1st December	Whole School	FOPS Elfridges shop
3rd 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
10th 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
17th December	Koalas	Forest School
18th December	Whole School	Break up for Christmas