

The Jottings - 23rd October 2025

St John the Baptist C of E Primary School

'Creating new possibilities for our future, with compassion in our hearts and courage on our journey.'



Dear St John Families,

As we reach the end of a truly wonderful first half term, I want to take a moment to share my heartfelt thanks with our entire school community. This term has been a vibrant celebration of learning, growth, and togetherness - full of engagement, enthusiasm, and what I can only describe as professional love (not to be too soppy!).

I am incredibly proud of every single child and member of staff. From the magical stay-and-plays that brought so much joy, to Harvest festivals, trips and visits, and the successful launch of our new Community Hub - this half term has been rich with achievement and connection. Our children have shown remarkable progress, and we've embraced fantastic opportunities to broaden their experiences and spark their curiosity.

Thank you to our families for your continued support, and to our staff for your unwavering dedication. Together, we are building something truly special.

Wishing you all a restful and happy break - we can't wait to see what the next half term brings.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

Spotlight on Year 4

Year 4 are coming to the end of their Anglo-Saxon unit and to show their expertise about this era of time, they are publishing a non-chronological report on all things Anglo-Saxon and using their creative skills to design and make an Anglo-Saxon warrior helmet.

The RE theme has been Creation and they have enjoyed debating life's big questions such as: Was the world created perfectly? Are humans good? What rules do we live our life by?



In Maths, they have been learning how to convert measurements e.g. mm to cm, pence to £ and are currently investigating perimeter.

Whilst staff and supply teachers covering lessons are very competent, it can be tricky for some children who miss their usual teacher and find change more difficult. We understand this and thank the children impacted for their resilience and sensible attitude this half term. Many children have really shone by upholding our core values through their kind and helpful attitude and actions.

Learning in Action

Learning in action – Continues after the break.

We have had a great start to learning in action this week and it has been fantastic to share the changes in school and give you the opportunity to see your child in their learning environment, being challenged and working in partnership to support academic progress and personal development. Thank you to all families that have managed to make it in.

The aim of these sessions is, as usual, to provide you with a chance to come into school and see what lessons are really like for your children. The idea is that you will be able to work alongside your child and spend some quality time finding out what school is like for your child. You can see what they really get up to in school! The sessions will be a sample of what lessons are usually like for your child rather than a showcase of work for you to view.

Sessions will run from 0915 - 1000 on:

After half term:

Thursday 6th November - Dragonflies (Y5)

Friday 7th November - Tadpoles (YR)

Year 4 Otters class TBC.

Please note, our classrooms are a tight squeeze, unfortunately, we cannot accommodate younger siblings at these sessions due to space available.

KS2 Fruit snacks

No KS2 fruit shop after half term.

Your child/ren are allowed to bring in a healthy snack for breacktime from home.



Year 7 Admissions

Applications for Year 7 close at midnight on **Friday 31st October 2025**. If you have a child in Year 6, please ensure you apply using the following link:

[Applying for a secondary school place \(Year 7\) | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council](#)

It is very important that applications are submitted by the deadline. Late applications will not be considered until all on-time applications have been processed, which could significantly reduce your chances of securing a place at your preferred school(s).

If you are experiencing difficulties applying online, please contact the Admissions Team for assistance at: [School admissions: How to apply - GOV.UK](#)

Dates for your diary

This term important dates:

27th - 31st October - Half Term break

3rd November - Return to school

3rd November - Poppies on sale in school, suggested donation £1 for poppies, £2 for gifts

5th November - Open Morning at 9.30am - 10.30am

6th November - New YR Stay & Play 9.00am - 10.00am

6th November - Learning in action Dragonflies (Y5) 9.15am - 10.00am

7th November - 20th October - Learning in action Tadpoles (YR) 9.15am - 10.00am

7th November - YR Kinetic Letters 9.00am - 10.00am

Monday, 10th and Thursday 13th November - Parents Evening

13th November - Individual & Sibling photos 8.45am - 12.00pm

17th November - Open Evening at 5pm - 6pm

4th December - New YR Stay & Play 9.00am - 10.00am

8th December - Y6 height & weight & YR Autumn term height, weight & vision

10th December - Rock Steady Christmas Concert 2.30pm - 3.00pm

16th December - Carol Service at Church 6.00pm - 7.00pm

17th December - Community Hub at 9.00-10.30am

More Christmas date TBC

22nd December - 2nd January 2026

5th January - Return to school

7th January - Open Morning at 9.30am - 10.30am

8th January - New YR New YR Stay & Play 9.00am - 10.00am

10th February - Community hub at 1.45-3.15pm

Statutory Tests:

Year 1 Phonics Tests week commencing Monday 8th June 2026

Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check 2-week period from Monday 1st June 2026

Year 6 SATS Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026

Inset Days:

24th October 2025

23rd February 2026

1st May 2026

19th June 2026

Hampshire Home Start

<https://home-starthampshire.org.uk/> Please use this link to find out more about Hampshire Home Start and how they can help you and your family.



You wellbeing matters to us

Follow this link to the family information and services hub where you will find lots of information around exercise, health checks, looking after your teeth, exercise and healthy checks. [Family Information](#)

A reminder, you are welcome to Join us on **Wednesday 17th December**, from **9:00am to 10:30am**, for our next Community Hub session.

Who's coming?

- **CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau)** and **Community First** will be on hand offering **free advice**.

- A member of **school staff** will be available to chat.

📌 What to expect?

- **Cake** and refreshments
- **Stay and play** activities for little ones
- A chance to connect, ask questions, and feel supported

📌 **Save the date** and keep an eye out for our next flyer!

Rotary Shoe Boxes

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for supporting the Rotary Shoe Boxes this year. The Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme collects and sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to disadvantaged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Ukraine (via Poland), ensuring they receive them in time for Christmas.



PAFS

PAFS - '100 CLUB'

You select a number and pay £5, when all the numbers have been sold the winner will be scratched off the card Live on PAFS Facebook with the winner grabbing £100 prize!

Numbers will be on sale in the playground over the next few weeks, look out for posts on PAFS Social Media and in Year Group Whatsapp chats for dates we will be there!

If you can't make a date please email us at pafswalthamchase@gmail.com for a number you want, we will check what is available and sort out payment methods! Only 19 numbers left!



Christmas Discos!

PAFS are running Christmas discos this year for the children- KS1 straight from school 1515-1630hrs and KS2 1645-1800hrs....Thursday 4th December.

KS1 will be £6 with a tuck bag provided

KS2 will be £4 with a tuck shop



Tickets are on sale now on www.pta-events.co.uk/pafs Get them early to avoid disappointment!!

PAFS AGM:

PAFS will be holding their annual AGM on Tuesday 4th November at 1900hrs, it will be held at school. If anybody wants to come along please feel free.

Please follow our social media pages for all PAFS updates and announcements.

Year 1

After half term Year 1 will be starting their history unit which is all about toys. In this unit the children will be learning about how toys have changed through time. The children will identify features of toys from the past and toys they like playing with today and compare the features.

To start off our new unit please can your child bring in a toy from home that they like playing with on Thursday 6th November. We will be looking at what materials the toys are made from



and will be looking for similarities and differences between the toys. Please ensure that the toy your child brings into school is clearly labeled with their name.

Year R applications for September 2026

The application process for children starting in Year R reception (and Year 3 infant to junior school transfer) in September 2026 opens at midnight on **Saturday 1st November 2025**.

Applications can be submitted [online](#) or parents can request a PDF version of the application form by emailing admissions.team@hants.gov.uk.

- Name three schools on your application to maximise your chances of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.
- Submit your application on-time, before the 15 January 2026 deadline.
- Use the County Council's [school catchment area finder](#) to check the catchment school for your address
- Read the school's admission policies to find out how many places are available and what criteria will be used to allocate places if the school is oversubscribed.
- Think about how your child will get to school. See [travel to school](#) to help plan your journey and find out if you are eligible for help with transport. You must name your catchment school(s) if you have one, as a preference if you wish to apply for travel assistance.

Courage - Compassion - Creativity

Have a wonderful weekend

Items you may be interested in

November Timetable	
All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long	
£24 each or FREE with School Membership	
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk	
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)	
Raising Self Esteem	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	4 Nov 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	4 Nov 7pm
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 Nov 10am
Supporting A Child with ADHD	11 Nov 7pm
FREE ADHD Kids & Homework	13 Nov 6-7pm
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	17 Nov 7pm
Facing Defiance	18 Nov 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	18 Nov 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
Anxiety Explained	24 Nov 7pm



LIGHT PARTY

LIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB
WALTHAM CHASE
METHODIST CHURCH

Thursday 30th October 09:30-12:30

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN WITH
GAMES, COOKING, CRAFT, TREASURE HUNT
AND MUCH MORE

£3.00 PER CHILD AGED 5-11 YEARS
TO BOOK A PLACE

LEGO LUNCH CLUB

Tuesday 28th October
St John the Baptist, Shedfield
11am – 1pm
Aimed at 4 – 11 year olds

Children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult

For more information please contact

Chris on 07906 436391



Crafts
Games
Music
Hot Tea provided
Face painting

St. Barnabas,
Swanmore invites you to

The Light Party

WITH **Hounds for Heroes**

Theme: Super Heroes!
FANCY DRESS

Saturday 25th October 4pm-6pm
St. Barnabas Church • For ages 3-10yrs
Children must be accompanied by an adult

FREE event

ST BARNABAS
Swanmore

FREE tickets available from office@stbarnabas.org.uk

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT AIR AMBULANCE

Mrs. Polly Cooks

Christmas Fair

Come along and support local traders and help raise funds for Hampshire and Isle Of Wight Air Ambulance.

Saturday 15th November

Waltham Chase Methodist Church, Curdridge Lane, SO32 2LD

10am - 2pm

Beautifully handmade knitwear, handcrafted Wooden gifts, Fudge, Paintings, Jewellery, tea, coffee, cake, Car Washing (Weather permitting) and much more...

Wells Treats

BEECH & BEAM

Event sponsored by Waltham Chase Methodist Church