

The Jottings - 7th November 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,

We've had a fantastic start to the half term! The Year R playground is finally on the road to completion, and we are all very excited. Please note that the boardwalk/field access will be closed at the start of next week while the work is completed. We will keep you updated, and thank you for your patience with the changes to arrangements and the inevitable mess during this time.

It has been wonderful to welcome you into school for more *Learning in Action* sessions. We hope you have enjoyed seeing what your children are doing as much as we have loved sharing their learning with you. We look forward to celebrating their successes further at Parents' Evenings next week.

There is much planned for the remainder of this half term, so please do take a look at the updated dates below. These now include our Christmas events such as the Carol Service, Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day, and the Nativity performances.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

Spotlight on Year 6

In Year 6 this week, the children received a message in a bottle! The language used in the message included some old English from Tudor times, which the children were fascinated with. The message described the commissioning of two historically important ships, one being the Mary-Rose. This has fuelled our investigation into the lives of those on board and how the ships were made ready for war. This topic will culminate in a visit to the Mary Rose museum later this month. We have been excited to find out the time- line of the Mary Rose's construction, refitting, seafaring adventures , sinking and recovery.

This week the children have made detailed water colour and pen paintings of Henry VIII's favourite ship and begun a writing learning journey that will involve a letter to the king and a non-chronological report. This will involve using technical writing skills which will help them become skilled and sophisticated.

Year 6 writers.

In Maths, we have focussed on formal multiplication methods involving decimals. We have explored different contexts for our problems and shared experiences of multiplication in daily-life situations.



Attendance Matters

Good attendance is vital for every child's learning and progress. Each day in school builds on the last, and missing lessons can make it harder for children to keep up and feel confident.

We are aiming for **at least 96% attendance** across the school. Please support us by ensuring your child is in school every day, on time, unless they are genuinely unwell.

Together we can make sure every child makes the most of their opportunities and enjoys success.

This Week:

Whole school attendance average: 96.1% Our target is 96% - well done everyone!

Best Attendance: KS1: Ducks 96.3% KS2: Dragonflies 99%

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Tadpoles - No late minutes KS2: Kingfishers - 10 late minutes

Parent Survey Feedback - Thank you.

A heartfelt thank you to all the families who took the time to share their thoughts in our recent parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable and will play a key role in shaping and improving our provision throughout the year.

Here are some of our favourite comments and a thank you:

'The school has vastly changed in the last month for the better. I can't wait to see what more is to come. Well done everyone.'

'The school has a great feeling about it and my son really enjoys his time there. He is developing well both educationally and socially, I would recommend the school to anyone.'

'We only started at St John's this September, but all I can say is Wow!! The progress my daughter has made in such a short space of time is amazing. We are so lucky to have such wonderful teachers that truly care about the children they teach. The school is everything we hoped for and so much more. All of the St John's team are truly wonderful, Thank you.'

'My son loves St John's and has become a confident child since starting in Year R last year. He has become creative in his way of thinking and comes home full of stories and knowledge he has learnt.'

'Amazing school with care of students. Thank you'

Children in Need – Friday 14th November 2025

This year we are supporting **BBC Children in Need** and joining in with the *Great SPOTacular Appeal*.

On the day, children are invited to come to school in their **usual uniform**, but with a fun twist – they can accessorise with **spots** (hairbands, socks, badges, face paint, etc.).

We ask families to make a **cash donation** on the day to help raise funds for disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

Thank you in advance for your support – together we can make a difference!



Shoe Box Appeal



Bishop's Waltham Rotary Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2025

On behalf of the Rotary community, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible support in our shoebox collection project. This year, your dedication has helped us contribute to a remarkable cause, bringing joy at Christmas to countless children across Eastern Europe. Rotary Worldwide sends out up to 50,000 shoeboxes annually, and we are thrilled to share that Bishop's Waltham Rotary has contributed 465 Shoeboxes to the total this year.

Your involvement makes a tangible difference in the lives of many children and their families. Thank you once again for your compassion, effort, and dedication and please pass on our thanks to all your students and staff who helped make this happen.

Together, we're making a positive impact!

Best wishes

Debbie Walker
President
Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club

PAFS

Club 100

100 club tickets - ONLY 22 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!!

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

CHRISTMAS SHOP!

PAFS are running a Christmas shop for your little ones to come and chose a gift for a loved one or two of their choice on 12th December!
It will be £2 a gift with a max of two gifts per child.



SPONSORSHIP

PAFS are funding a new sports kit for the schools sports teams to wear to all tournaments and competitions and are looking for some sponsorship.

If anyone or business wants to discuss the sponsorship opportunities available please contact PAFS on pafswalthamchase@gmail.com

Or ask at the school office and we can contact you.

Music Mark



I am pleased to announce that we have been awarded the new **Music Mark of Recognition** for **Dedication & Improvement** from the Hampshire Music Education Hub.

This award recognises the good practice of music at St Johns and our continued commitment to:

- Advocate for the importance of music education in the curriculum and creative life of our school.
- Provide an equitable, diverse and inclusive music education for every young person.
- Welcome opportunities to broaden our musical horizons by working with providers in our community and beyond.

There are many opportunities for pupils to broaden their musical experiences during the school week in addition to their weekly music curriculum lesson.

- KS2 choir on Thursdays at 12pm (No charge)
- KS2 Glockenspiel club on Fridays at 12pm (No charge)
- Rocksteady Music School on Wednesday pm (chargeable)
- Year 2 upwards - 1-1 and small group peripatetic lessons - woodwind, strings, brass (chargeable)

Please come and speak to me if your child is interested in any of these activities.

Lorraine Best

Music Lead

Sporting Achievements

Our Year 6 team enjoyed a trip to Southsea for their game in the Hampshire plate. 3-0 down at half time, the boys had to show courage coming back on to the pitch for the second half. Through sheer determination and fantastic teamwork, a goal by Dylan and hat trick by Joseph, the team were in the lead with minutes to go. Unfortunately, in the final minute St Johns conceded a penalty taking them to 4-4 at the final whistle. The penalties were very tense, going into sudden death. With one penalty taker remaining, Ralph made a fantastic save which won the game for St Johns, 7-6 on penalties.



Dates for your diary

This term important dates (**UPDATED WITH CHRISTMAS DATES**):

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

12th November - Learning in action Otters (Y4) 9.15am - 10.00am

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

14th November - Supporting **BBC Children in Need**.

15th November - Choir singing at Park Place Christmas Fair

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

20th November - Helping Your Child with Emotional Regulation workshop (MHST) 9am- 10.30am

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

4th December - PAFS Christmas Disco - KS1: 3.15–4.30pm (straight from school). K S2: 4.45–6.00pm.

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

9th December - 9.15am: KS1 & YR Nativity. Choir singing at Shirrell Heath Methodist for *Memory Lane*.

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

11th December - 2.15pm: KS1 & YR Nativity

12th December - PAFS Christmas Shop - £2 per ticket max 2 gifts. (during school time) Further information will be shared by PAFS via the jottings.

15th December - Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day.

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

17th December - Community Hub at 9.00-10.30am (Citizens Advice Bureau and Community First attending)

19th December - Last Day of Term

22nd December - 2nd January 2026 Christmas Holidays

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

2nd February - 12th February - PAFS Coin Wars

10th February - Community Hub at 1.45-3.15pm (School Nursing and Hampshire Healthy Steps attending)

20th March - Bingo night adults only - 20th March 7pm TBC

27th March - Community Hub (attendees tbc)

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

Have a wonderful weekend

Items you may be interested in



Swanmore Primary School
December Holidays 2025
22nd, 23rd and 29th to 31st December
9am - 4pm

Ofsted Registered

Active Holidays active 360

For children aged 5 - 11

» **360 Active** £26.25 per day*

Our 360 Active camp is ideal for all-rounders, offering a mix of your favourite sports and new activities to keep children's bodies and minds active.

» **HAF Camp** Free

The HAF camp offers nutritious meals, engaging activities, and free childcare spots to children who receive benefit-related free school meals, supporting their health, wellbeing, and learning.

Don't forget about our 10% sibling discount* too!
*Not to be used in conjunction with any of our saver codes.

Our mission is to change lives by improving health and wellbeing using the power of physical activity, sport and education.

Scan the QR code to book your place.

*Get 15% off with our Active Saver code 'DECAS15' expires Sunday 30th November.

Book Here:
Follow this link to book:
bookings.activeme360.co.uk/csp/ect/71863

For more information or to book, visit www.activeme360.com

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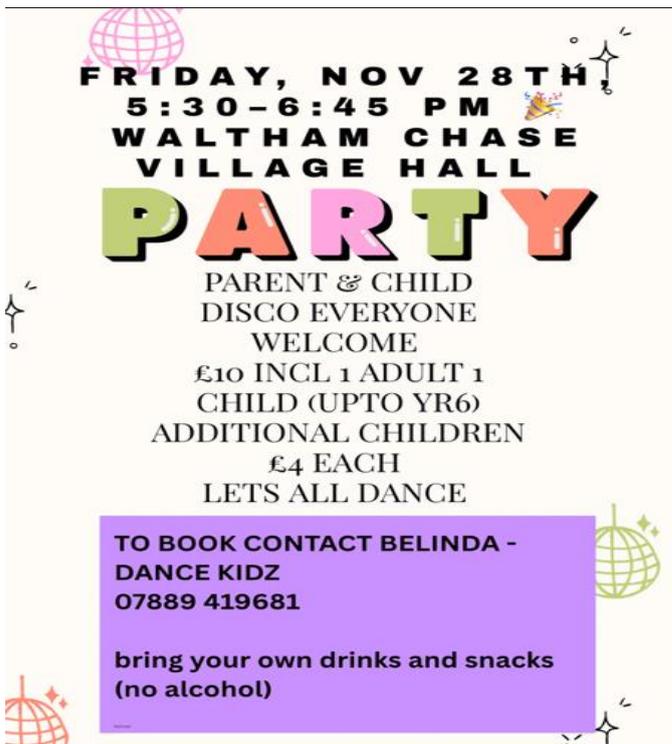
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SOUTHAMPTON BRICK FESTIVAL

14TH DEC 2025
PLACES LEISURE EASTLEIGH

MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF

SOUTHAMPTON BRICK FESTIVAL



FRIDAY, NOV 28TH
5:30 - 6:45 PM
WALTHAM CHASE VILLAGE HALL

PARTY

PARENT & CHILD DISCO EVERYONE WELCOME

£10 INCL 1 ADULT 1 CHILD (UPTO YR6)
ADDITIONAL CHILDREN £4 EACH
LETS ALL DANCE

TO BOOK CONTACT BELINDA - DANCE KIDZ
07889 419681

bring your own drinks and snacks (no alcohol)