

The Jottings - 21st 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,

I hope you have all had a good week.

This week we have had Scarf workshops to support our teaching of children's personal development curriculum. The children asked insightful questions throughout these sessions, and we know that visitors like this really help new learning to stick.

As every minute of the school day matters, and although we appreciate that the weather has turned, please ensure you allow enough time to get to school. The gates close at 8:50 am, and we are working hard to reduce lateness and increase attendance back to pre-pandemic levels. There is a government drive on this, as they recognise that when children are in school more, they learn more. This includes both lateness and absences. Please help us raise your children's academic understanding as well as their attendance.

We are always here to help, so please do catch me at the gate or call the office if you would like to make a longer appointment.

We also ask parents to leave the playground promptly, as we have children who begin using the playground from as early as 8:50 am. This helps us start the school day smoothly and without delay.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

Spotlight on Year 5

In Dragonflies this week, they have explored 'The Willow Pattern Story' by Allan Drummond. The children have practised the skill of select and retrieve to answer questions about the text. In Maths, the children have been developing their confidence with fractions, adding and subtracting them by finding equivalent fractions. This week, SCARF visited the school to enrich our children's PDL curriculum through workshops.

Year 5 practised their assertiveness skills in role play, and learned how to look after their physical health by understanding healthy or harmful substances.

Our visitor praised the class for their fantastic engagement with the workshop. Year 5 continue to practice on the ukuleles, which were generously donated by our 2025 leavers and PAFS. They cannot wait to show off their skills at our carol service on Tuesday 16th December!



We need your help

We need your help!

We have a small window to trim back some trees on site and the woodland at the back of the school field. We have further plans to develop our learning space, but naturally, it costs us money to clear and we cannot afford to do this.

If you have tree trimming services, or skills and equipment to help, please get in touch with Mrs Livings as we desperately need your help.

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 a minimum of **97% attendance**, both individually and across the school, with the ultimate goal of getting as close to **100%** as possible. Please support us by ensuring your child attends school every day, arrives on time, and only stays home if 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.

Best Attendance: KS1: Frogs 99.3% KS2: Dragonflies 98.8%

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Tadpoles - No late minutes KS2: Dragonflies - 0 late minutes

Yellow Photos

You received your proof cards on Wednesday 19th November.



The closing date for photo orders is Tuesday 2nd December 2025.

PAFS

Christmas Shop

Christmas Shop (Formerly Elfridges) will be on Friday 12th December during the school day. Children can come and select a maximum of two gifts for family members at £2 per gift. Payment can be made now on pta-events.co.uk/pafs or we will be accepting cash on the day.



Christmas Disco including games-

Thursday 4th December

KS1- £6 a ticket including a tuck bag and drink - 1515-1630

KS2- £4 a ticket with a tuck shop for children to choose their own treats! 1645-1800



Ideal opportunity to get some presents wrapped whilst the children are having some fun!

Tickets to be purchased pta-events.co.uk/pafs

100 Club

The 100 Club- we are down to the last few remaining numbers....it will be drawn as soon as these have sold! £5 a number, winner gets £100!! Contact us at pafswalthamchase@gmail.com to grab your number.

Christmas Card Class Funding

Class fundraising will be re-opening the online shop to purchase items with your child/ren's design on. This is for a limited time only 21st November - 1st December 2025. To order you will need your card that was sent home in school bags.

Thank you to those that have already purchased items, this is a great way of raising much needed funds for the school.



Dates for your diary

This term important dates:

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



Courage - Compassion - Creativity

Have a wonderful weekend

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DISCO

ON DECEMBER 4TH, 2025

KEY STAGE ONE: 3:15 PM
 £6 (INCLUDING TUCK BAG)

KEY STAGE TWO: £4
 (WITH TUCK SHOP)

www.pta-events.co.uk/pafs

Christmas Lunch

MAINS
 Roast Turkey or Squash, Spinach and Cream Cheese Filo Bake (V)

SIDES
 Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Carrots, Peas and Gravy

DESSERTS
 Vanilla Christmas Shortbread

*Menus may be subject to change

Chartwells



DECEMBER ACTIVITY CLUB

Fareham Academy
 St Anne's Grove, PO14 1JJ

8:30AM - 4:30PM
 22/12/25, 23/12/25 & 2/1/26

Our holiday courses give children from Year R to Year 9 the ideal blend of play and structure. With safety and enjoyment always in mind, every day is designed to keep children active and engaged.

£24 PER DAY
 DISCOUNT FOR MULTIPLE DAYS

- CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED
- QUALIFIED PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID
- DBS CERTIFICATED
- REGISTERED BY OFSTED
- CHILD PROTECTION TRAINED

www.cm-sports.co.uk






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AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN
 ENTITLED TO BENEFIT RELATED
 FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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Ofsted Registered

Active Holidays 

Swanmore Primary School

December Holidays 2025

22nd, 23rd and 29th to 31st December
9am - 4pm

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.

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

Book Here:

Follow this link to book:
<https://bookings.activeme360.co.uk/csp/act/71863>



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.



For more information or to book, visit:
www.activeme360.com
[@activeme360](https://www.facebook.com/activeme360)