

# The Jottings - 28th 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 this message finds you well.

There has been some fantastic teaching and learning in school this week as our staff have been trialling new approaches within our English learning journeys. Schools are always on a journey of development and naturally evolve in response to government guidance and shifting expectations. It is right that we remain responsive, and I am very proud of the teaching team for embracing change. It is already wonderful to see the positive impact reflected in the children's work.

Christmas activities begin next week, and we know the children are excited to take part in the nativity and the church services. We hope you already have the dates in your diary and that you will be able to join us for these special celebrations.

We also recognise that for some children, changes in routine and activities can cause discomfort. Please reassure your child that they will be told in advance what is happening and reminded throughout the month. While a few decorations will be going up in school, our focus remains firmly on learning (I hope that doesn't make me sound too much like Scrooge).

As always, we are here if you need us and thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful weekend.

***Rebecca Livings***

**Headteacher**

### Spotlight on Year 1

This week in Year 1 the children have continued to receive notes from Professor Klunk through the magic marmite jar, which the children look forward to reading everyday.

This week Professor Klunk needed the children's help to write a story about an Emperor. To help the children come up with their own ideas Professor Klunk sent us The Emperor's New Clothes to read and the children loved this story. Throughout the week children have been drawing Emperors and creating palaces, outfits and accessories fit for an Emperor. Along with their fantastic drawings the children have done some lovely writing too and have managed to include lots of adjectives in their writing.



### Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas is coming - **please help us** by letting us know what is needed. With December arriving next week and Christmas Dinner Day just around the corner, we want to make sure we order the right ingredients for the meal while keeping waste to a minimum, in support of our sustainability efforts.

It would be very helpful if you could complete the form below for your child — or multiple times if you have more than one child in the school.

This is **not a pre-order**, and you can still change your mind on the day (whether to bring a packed lunch or order a school meal). However, completing the form will give our caterers a useful guide to plan ahead.

**Please note:** All children will join in the celebration in the hall, whether they have a packed lunch or a school meal.

Thank you very much for your support.

[Christmas Dinner Menu Options](#)

### 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: 95.8% Our target is 97% - if you need support getting your child in to school, please contact the school office - we can help.

Best Attendance: KS1: Tadpoles 96.3% KS2: Dragonflies 94.5%

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

### Donation Station

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Food Bank basket that sits under the reception window. This is here all year round and we are pleased to make regular donations to Southampton City Mission who do great work in supporting people in need with food and clothing. At this time of year, this help is vital for families who are on low incomes and often have to choose between heating and eating.

Please give what you can, thank you.

### Yellow Photos

## School Photograph Order Closing Date Tuesday 2nd December.

Please visit [www.smileYellow.com](http://www.smileYellow.com) using the passwords on the Proofcard

### Carol Service

Please join us for our annual Carol Service at St. John the Baptist Church, Shedfield at 6pm on Tuesday 16th December.

Enjoy an enchanting evening filled with festive cheer, as our KS2 pupils share beautiful musical performances and we come together to celebrate the true meaning of the season through the story of the Christingle. From classic favourites to charming ensemble pieces, we invite you to share the pupils' hard work and talent with us.

Bring family and friends for a celebration full of warmth and unforgettable moments—it's the perfect way to welcome the Christmas season!

### 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](http://pta-events.co.uk/pafs) or we will be accepting cash on the day.



#### Christmas Disco including games-

Christmas Disco availability to buy tickets closes on Tuesday 2nd December, get yours now to Avoid disappointment!

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](http://pta-events.co.uk/pafs)



#### 100 Club

100 Club - last few numbers available, we will be selling at the discos when parents are dropping and picking up or you can email us at Contact us at [pafswalthamchase@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Items you may be interested in



**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](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/pafs)



**WALTHAM CHASE  
RECREATION GROUND**

**NOTICE OF CAR PARK  
CLOSURE**

**30 NOVEMBER – 12 DECEMBER  
2025**

**PLEASE REMOVE YOUR  
CAR**

**DUE TO WORKS FOR A NEW  
PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATH**

Shedfield Parish Office, Upper Church Road, Shedfield, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 2JB  
Telephone: 01329 830060 Mobile: 07918 623009  
Email: [clerk@shedfield-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@shedfield-pc.org.uk)  
[www.shedfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.shedfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)



**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

# St John the Baptist Primary C of E Primary School



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## Welcome to our Community Hub

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
9am - 10.30am**

We welcome all families to come along to our Community Hub.

Everyone is invited to join our Under 5s Stay and Play, access free advice, or simply enjoy a warm space, a chat over tea and cake with a member of school staff and the Church.

### Stay and Play:

We've created a welcoming space where little ones can enjoy playtime, have a snack, and listen to a story.

### Free advice for the Citizens Advice Bureau:

We are pleased to share that representatives from Citizens Advice will be available to offer free guidance and support. Whether you have questions about finances, housing, employment, or family matters, this is a valuable opportunity to access expert advice in a friendly and confidential setting.

### Community First:

Community First is a local organisation dedicated to supporting communities across Hampshire. They work directly with families, signposting them to organisations and services that can offer additional support. Alongside this, they provide volunteering opportunities, wellbeing initiatives, and projects that strengthen connections between people and services.

### Save the date:

Where: this session will be held in school

When: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 9am - 10.30am

***Courage, Compassion, Creativity.***

W: [www.stjohnthebaptistprimary.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptistprimary.co.uk) | E: [office@stjohnthebaptistprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptistprimary.co.uk) | T: 01329 800670

