

The Jottings - 5th December 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,

It is starting to feel very Christmassy in school with the arrival and decoration of our wonderful Christmas tree. A huge thank you to BCL MOT Centre, for providing this for all the children to enjoy. (If you mention that you are a parent at St John's you will receive a 10% off at BCL MOT Centre.) As a community school, we truly value the contributions from parents that help us provide all children with the very best education and experiences.

A huge thank you also goes to our amazing PAFS team for organising the brilliant school discos. Without this fantastic group of volunteers, events like these would not happen. While they raise valuable funds to be used back in school, the children also have so much fun - it is an important part of their school experience. The tired little faces in school today are certainly worth it!

This week we also had our annual Local Authority inspection, and I am pleased to share that it went very well. Our advisor highlighted several key developments and strengths, including:

- Consistently improved learning environments
- Rising expectations across the school
- Consistent learning behaviours supported by inclusive and equitable provision
- Effective management of needs, ensuring they do not impact the learning of others
- Positive changes to the curriculum and learning systems that are proving impactful

Schools are always on a journey of improvement. Nothing stays the same as children grow and change, and in education our 'goal posts' often shift with government updates. Working in partnership with parents is key to enabling us, as educational professionals, to do what we do best.

Finally, all schools are required to have evacuation, invacuation, and lockdown procedures. We regularly practise evacuation drills (e.g fire drills), and today we carried out our lockdown drill.

We explain this to the children as *'moving to and remaining in a safe space within the school'*, such as their classrooms, and staying under tables, or out of view when the alarm sounds. The children responded brilliantly today and showed great maturity throughout the drill. Well done to all.

As always, we thank you for your respectful support.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

Spotlight on Year 6

In Year 6, we have been fuelled with enthusiasm for writing following our visit to the Mary Rose Museum. Our non-chronological reports demonstrate Year 6 key writing skills as well as brilliant and gruesome facts gathered at the museum.

The children have learnt how to take notes and then turn these into cohesive sentences using adverbial phrases. Watch this space for an invitation to share this writing with you. In Maths, we have focussed on ordering and comparing fractions. We have learnt to spot equivalent fractions and have been adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators. We have also spent some of our Maths time developing some valuable arithmetic skills. In DT, we have had fun making moving pictures using oscillating levers and in Art we have used collage to create striking Mary Rose scenes using our own painted collage paper.

Our winter wonderland decorations have given the classroom an air of excitement, in preparation for our upcoming poetry unit of work. In PE this week, we were lucky enough to see the most dazzling of rainbows whilst securing some netball and basketball skills. Next week brings some exciting Science linked to the Mary Rose.



Education Discretionary Grant Fund

Dear St John's Families,

We may be able to help you.

As a school, we receive a small education discretionary grant fund and are required to report on how we use this to support our families.

We provide this support in the form of supermarket vouchers, which can be used towards food bills, or to help offset energy and/or water bills.

If you feel you would benefit from this support, please complete the form below. While we cannot guarantee the amount, or when we can get it to you.

Please be assured that the information will only be seen by Mrs Livings.

Should you have any questions, please speak to her at the gate or make an appointment via the school office.

[Discretionary support form](#)

Closing date: 12th December.

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: Frogs 96.3 % KS2: Dragonflies 98.7%

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Tadpoles - 0 late minutes KS2: Otters 0 late minutes

Year R Application September 2026

Deadline to apply for Year R places 15th January 2026

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

PAFS would like to say a massive thank you to everyone that helped at the Children's discos. The children all seemed to enjoy themselves so thank you for helping to make it possible!

*Christmas Shop (Formerly Elfridges)

Friday 12th December - Children can purchase a maximum of 2 presents for a friend or family member. Each present is £2. You can purchase tickets on:

pta-events.co.uk/pafs or pay on the day.

*100 Club- There are only 20 numbers left! Please contact us via pafswalthamchase@gmail.com to purchase a number. As soon as all numbers are sold the winner will be drawn. £5 a number to be in with a chance of winning £100 cash!

Dates for your diary

This term important dates:

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

15th January - Deadline for Yr R 2026 admissions at midnight

20th January - Panto Experience 12.45pm - 3pm

2nd February - 12th February - PAFS Coin Wars

10th February - Community Hub at 1.45 pm -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

 January 2026 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)	
Autism - Improving Communication	5 Jan 10am
Improving Family Communication	5 Jan 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	6 Jan 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	6 Jan 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	12 Jan 10am
Understanding Anger	12 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	13 Jan 10am
Facing Defiance	13 Jan 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	19 Jan 10am
Anxiety Explained	19 Jan 7pm
Introduction to OCD	20 Jan 10am
What Is ACT	20 Jan 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	22 Jan 7-8pm
Raising Self-Esteem	26 Jan 10am
Decreasing Depression	26 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	27 Jan 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	27 Jan 7pm



Christmas Lunch

MAINS
Roast Turkey or Roasted Vegetable and Cranberry Slice (V)

SIDES
Roast Potatoes, Sausage Bite, Stuffing, Carrots, Peas and Gravy

DESSERTS
Vanilla Christmas Shortbread

*Menus may be subject to change

Chartwells

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Welcome to our Community Hub
Wednesday 17th 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.

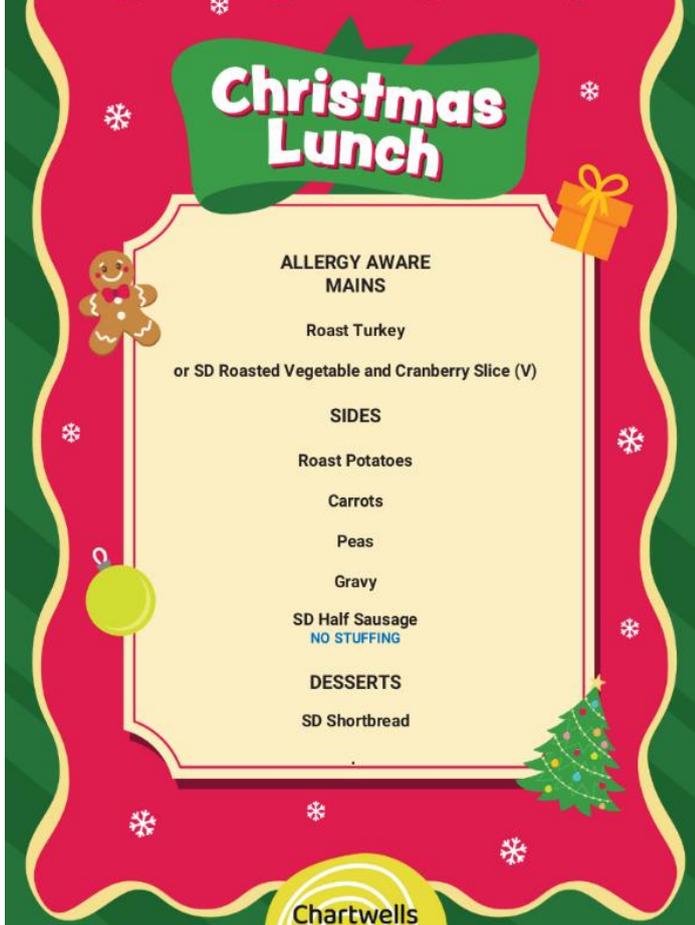
Free advice for the Citizens Advice Bureau:
We are pleased to share that representatives from Citizens Advice will be available to offer free guidance and support. Whether you have questions about finances, housing, employment, or family matters, this is a valuable opportunity to access expert advice 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 17th December at 9am - 10.30am

Courage, Compassion, Creativity.

W: www.stjohnthebaptistprimary.co.uk | E: office@stjohnthebaptistprimary.co.uk | T: 01329 800670

Christmas Lunch

ALLERGY AWARE

MAINS
Roast Turkey
or SD Roasted Vegetable and Cranberry Slice (V)

SIDES
Roast Potatoes
Carrots
Peas
Gravy

SD Half Sausage
NO STUFFING

DESSERTS
SD Shortbread

Chartwells



BURNOUT IN THE LEAD-UP TO CHRISTMAS

with a guest speaker Ellie - Lived Experience Trainer | Autism & ADHD

17th December - 11am - online Session

Join Ellie as she shares her lived experience of autism, ADHD, and navigating the pressures of the festive season.

Ellie brings honest insight as an ADHD, Autistic adult, and mum to two autistic teenagers.

A supportive, relatable session to help you make the festive period more manageable.

This session will explore:

- What burnout can look and feel like in the run-up to Christmas
- Why the festive period can be particularly challenging for autistic and ADHD individuals
- Practical techniques and preparation strategies from Ellie's lived experience
- How parents and caregivers can support autistic or ADHD young people during this time
- Ways to reduce overwhelm and create a more manageable, meaningful holiday season



To book onto this session please use our Ticket tailor link : <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hpcn>



BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

THANK YOU

St John the Baptist C of E Primary School
for raising a fantastic
£121.04

TO HELP MAKE LIFE LIGHTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FACING A VARIETY OF CHALLENGES IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK.

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE FOR AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM PUDSEY AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!



pudseythanks.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk



connect4 communities **Hampshire County Council**

Free holiday activities & meals for eligible children this winter!

Children in Reception to Year 11 receiving benefits-related free school meals can enjoy fun activities and healthy meals for free this Christmas through Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme!

Spaces are limited - book now! Scan the QR code below to check if you're eligible, find local HAF schemes, and book your child(ren)'s place




Funded by UK Government