

# The Jottings - 12th 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,**

What another busy week it has been!

We have enjoyed fantastic Nativities performed by our YR and KS1 classes, a wonderful Rock Steady concert, our choir sang beautifully for the Methodist Church and we rounded things off with our PAFS Christmas shop. It has truly been a whirlwind, and the school is embracing the festive season wholeheartedly. The celebrations continue next week with our Christmas jumper and dinner day on Monday, followed by our Church Service (16<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm) - we hope to see you there. The term ends on Friday 19th December - normal time.

Christmas jumpers aside, as the weather turns more wintry (and mixed), please ensure your children come to school in clothing appropriate for the season/weather and in line with our [Uniform Policy](#).

Amid all the festivities, we have focused on a powerful message: the greatest gifts we can give and receive are time with loved ones, the feeling of peace, and the care we show one another. Decorations, presents, and festive food are wonderful, but not everyone is as fortunate - and the most meaningful gifts we can share are those of Love, Care, and Kindness.

With this in mind, I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for the time, care, and support you give to our school and to your children's education.

St John's is an incredible, diverse, and supportive community, and it is a true privilege to share your child's primary school journey with you and your families.

One week to go.

Have a wonderful weekend.

**Rebecca Livings**

**Headteacher**

### Spotlight on Year 4

In Year 4 in our English, we have explored a variety of vocabulary and sentence structures in preparation to write a setting description of a rainforest. The children have used exciting word choices to produce the feeling of awe and wonder. At the end of the term, the children will be taking a copy home to share with you.



In Maths, Otters have worked extremely hard learning about Geometry and Measurement. We have grown in confidence with our knowledge of quadrilaterals and triangles, exploring the different types and their properties and have been equally successful converting meters into kilometers and grams into kilograms. They have achieved this by applying their prior knowledge of place value and multiplied and divided the amounts by 1000.

In Art, the children have developed their skills using water colours, focusing on creating tint and shade with different colours. We used these skills in our final piece of artwork by painting a rainforest scene.

Finally, we are looking forward to the outcome of our Science investigation next week. The children planned and produced a fair test using different liquids to observe the effects they have on our teeth (we used marble chippings to represent teeth). We have made our predictions and can't wait to see if they are correct!



#### Staffing Update – Year 4

We would like to share that Mrs Young (Y4 LSA) will be leaving us at Christmas. She has been a valued member of the school, and we are grateful for the dedication, care, and commitment she has shown to our pupils during her time with us.

We know the children and families will join us in wishing Mrs Young every success in her next chapter, and in thanking her for all she has contributed to our school community.

#### Education Discretionary Grant Fund

Thank you to all who completed the form for this. It will be reviewed and we will be in touch.

#### Motorway Closure - more information online

The M27 will be closed in both directions between Junctions 9 (Whiteley) and 11 (Fareham) from 8pm on Wednesday 24th December 2025 until 4am on Sunday 4th January 2026.

#### Library Books

All library books need to be returned by next week, please ensure your child returns theirs on their library day (Monday: Ducks & Kingfishers, Tuesday: Frogs, Dragonflies & Tadpoles, Thursday: Swans & Otters) it's important we receive all the books back, as we will be stock taking and swapping out hundreds of books, straight after Christmas with the central library service.



Instead of taking out library books next week the children will be offered a forever book (a book removed from our system, which will have "removed" stamped in red over the internal barcode), children can keep this book or gift it on.

## 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: 96.6% Our target is 97% - so close!**

Best Attendance: KS1: Frogs 97.1% KS2: Dragonflies 97.1%

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Tadpoles - 7 late minutes KS2: Otters & Kingfisher 0 late minutes

## 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

100 Club- There are only 20 numbers left! Please contact us via [pafswalthamchase@gmail.com](mailto: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!

A huge thank you to BCL MOT Centre, for providing the Christmas Tree 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.) [bclmotcentre.co.uk](http://bclmotcentre.co.uk)

Thank you to Richard Steeples for DJing at the disco, if you ever need any IT and Media Solutions please visit [www.teknoit.co.uk](http://www.teknoit.co.uk).

## Poppy Appeal

**Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, St John's collected £112.86**



## Hampshire Music Service

### Expression of interest - Please call the school office

Hampshire Music Service are prepared to give a free taster sessions to any Year 3/4 students who might be interested. It would be with a view to signing new students up come September for group lessons of 3/4 per group to keep the cost as low as possible, this will hopefully give you and your children a good amount of time to see if they'd like to stick at it!

The taster sessions are free of charge.

The taster sessions would run for a whole term giving the chance for at least 10 players to try out the trumpet before the summer break.

## Reminder: Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

**Monday 15th December, put on you festive jumpers to brighten up your school uniform and enjoy your Christmas dinner.**



## Dates for your diary

### This term important dates:

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



Have a wonderful weekend

Items you may be interested in

## HOW TO COPE WHEN YOUR CHILD CANT

**Tickets £25**  
Tea, coffee and lunch included

Three one-day events focused on parents/carers understanding their own needs, and learning strategies to look after themselves as they support a young person with their own mental health needs.

Each morning session will focus on different topics - further details can be found on our website.

The afternoon session will focus on How to Feel Better as a Parent in Burnout.

**For more information and to book a place go to:**  
<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>

**Thursday, 22 January 2026**  
9:30am - 3:15pm

St Peters Church Centre,  
Jewry St, Winchester  
SO23 8RY

**Friday, 15 May 2026**  
9:30am - 3:15pm

The Hilt, Hiltisbury Road,  
Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh  
SO53 5NP

**Wed, 30 September 2026**  
9:30am - 3:15pm

The Irish Centre, Council Road,  
Basingstoke, RG21 3DH

Some events have a small charge to allow us to cover costs, some discretionary free tickets are available

### 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](http://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
<b>FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour</b>	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

# HAMPSHIRE CAMHS INFORMATION AND ADVICE SESSIONS 2026

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT A YOUNG PERSON'S MENTAL HEALTH?

**10am - 2pm**  
The Arc, Jewry Street  
Winchester, SO23 8SB

This is an opportunity for parents/carers, professionals or young people to come and chat to our CAMHS clinicians, ask questions, get advice and resources.

Bookable slots available via our website or just drop in.



7 Jan	1 July
4 Feb	5 Aug
4 March	2 Sept
1 April	7 Oct
6 May	4 Nov
3 June	2 Dec

[hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk](http://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk)

## 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

**ROCK STEADY**

# ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS!

**IGNITE THEIR SELF-BELIEF**

- Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
- Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
- Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.
- Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
- Instruments provided and no experience necessary.

**BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ONLINE**

0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate) [rocksteadymusicschool.com](http://rocksteadymusicschool.com)

**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**

**THE GBHQ SWIM ACADEMY**

# SWIMMING LESSONS

INCLUDING ADULTS, AQUAFITNESS & PRIVATE SWIMS

Local brand GBHQ - Opens Swim Academy at Durley House.

We're upgrading the facilities and bringing the GBHQ energy — fun, achievement-focused lessons and a family-first approach.

**Free Kit Bag & Swim Hat when you join!**  
**NEW PARENT PORTAL APP COMING SOON**

**ENQUIRIES NOW OPEN!**

VISIT US AT **DURLEY HOUSE**  
Winchester Rd, Durley, Southampton SO32 2AJ

**CHOOSE YOUR MASCOT**

GBHQ.CO.UK/SWIMUPDATES

**Bridging the Gap** **HAMPSHIRE PARENT CARER CENTRE**

## BURNOUT IN THE LEAD-UP TO CHRISTMAS

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

**17<sup>th</sup> 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>