

The Jottings - 19th 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,

As we reach the end of a successful autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that has been achieved. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of the children for their hard work, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning. From academic progress to sporting achievements, creative projects, and personal growth, the children have shown determination and joy in all they do.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff. Their commitment, expertise, and care have ensured that our pupils continue to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. Their efforts in nurturing curiosity, building confidence, and supporting wellbeing are deeply appreciated.

Equally, I am grateful to you, our families. Your encouragement, partnership, and support of the school community have been invaluable. Whether through attending events, volunteering, or simply cheering on your children, your involvement makes a real difference and does not go unnoticed.

This term has been filled with highlights, from performances and assemblies to sporting fixtures and festive celebrations, and each has reminded us of the strength of our school community.

We also take this opportunity to say goodbye to Mrs Young, our current Year 4 Learning Support Assistant. Mrs Young has been a valued member of our team, offering care and support to pupils and colleagues alike. We thank her sincerely for her contribution to the school and wish her every success in the future.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities the new year will bring and all that we can accomplish together.

For now, I wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and a restful holiday season. May it be a time of peace, celebration, and togetherness.

Best Wishes,

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

Message from the Chair of Governors

A review of this year & thank you to all.

Dear St John Families,

May I wish you all a joyful and family-filled Christmas. If you are travelling over the festive period, as I shall be, I hope your journeys are safe and free from delays.

It is hard to believe that just twelve months ago I joined the Board of Governors, following the previous chair's departure after a family bereavement. Soon after, we learned that the new headteacher was unwell and would not be able to return to her position. In those challenging circumstances, Mrs. Reilly and Ms. Rockell stepped forward as acting heads, supported by Mrs. Wood, and together they led the school with dedication and care. We owe them, and indeed the whole staff, our heartfelt thanks for their commitment during such a difficult time.

In June, the Board appointed Mrs. Livings as headteacher to begin in September. She devoted much of her summer, with the help of her family and many staff members, to preparing the school for the new academic year. The transformation has been remarkable. Visitors over the past three months have consistently praised the improvements and the wonderful learning environment now provided for the children. This was echoed by the SIAMS inspection in November, which recognised *"the strength of the Christian ethos, quality of collective worship, and the way the values are embedded across the school."*

After the challenges of the past year, the school now stands in a much stronger position, with stability and a clear vision for the future. This is thanks to the hard work, guidance, and resilience shown by everyone involved. Well done to all.

Let us now enjoy the Christmas season, celebrating with family and friends, and return in January refreshed and ready to continue our shared mission of educating your children and supporting them to reach their potential.

Regards

Paul Quigley

Safeguarding alert regarding a children's book

We have been made aware of another set of children's books in which the web address printed within the text has unfortunately been compromised and now directs to highly inappropriate adult content.

The books affected are from the *Humphrey's Tiny Tales* series by Betty G. Birney. While we do not hold copies of these books in school, they are a popular series that has been available for many years. We therefore advise you to check your child's bookshelves at home.

As an additional precaution, please remind children to always check with an adult before accessing new webpages.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us safeguard our pupils.

Spotlight on Year 3

In English, we proudly published our *Stone Age Boy*-inspired narratives and had great fun sharing them with Kingfishers class. Year 6 gave us constructive and positive feedback, and they were especially impressed by our ambitious vocabulary and strong grammar skills. More recently, we put our history knowledge of the Neolithic era to the test by creating mini non-chronological reports.

In Maths, we've been busy exploring 2D shapes and describing their properties. We identified sides, vertices, right angles, and even learned about parallel and perpendicular lines.



In Science, we discovered the amazing purpose of our skeletons and muscles. One highlight was building models of our own hands, which helped us understand how muscles and tendons work together to make movement possible.

In RE, we delved into the imagery of angels, questioning stereotypes and focusing on how the angel Gabriel is portrayed in the Nativity story.

We wish you all a magical Christmas filled with laughter, joy, and plenty

of festive fun!



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.

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% Our target is 97% - lets hope the New Year brings less bugs!

Best Attendance: KS1: Tadpole 90% KS2: Otters 95.8%

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Frogs 3 late minutes KS2: Kingfishers 0 late minutes

Staying Active

Staying active - fun for the whole family with the PE Hub Family Zone

Wondering how to keep the whole family active over the break and into the new year? Why not try **Family Zone** - a free, easy-to-use website created to help parents keep their children moving every day. With fun resources, simple activity ideas, and practical guidance, you can confidently inspire your child to be active - whether at home or outdoors.

It's a wonderful way to discover age-appropriate games, build confidence, and make physical activity an enjoyable part of family life. And with the school holidays approaching, Family Zone is the perfect place to find inspiration for keeping everyone active - helping children (and parents!) stay healthy, happy, and full of energy.

Take a moment to explore Family Zone and see how small, active moments can make a big difference to your child's health and happiness.

[Fun Family Fitness Sessions - Play at Home | The PE Hub](#)

(Note: this link is also on our PE page on our website.)

PAFS

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!

Hampshire Music Service

Expression of interest - Please call the school office

Hampshire Music Service are prepared to give 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.

House Points

Congratulations to Meon House who accumulated 580 points this half term. On Monday 5th January the first day back children in **Meon House may wear yellow clothing.**

Dates for your diary

This term important dates:

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

15th January - School Census Day

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 Christmas

Items you may be interested in

 St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School 						
After School Extra-Curricular Activities 2025-2026						
Spring 1						
Club	Teacher	Day & Time	Term	Yr Group	Contribution	Location
Active-me KS2 Multi Sports	Active- me coach	Monday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 1 05/01/26 – 09/02/26	KS2	Funded by school	Playground
Craft Club	Miss Mace	Monday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 1 05/01/26 – 09/02/26	Yr 2,3,4,5 & 6 (First come, first served)	£5 contribution for materials	Year 2 Classroom (Ducks)
Dance	Dance Kidz	Tuesday 15.10 – 16.00	Spring 1 06/01/26 – 10/02/26	Years R, 1, 2 & 3	Organised with Dance Kidz (Separate to school)	Hall
Y6 Booster	Mrs Livings, Mrs Reilly, Mrs Sheppard & Miss Young	Tuesday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 1 06/01/26 – 10/02/26	Year 6 (Invite only) This will not appear on Arbor	Free	Year 6 Classroom (Kingfishers)
BSL	Mrs Morgan	Thursday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 08/01/26 – 12/02/26	Yr 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 (First come, first served)	Free	Year 4 Classroom (Otters)
 <p style="text-align: center;">Contact details for externally run clubs:</p> <p>Dance – 07889 419 681 or Belinda@pazzazz.me</p> <p>Rock Steady – 08450 941 259 or contact@rocksteadymusicschool.com</p> <p>Some clubs are run by outside agencies, please book with the companies directly using the information above.</p> 						

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

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, Hiltbury 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

FACE **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

LEGO FREE PLAY

Tuesday 30th December St
John the Baptist, Shedfield
2pm – 4pm
Aimed at 4 – 11 year olds

Children need to be
accompanied by a responsible
adult

For more information please
contact

Chris on 07906 436391




NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

Support to help Young People with their Mental Wellbeing (including Bereavement)

Guidance, tools, and tips

[Crisis, Self-Harm and Suicide – CAMHS](#)

[Self-harm support hub](#)

[Mental Wellbeing Hampshire](#)

[Mind's Info for young people](#)

[Parent and Carer support – CAMHS](#)

[Autistica – Tips Hub app](#)

Kooth: kooth.com

[ZSA suicide awareness training](#)

Support services

[NHS 111 Mental Health triage](#)

[SHOUT](#) text HANTS to 85258

[Help in a crisis: Hampshire and Isle of Wight NHS Foundation Trust](#)

NE Hants: [Get help in a mental health crisis : Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Papyrus: [Papyrus UK Suicide Prevention | Prevention of Young Suicide](#)

Support for: [Therapeutic support services](#)

[Cruse Support After Suicide Service](#)

Project Iris: [Project Iris: Growing Hope | Inclusion Education](#)

ChatHealth: [ChatHealth : Hampshire Healthy Families](#)

Young Minds Parent Helpline: [Parents Helpline | Mental Health Help for Your Child | YoungMinds](#)

[Children and Young People's Safe Haven – Havant & East Hants Mind](#)

Sasha's Project: [Facebook](#)

Events (in person)

Information and advice sessions, Winchester: [Events – CAMHS](#)

Anxiety – understanding and strategies to help, Basingstoke: [Events – CAMHS](#)

Local online and in person events: [Local Support Groups and Events for Parents/Carers »](#)



Top Tips for Christmas holiday activities

Drive/Walk around looking at Christmas lights

Roast marshmallows in the back garden

Pick a different Christmas movie to watch together each day or night

Read holiday-themed books together

Do some random acts of kindness for people who could use a pick me up at the holiday/visit an elderly neighbour and ask if they need anything

Attend the nativity or play clubs at one of your local churches

Organise a Christmas themed bauble hunt or scavenger hunt at the woods or the park

Have a craft day, make reindeer food, gingerbread men, decorations etc

Visit garden centres to see their Christmas displays, Garsons at Titchfield Lane have live reindeer

Top Tips for saving money at Christmas

Give homemade vouchers for presents (babysitting sessions, mowing the lawn, dog walking)

Do a toy swap with friends that your children no longer use before Christmas so you can both re gift to your children

Do a Secret Santa with adults in the family instead of everyone buying for every person

Make home-made gifts (fudge, candle in a tea cup etc) look on Pinterest for lots of ideas

If you are hosting Christmas dinner, ask everyone to each bring a dish

'Swap a skill/trade' as gifts, get all adult family members involved (bake a birthday cake when someone needs it and they service your boiler or MOT your car)

Shop second-hand (Vinted, charity shops etc have good quality pre loved clothes and toys)

Home made chocolate slabs (much cheaper than the shops) and you can personalise them to their favourite brands

Sell unused toys and clothes to fund new ones and make space

Sign up for a free months trial on Amazon Prime, you can get free delivery on online purchases as well as the access to Amazon tv over the festive period



ART CHAMPIONS CLUB
After-School Creative Programme!

Help your young artist grow their confidence, develop new skills, and create artwork they can be proud of! Join us for a fun, supportive journey where children will:

- ✓ Create an independent artwork for selected national or international competitions.
- ✓ Work on a collaborative group piece.
- ✓ Explore techniques, materials, and creative ideas.
- ✓ Build artistic confidence in a relaxed, encouraging environment.

All materials, equipment, and competition submissions are included — no extra admin for parents!
Perfect for children who love art and want to grow their creativity with gentle guidance and lots of encouragement.

£60 per block, Friday's 4.30-5.30pm
The Creative Spa, 1st Floor of Haming & Co, The Square, Wickham, PO17 5JT
Bookwhen.com/thecreativespa
hello@creativespa.co.uk



NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

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