

The Jottings - 9th January 2026

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,

Welcome back to the Spring term! It has been a wonderful first week, despite the cold and ever-changing weather trying its best to keep us on our toes. The children have settled back in really well and, whilst we can't quite say they're thrilled to swap pyjamas for uniforms again, it truly is a joy to have them with us.

Please do take a moment to look at our website, where you'll also find a reminder of our extreme weather procedures. We've popped the information at the end of this Jotting too—just in case the British weather continues to surprise us.

We have so much planned for the term ahead, and you can see what your child will be learning on the curriculum overview sent out earlier today (also available on the website). It's shaping up to be a busy and exciting term, and as always, we want you to feel part of your child's learning journey. Last term, our Learning in Action sessions were a real highlight, giving you the chance to see your children learning in their everyday classroom environment. We'll be running these again next term (summer) so you can see the fantastic progress they're making. This term, we'll also be inviting you in (date to follow) to celebrate key pieces of work the children are especially proud of and to enjoy the exciting learning opportunities happening across the school.

Over the break, the school had even more improvements completed, including the refreshing and reopening of our mezzanine learning space, as well as the development of a brand-new sensory room for Years 4, 5 and 6, which is now close to completion. These additions strengthen our inclusive provision and create even more welcoming spaces for our children. A huge thank you goes to the staff who came in during the holiday to paint, organise, update classrooms, and bring these areas to life, your children benefit from their hard work every single day.

As you know, budgets are tight, so please take a look at the ways you can support us, listed in this week's Jottings. This includes ordering a school lunch on Census Day (January 15th), or donating clothes that your little ones have outgrown to our clothing bank (in the car park) - every little really does help, and we are so grateful.

We are all here at St John's looking forward to the term ahead and all the lovely moments it will bring.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

Spotlight on Year 2

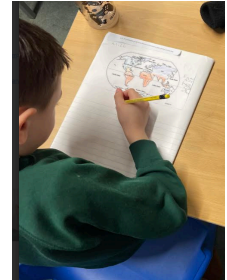
In Year 2, we had the perfect setting for our new text 'Snow', on Monday morning. The children were extremely excited with the natural awe and wonder of the weather, so we brought the snow indoors. In English, we have explored a variety of winter poems and begun to generate our own vocabulary for rhyming couplets this week. The children are hoping to perform their poems to you, later on this half term.

The weather has also supported our Geography learning, of cold and hot climates. In class we shared our own knowledge of countries, then used maps to think about where hot and cold climates are in the world. Afterwards, the children enjoyed thinking about the animals that lived in different environments.

In Maths, Ducks have shown their confidence and independence, when revisiting addition and subtraction and we have all been very proud of our successes.

We have welcomed Miss Carey into Ducks class for the term, a third year student from Chichester, who will be supporting the children in their learning.

What a wonderful week to begin 2026!



Attendance Matters

Help us with our attendance – we are seeing a drop, and catching up on missed learning is incredibly challenging for children.

Government legislation is very clear about the criteria for authorised absence (please see the details on our website under the *Attendance Matters* tab). While attendance is recorded as a school-wide figure, every single child being in school and on time not only supports their own learning journey, which is the most important thing, but also helps us work towards our overall target.

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: 95.1% Our target is 97% - please feel free to come and chat with us regarding any attendance issues.

Best Attendance: KS1: Frogs 97.9% KS2: Dragonflies 99%

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Tadpoles - 8 late minutes KS2: Kingfishers 5 late minutes

School Census Day 15th January - Menu Change

We need your help!

School census day is more important to a school than many people realise.

On census day, the number of children who take up a school meal - especially those who take up the universal free school meals in **Reception, year 1 and year 2** - as it is this information that the government use to calculate funding allocations to the school.

You did read that correctly: the number of children who order a school meal on Thursday 15th January is used to decide how much funding we will get for all children in the next financial year.
If fewer children take up/order a meal on this day, the school could receive less funding.

Please help us by ordering a school dinner on Thursday. The menu is one of the more popular menu choices for this reason, however, if your child does not like this, please consider sending them in with something, but still ordering a meal as it really does help especially if they are in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2.

We have never had 100% take up on a census day (in October we managed 99%), but if we did, we would be in the best possible position for the year ahead.

If you have any questions, please speak to the school office.

Please see the exciting menu for Thursday 15th January:

(Please note: Pasta and Jacket Potato options are also available as usual.)

Main

Cheese & Tomato Pizza or Chicken & Sweetcorn Pizza with the usual tomato pasta and Jacket potato option.

Sides

Potato Wedges and Cucumber & Tomato Salad

Desserts

Vanilla or Chocolate Ice Cream



Keeping our children safe online

The Children's Commissioner has published a really useful guide:

[***What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.***](#)

If your child received a new device over the Christmas period, this may be particularly helpful in supporting you to maintain appropriate controls.

From personal experience, the Family Sharing features on Apple devices can be extremely effective. You can schedule your child's phone to be inactive at certain times, view their photos and messages on iCloud if needed, and prevent changes to settings without your access code and email verification. While no system is completely

fool proof, these tools can offer valuable reassurance as children navigate the online world.

We hope you find the guide helpful.

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on Tuesday 27th January.

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As a school, we will be acknowledging this important day in a thoughtful and age-appropriate way.

At St John's, Holocaust Memorial Day will be discussed sensitively, with learning focused on key values such as empathy, fairness, respect and the importance of treating others kindly. Rather than exploring distressing details, pupils will listen to carefully chosen stories, take part in discussions about friendship and inclusion, and reflect on how their own actions can help to create a positive and caring community. Our aim is to help children understand the messages of remembrance and responsibility in a way that is reassuring and suitable for their age.



Staying Active – Supporting the January Blues

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

Fundraising for St John's Primary School!

This Saturday 10th January

- The Parents and Friends of St John the Baptist Primary School are fundraising to support the school and its children. 50% of the takings will be donated to St John's Primary School. **Join us tomorrow, Saturday 10th January from 10am - 1pm at Barnaby's Coffee Swanmore,** they will have crafts and activities to keep the children entertained!
- 100 Club- There are only 18 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!

- Coin Wars - Start saving your pennies, starting 2nd February - 12th February.
- Wear something **RED** Valentine's Day for £1 with your school uniform

Clothing Bank

Clothing Bank

Our clothing bin is a fantastic way to help raise funds for the school.
Thank you to everyone who has donated so far - please do continue to use it.
If you are having a clear-out of clothes after the festive break, please keep in mind that donating them here can make a real difference.



Food Donation Station

Food Donations

Thank you for your continued support, just a reminder our donation station is in the school reception area. This goes to Southampton City mission who help vulnerable people in the community. Good opportunity to clear your Christmas cupboards!



New Library Days

The new class library days are:

Monday: Ducks & Tadpoles
Tuesday: Frogs & Dragonflies
Wednesday: Kingfishers
Thursday: Swans & Otters



Dates for your diary

This term important dates:

- 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
3rd February - SEND Parent coffee afternoon 2pm - 3pm - Focus on EHCP Process
10th February - Community Hub at 1.45 pm -3.15pm (School Nursing and Hampshire Healthy Steps attending)
13th February - Wear something **RED** Valentine's Day for £1 with your school uniform
3rd March - SEND Parent coffee afternoon 2pm - 3pm - Focus on Routines at home
10th March - 13th March - Year 6 Calshot Residential
20th March - Bingo night adults only - 20th March 7pm
23rd March - Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.30pm
26th March - Parents Evening 3.30pm - 6.30pm
27th March - Community Hub (attendees tbc)
Easter Service & Production TBC
6th May - SEND Parent coffee afternoon 2pm - 3pm - Focus on Autism
10th July - SEND Parent coffee afternoon 2pm - 3pm - Focus on ADHD



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:

- 23rd February 2026
1st May 2026
19th June 2026

Courage - Compassion - Creativity

Have a wonderful Weekend

A reminder of our:

Extreme Weather Procedures

Dear St John Families,

As we move further into the winter months, we want to let you know our planned approach to potential snow closures.



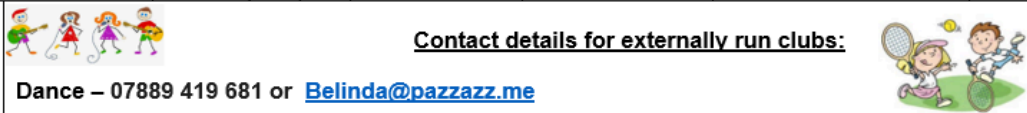
- We aim to keep the school open where possible.
- All decisions will be made based on ensuring the safety of children and staff, both while they are in school and while are travelling to and from school.
- If the weather forecast is absolutely clear that there will definitely be heavy snow / red weather warnings we inform parents the day before that school will be closed the following day.
- If we are unsure of the weather forecast or how heavy the snow is going to be, and its likely impact, then we will make the decision in the morning. Although some of you would appreciate a decision made the night before so that you have more warning, this could result in the school being closed unnecessarily.
- To make the decision, in the morning we need to:
 - Check how many members of staff are able to make their way safely into school
 - Check that the school is safe and warm
 - Check that we have the staff and facilities to provide lunches


(please bear in mind that staff come from further afield than our catchment area and sometimes more severe weather in their home town affects travel)

- Parents/Carers will be advised by e-mail, and / or texting and via the school website by 8.00am.
- You can also visit <http://www.hants.gov.uk/education/schoolclosures/> as well as listening to local radio. If we have suffered a power cut, please be aware that our communication systems are slower.
- If we do not have the facilities to provide lunch but all else is well then we will advise you that the school is open but that children need to bring in a packed lunch.
- It may be that we have sufficient staff to open the school but not to run breakfast or after school clubs. We would advise you if this was the case.
- As a school, we have a special code that we use for the register for 'snow days', which counts as an authorised absence if the school is closed.
- In the case of severe weather where the school is closed for more than one day, then we will provide recommended learning for the children to do via our website and email.

We hope that this helps to give you a picture of the process we go through should snow come our way. If you have any queries or comments then please do get in touch via the school office. Please make sure that your Arbor information is up to date with your contact details.

Can we remind you to send your child to school with a warm coat, hat and gloves, all of which we would recommend you to name. If the weather is icy or slippery in the mornings, please take extra care on the paths in to and out of school and on the playground. We will grit as many areas as possible, but it is a large area to make completely safe.

 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>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>						

 January 2026 Timetable <small>All sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long</small> £24 each or FREE with School Membership <small>Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk</small> <small>Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)</small>	
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



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, 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

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

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-5pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

P.A.C.E. 2026 PARENT & CARER EVENTS

Free health & wellbeing events for all parents & carers
who support or work with young people

DATE	LOCATION
Thursday, 26 February 2026	Basingstoke Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Rd, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 3HF
Thursday, 16 April 2026	Eastleigh Junction Church, 2 Romsey Road, Eastleigh SO50 9FE
Friday, 8 May 2026	Lyndhurst Lyndhurst Community Centre, Central Car Park, High Street, Lyndhurst SO43 7NY
Thursday, 25 June 2026	Andover Winton Community Academy, London Rd, Andover, Hampshire SP10 2PS
Monday, 5 October 2026	Havant Trosnant School, Stockheath Lane, Havant, Hampshire PO9 3BD
Friday, 23 October 2026	Waterlooville Waterlooville Community Centre, 10 Maurepas Way, Waterlooville PO7 7AY

BOOK YOUR SESSION SPACE AT:

hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events

UNDERSTANDING ADHD

Tickets £20
Tea and
coffee
included

A day that focuses on skills and strategies, for parents,
carers and professionals supporting a child with ADHD.
Hampshire CAMHS Colleagues will be hosting this day
alongside parents / carers with lived experience.

Understanding your child with ADHD, support, strategies and
tips. Led by the Hampshire CAMHS ADHD team.

Support for SEN in education & what to do if it's not working.
Led by Gayle Moir, SENDIASS Services Manager.

ADHD nervous system differences, sensory systems, emotional
regulation, stress response, attention regulation, and executive
functioning. Led by Courtney Freedman-Thompson-coach and
wellbeing facilitator and lived experience.

5 March 2026

Junction Church,
2 Romsey Road,
Eastleigh SO50 9FE

16 Sept 2026

The Pallant Centre,
Havant, PO9 1BE

3 November 2026

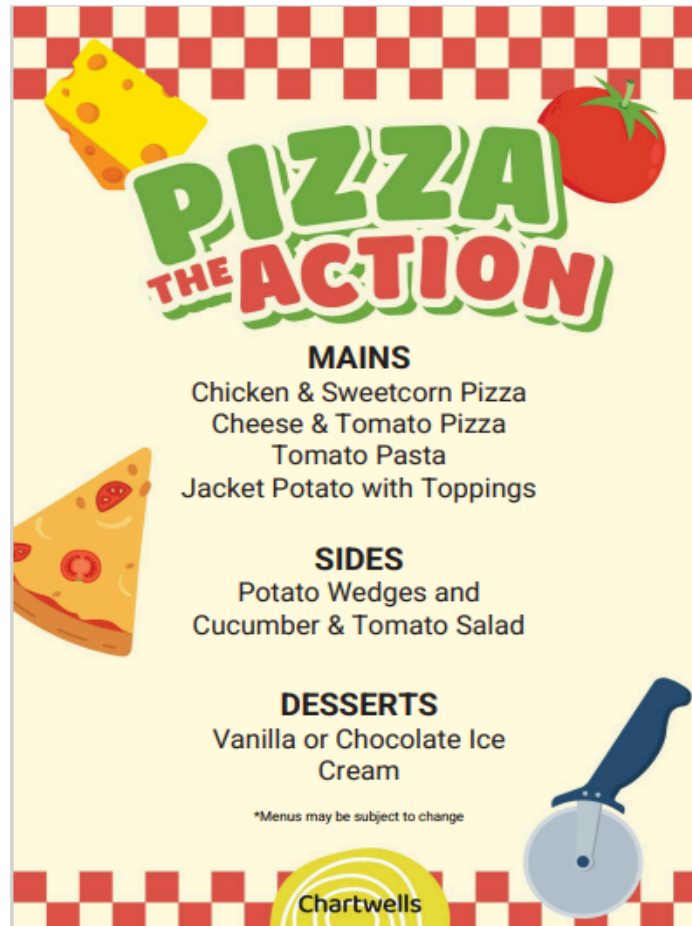
Andover Baptist Church,
Charlton Road, Andover
SP10 3JH

For more information scan the QR code or visit:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>



School Census Day menu - Thursday 15th January



PIZZA
THE ACTION

MAINS
Chicken & Sweetcorn Pizza
Cheese & Tomato Pizza
Tomato Pasta
Jacket Potato with Toppings

SIDES
Potato Wedges and
Cucumber & Tomato Salad

DESSERTS
Vanilla or Chocolate Ice
Cream

*Menus may be subject to change

Chartwells

