

The Jottings - 30th 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,

It has been a purposeful and positive week at St John's. We were pleased to welcome two County Advisers into school, who spent time working alongside key staff to help us continue developing and strengthening our practice. Their feedback was extremely encouraging, highlighting the calm atmosphere, strong relationships and the dedication of our team. We look forward to building on this work as the term continues.

I would also like to draw your attention to the updated national guidance from the Department for Education regarding mobile phones in schools. The DfE now expects all schools in England to operate as mobile-phone-free environments throughout the entire school day. This aligns fully with the cluster-wide 'non-mobile-phone agreement' (please see below as a reminder) issued across our local schools in the summer term, and I am pleased to say that this has long been embedded practice here at St John's. In fact, we currently have only a very small number of phones being brought into school, and these are exclusively from Year 6 pupils. This means we are already very close to meeting the national expectation in full, with strong routines already in place.

We understand that every family has its own approach to technology at home, and we respect those choices where there are no safeguarding concerns. In school, however, we must follow this national expectation to support consistency, wellbeing and children's ability to focus and thrive in their learning. We will continue to apply these guidelines fairly and consistently, and we appreciate your support as we work together to create the safest and most positive environment for all our children.

If your child does bring a phone of any kind to school, please be aware of the following:

- From Year 6 only (although we aim for us to be fully mobile phone free), a class box is available for phones to be handed in at the start of the day and collected at home time.
- The school cannot take responsibility for the safety or security of any phones brought onto the site.
- For safeguarding reasons, no phones or online-enabled devices may be used by pupils on site between 8:40am and 3:10pm.
- Phones are not permitted at all for any children younger than Year 6.
- If you have concerns about your child's safety travelling to or from school, please call to discuss further.

You may also wish to read the recent letter from the Secretary of State for Education to Headteachers, which outlines the national position in more detail. [Strengthened guidance on mobile phones in schools](#)

Now to try and convince my year 6 daughter that her phone is to stay at home – wish me luck.

Wishing you all a restful weekend, and thank you again for your continued support.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

Spotlight on Year 5

This week kicked off the next learning journey in English for Year 5. Upon return from collective workshop Monday morning, the children were swept into a wild tempest, which left behind a trunk full of somebody's possessions. The classes used their inference and prediction skills to work out who the main character of our new book 'The Tempest' might be. They have been applying their knowledge of figurative language devices to create powerful setting description of the island and the chaos that ensues as the tempest hits.



They have also continued their learning in RE, considering the habits and rituals they practise in their own lives, and comparing them to the Islamic ritual of wudu. The class were surprised by how detailed the process of wudu is, and how often Muslims perform this ritual to prepare for salah (prayer) five times a day!



The Boardwalk - an update

Unfortunately, the boardwalk and access to school via the field will continue to be closed next week and until further notice.

Unfortunately, the path into school at the top of the school field remains unsafe, and we are therefore unable to open this route at this time. We are currently in discussions to find a resolution and will keep you updated, however it is not a quick fix. We understand this is inconvenient for many of our families, and we apologise for the disruption.

Thank you for your patience, respect and understanding while we work to resolve the issue and thank you for the many offers of help – we will be in touch when a plan has been finalised.

Birthdays

At St John's, we value all of our children and staff, and this includes celebrating their birthdays.

On a child's birthday, we recognise the occasion with a sticker or card from Mrs Livings (she does sing *Happy Birthday* to the children, though she is never offended if they politely decline!). Children are also welcome to come to school in non-uniform for the day.

If a child's birthday falls on a weekend or during a school holiday, they are welcome to wear non-uniform on the last school day before their birthday or the first day back -- whichever is closest or preferred.

We kindly ask that class treats are not brought into school for staff to distribute. Any treats sent in will be returned to parents/carers to hand out themselves. This is as a result of allergen concerns and (in some incidents) not being provided with enough.

Thank you for your understanding.

St John the Baptist Primary C of E Primary School



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**Welcome to our Community
Hub**

**Tuesday 10th February
1.45pm - 3.10pm**

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 school nursing:

The School Nursing Team is here to support children's health and wellbeing. We offer advice on sleep, healthy routines, emotional wellbeing, managing medical needs, and supporting families with any health concerns. Friendly, confidential support for parents and carers—helping every child thrive.

Hampshire Healthy Steps:

A free, friendly programme designed to help families build healthier habits together. Learn simple ways to boost wellbeing, improve nutrition, stay active, and support positive routines at home. Open to all families—small steps that make a big difference.

Save the date:

Where: this session will be held in school

When: Tuesday 10th February - 1.45pm - 3.10pm

Courage, Compassion, Creativity.

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



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SEND Coffee Sessions

These sessions will include a brief talk about a topic and will then be a chance to meet other parents whose children also need support and share top tips.

Tuesday 3rd February 2pm-3pm
The ECHP Process

Tuesday 3rd March 2pm -3pm
Routines at home and how to avoid the after school crisis moment.

Wednesday 6th May 2pm-3pm
Autism

Wednesday 10th June 2pm-3pm
ADHD



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Attendance Matters

Help us with our attendance – Thank you

Together, we can make sure every child makes the most of their opportunities and enjoys success.

This Week:

Whole school attendance average: 95.4% Our target is 97% - please come and chat with us regarding any attendance issues.

Best Attendance: KS1: Tadpoles 99.2% KS2: Otters 99%

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Tadpoles 0 late minutes KS2: Dragonflies 5 late minutes

IT STARTS MONDAY COIN WARS IS BACK - 02/02-12/02

Starting the 2nd February through to 12th February each class will have their own jar and will need to fill it with as many copper coins as possible, Silver coins can be placed in other classes jars to reduce their final amount!

Aim of game to finish with highest amount of money in your classes jar at end of the 10 days!

Check down the side of the sofa, in the car and raid the piggy bank for them coppers!

Winning class wins a treat!

Next events:

WEAR SOMETHING RED - 13/02

Wear something **Red** – Socks, bows or badges - £1 donation to PAFS

ADULT ONLY BINGO NIGHT – 20/03

PAFS are holding an adult only Bingo night on Friday 20th March – £6 a ticket - includes the 6 books for the games. Prizes for lines and houses!

There will be a bar serving drinks, snacks and extra books on the evening and we will be running extra games throughout the night so bring your £1 coins along!

There will be raffle tickets on sale before and during the event with the prizes being drawn on the evening.

Ideal opportunity to get together with some friends and make some new ones on the evening!

We look forward to seeing you there.

100 club only has 5 numbers left!

BOUNCE BONANZA TAKE 2! – 03/07

Back by popular demand – Bounce Bonanza!!

After great feedback and fun PAFS are putting on another Bounce Bonanza for all to enjoy!

Lots of inflatables and games available on the day.

£10 a ticket for anyone using the inflatables, spectators are free, all children need to be accompanied by a parent/responsible adult.

Tickets available for all events on PTA Events – <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/pafs/index.cfm>

RAFFLE TICKETS – Raffle tickets will be on sale over the coming weeks, look out for the tickets in your children's bags...prizes will be announced shortly!

Thank you for all your help and support with the events- all money raised will be going towards the school regenerating the outside areas, any and all help is greatly appreciated!!

Dates for your diary

This term important dates:

- 2nd February - 12th February - PAFS Coin Wars
- 3rd February - SEND Parent coffee afternoon 2pm - 3pm - Focus on EHCP Process
- February - Chartwell Menu Theme Day for Pancake Day - Date TBC
- 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
- March - Chartwell Menu Theme Day for World Book Day - Date TBC
- 3rd March - SEND Parent coffee afternoon 2pm - 3pm - Focus on Routines at home
- 4th March - Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm - 3pm
- 10th March - 13th March - Year 6 Calshot Residential
- 20th March - Bingo night adults only - 7pm
- 23rd March - Parents Evening 3.30pm - 7.30pm
- 24th March - Yr 3 & 4 Easter Production Performances to families " I am Special" 9.20am
- 25th March - Yr 3 & 4 Easter Production Performances to families " I am Special" 2.30pm
- 24th - 27th March - Travelling Book Fair Open at School
- 26th March - Author visit - Karen Inglis - Book signing
- 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 June - 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 letter from the Swanmore cluster of schools

Dear Parents/Carers,

As educators we are increasingly concerned about the impact of smartphones on our children.

Smartphones are a big part of life today. However, there is now a highly significant amount of evidence and research of the negative effects of smartphones and social media on children and teenagers.

These include:

- Poor mental health, such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem.
- Issues with cyberbullying, attention, focus and sleep.
- Exposure to dangerous and harmful content, and inappropriate material.
- Opportunity cost: Smartphones can be highly addictive, and hours spent on a device reduces time spent playing, interacting and developing vital social skills.

Children often get their first phone in primary school and over 90% of 12-year-olds now have a smartphone. This period is crucial for brain development and a [major study](#) has found that the younger a child gets a smartphone, the worse their mental health will be.

Schools are in a powerful position to change the norm and to support parents on this difficult issue.

This is why the Swanmore Cluster of schools, along with many other Hampshire primary schools, are now coming together to take action and commit to making Hampshire primary schools genuinely smartphone free. You may be aware that our cluster secondary school, Swanmore College, is implementing a ban on smartphones and watches for Year 7s from September and we are keen to bring our policies in line in order to prepare pupils for the changes ahead. These are the phones that are acceptable for pupils to bring into Swanmore College:

[Nokia 105](#) , [Ushining Flip Phone](#), [Oakcastle SIM Free Mobile](#)

Collectively we are committed to ensuring our schools are smartphone free from September 2025.

We are encouraging all parents to delay giving a smartphone to their child until they are at least 14 years old and to delay allowing their children access to social media until age 16.

Last year, we implemented a ban on phones in school with the exception of those pupils with express permission from the Head teacher. From September, we will be extending our policy to include a total ban on all smartphones and smart watches in school for pupils. Any parent who deems it necessary for their child (year 6 only) to bring a phone into school will still require consent from the head teacher, but any phone brought in must be a simple 'brick' phone (not smart/internet enabled) which must be left at the office.

We also strongly encourage any parents/family members to put their phones out of sight whilst on school premises. We want to encourage pupils to prioritise real social interaction above phone use and so as adults, we must model this behaviour whenever we can. Pupils being met at the end of the day with a smile and a question is a positive step towards this goal.

If you would like to find out more about support for parents who want their children to be smartphone free, do please visit [Smartphone Free Childhood](#). Here you can sign the [Parent pact](#). This allows parents to come together in delaying giving a smartphone to their children, until the end of Year 9.



Subject: Join the Waltham Chase Pre-School Governing Board

Dear Families and Members of St John the Baptist C of E Primary School community,

Many of you may already know us at Waltham Chase Pre-School — perhaps your child attended before moving on to St John's. We are proud of the happy and caring environment we continue to provide.

We are looking for new members to join our governing board and would love to hear from people within the St John's school community. This could include teaching or support staff looking to gain experience, or parents and wider family members who may be interested in supporting us.

No previous experience is needed — just a willingness to help. However, if you do have a childcare/Early Years/education background, that would also be wonderful! The role is flexible, with no expectation to attend every meeting, and you can give as much or as little time as suits you. Meetings can take place in person or online. We usually meet once a month during term time.

The role is varied and can involve anything from generating fundraising ideas, to supporting staff with ideas, to developing the curriculum, supporting SEND, as well as safeguarding.

If you would like more information, or know someone who might be interested, please get in touch with us— we'd love to hear from you. Please see our contact details below.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter, and we hope to hear from you. For now, we will get back to handprint painting, puddle splashing, and playdough making!

On behalf of the Waltham Chase Pre-School Governing Board

hello@walthamchasepreschool.com

07913640795



P.A.C.E.

2026
PARENT & CARER EVENTS

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

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

NHS

Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

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/>



FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN DAYS

SWIMMING, MULTI-SPORTS, SOFT PLAY, ROCK CLIMBING, ARTS & CRAFTS, BOUNCY CASTLE, PERFORMING ARTS, GAMING, LASER TAG, NERF WARS, LEGO BUILDING & MUCH MORE!

OPEN EVERY SCHOOL HOLIDAY



Fareham Leisure Centre
Park Lane, Fareham PO16 7JU
9.00am – 4.00pm

Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 5pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) - 12

FROM £29.50 PER DAY!

Discounts for siblings - please see booking page for details.

We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!

Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & a Refillable Drinks Bottle.



Scan the QR code for more information,
call 01344 508008 or email info@lets-play.org.uk
Book online: www.lets-play.org.uk

[@letsplayuk](https://www.facebook.com/letsplayuk) [@letsplayuk](https://www.instagram.com/letsplayuk)



WALTHAM CHASE METHODIST CHURCH

CALLING ALL JUNIOR
SCIENTISTS

LET'S HAVE FUN!

MEGA MAKERS



LIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLUB

THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

0930 - 12:30

science games, cooking, craft
and much more

£3.00 per child aged 5-11 years

TO BOOK A PLACE

Contact: anouska@chasemethodist.org

Tel: 07875218141

Active Holidays

Holiday Activities and Food Programme



Swanmore College



February Half Term
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026

» HAF Camp

Our HAF camp offers nutritious meals, engaging activities, and free childcare spots to children who receive benefit-related free school meals, supporting their health, wellbeing, and learning.

Free

- For ages 4*-13 years *They must be 4 years old and in Year R
- 9am to 4pm
- Wraparound Care available (charges apply)



Scan the QR code to find and book your nearest venue!



For more information or to book, visit:
www.activeme360.com

@activeme360



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Rated
Registered

Charities
Approved



FRIDAY, FEB 6TH,
5:30-6:45 PM
WALTHAM CHASE
VILLAGE HALL

PARTY

PARENT & CHILD
DISCO EVERYONE
WELCOME

£10 INCL 1 ADULT 1

CHILD (UPTO YR6)

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN

£4 EACH

LETS ALL DANCE

TO BOOK CONTACT BELINDA -
DANCE KIDZ
07889 419681

bring your own drinks and snacks
(no alcohol)





Online Safety Newsletter

February 2026

CBeebies Parenting and Apps

CBeebies Parenting is full of useful information from creative activities, recipes and information about the CBeebies apps.

CBeebies apps are free to download with no in-app purchases. Their apps include:

- Playtime Island - Fun Games for Kids App. This app includes 40 free games.
- CBeebies Learn - Early Years Learning App. This app includes games and videos and is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.
- Get Creative - Open-ended Creative Activities App. This app is free and includes lots of drawing and painting activities.
- Storytime - Reading Stories App. This app includes interactive story books.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/february-2026-primary/>

Using AI to alter images

AI image generator and moderator tools are widely available and often used by children. Whilst these tools can be used for creative purposes, we need to ensure our children are aware of the appropriate way in which to use them and the circumstances when they should not be used, even if harm is not intended.

What are AI image generator and moderator tools?

It is when Artificial Intelligence is used to create or modify images, for example it could be used to swap faces, change expressions or for more sinister reasons, such as to remove clothes. These images are often very realistic and therefore difficult to see that they are fake.

Privacy concerns and consent

If your child is using these tools, they need to be aware of potential loss of privacy and the importance of consent. They should know that they should only use images of other people with consent.

What does my child need to know about using these tools?

- Children shouldn't use AI tools to manipulate images of school staff. Even if the child's intention is not malicious, children should not use AI tools to create or edit photos of teachers under any circumstances.
- Manipulation of images of friends or other children – if you are using images of other people, then consent **must** always be sought.
- The tools should not be used to create images that can embarrass or hurt others - this is a form of online bullying.
- Copyright issues – who owns the copyright? These images could be reused by others, which can affect their own digital footprint.

What should I do?

- Chat to your child if they are using these tools and ascertain the reason why. Ask them to show you the images that they have created.
- Check the age ratings of any apps/websites that your child is using and set up appropriate parental controls.
- Develop your child's digital literacy by teaching them to recognise online risks and to behave responsibly online

Further information

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai>
- <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2025/02/18/understanding-image-consent-at-schools/>

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security / privacy settings are applied.

Account set up

It is important that your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Inappropriate content and themes:** whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.
- **Challenges:** We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be **risky/dangerous**. Sadly, there are reports that children have died whilst attempting online challenges. Children may not yet have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse that what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate.
- **Stranger contact:** chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed>

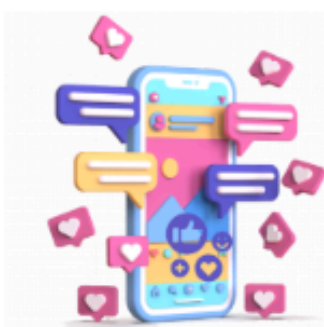
Blocking and Reporting

Show your child how to use the safety features available.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide>

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Balance screen time tips

Internet Matters have created simple tips to help you develop healthy online habits for your child. They also answer key questions such as "how much screentime is too much" and "is gaming bad for children." Access this information here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/creating-a-balanced-digital-diet-with-screen-time-tips>

7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

The Family Online Safety Institute have created seven steps to assist you as a digital parent. Find out more here:

<https://fosi.org/program/7-steps-to-good-digital-parenting/>

Children's Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child's digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children.

It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>