

The Jottings - 13th February 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,

As we come to the end of the first half of the spring term, I want to share my heartfelt thanks with our whole school community. These past weeks have been filled with curiosity, creativity, and a wonderful sense of togetherness (I've gone sappy again) that has shaped such a positive start to the year.

Our children have embraced a wide range of enrichment activities, from Safer Internet learning and Mental Health Awareness work to a strong focus on strategy teaching across the curriculum. They have thrown themselves into learning with real enthusiasm. We also launched Stormbreak this half term, supporting children's wellbeing through movement and helping them build healthy habits for both body and mind. And of course, a particular highlight for our younger years has been the introduction of Snuggle Buddy Book Time, encouraging reading and reading for pleasure.

A huge thank you as well to everyone who joined us for our second parent event and showcase. It was fantastically popular, and the children were so proud to share their work and talk about what they've been up to (well... most of them!). Your encouragement and presence mean so much to them and to us.

Finally, to our families, thank you for your continued support. To our staff, thank you for your dedication, care, and commitment to giving our children the very best. Our shared vision continues to shape a school we can all be proud of.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break. We're excited for everything the next half term will bring. Thank you again for your continued support.

Rebecca Livings

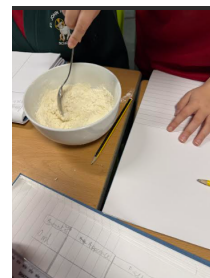
Headteacher

Spotlight on Year 3

This week, Year 3 have loved sharing their final pieces with their parents and carers. Thank you so much to everyone who came in as it really made the work feel more meaningful for the children, and they were so proud to share what they had created.

In English, we wrapped up our emotive and persuasive letter writing, inspired by *Greta and the Giants*. In Art, Swans also had great fun creating 'protest' placards and flags, inspired by the textile artist Faith Ringgold, linking strong messages with colourful designs.

In Science this week, our classroom turned into a hub of hands-on discovery! We investigated how adding different amounts of water to flour can completely change its **texture and form**. The children carefully planned their enquiry, thinking like real scientists about how to measure accurately and keep their tests fair. They were fascinated to observe the transformation — watching the flour change from soft and powdery to lumpy, sticky, and even able to hold its shape as more water was added. It was a fantastic opportunity to explore scientific thinking!



The Boardwalk - closure will continue after the half term break.

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.

Safer Internet Day

As part of this year's Safer Internet Day, the children have explored the impact of Artificial Intelligence on their lives by discussing how AI can be used positively to support learning, problem solving and entertainment. We have also discussed the challenges AI can present, including misinformation, over reliance on technology and privacy concerns e.g. fake images. Throughout the activities, children were encouraged to ask questions, check information and understand their own role in using AI tools safely, responsibly and with care as well as consider the trusted adults they can speak to if they see something that upsets them online. It was fantastic to see their curiosity and thoughtful contributions as they developed their skills as confident and responsible digital citizens.

For more guidance and information please visit:

https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/1-Online-Safety-Newsletter-Feb-2026_SID.pdf

Please also see this month's online safety newsletter attached below.

Children's Mental Health Week and Storm Break

This week in school we have been part of Children's Mental Health Week, focusing on the theme of belonging. We know that feeling connected—to ourselves, to our friends, to our school, and to our wider communities—plays a vital role in supporting positive mental health and wellbeing. Having a sense of place and truly feeling part of our environment is a basic human need, influencing many areas of life, including our physical and mental health, education, relationships and future opportunities. When children feel they belong, they are empowered to contribute, participate and make a meaningful difference.

This year, Children's Mental Health Week encourages the groups and systems around children—families, peers, schools and communities—to create inclusive, nurturing spaces where young people can confidently say, "This is My Place." Throughout the week, we have used worship time and class activities to reflect on what belonging looks and feels like in our school, helping children recognise the importance of connection and community in their everyday lives.



Stormbreak

This term, the children have been taking part in Stormbreak, a wellbeing programme designed to help them develop emotional resilience, self-awareness, and healthy coping strategies through movement-based activities. Each session supports children in understanding their feelings, building confidence, and learning how to manage challenges in a positive and active way.

We would like to extend a huge thank-you to PAFS for generously funding Stormbreak. Their support has enabled us to bring this valuable programme into school and make a real difference to the children's wellbeing.



In-Car Safety

The Road Safety Team are responsible for educating young people and their families on the importance of keeping safe when travelling in a vehicle. Part of this education includes ensuring young people are travelling with correct restraints. Are you aware that 37% of children are in the wrong type of seat for their age and/or height? The Road Safety Team would like to share this car restraint leaflet with you to ensure you know how to always keep your child(ren) safe – in the correct restraint. There are also hints and tips about choosing the right seat, transporting other people's children and how to fit different types of car seat. To read this informative leaflet, please visit [in car safety guide](#)

Attendance Matters



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

This Week:

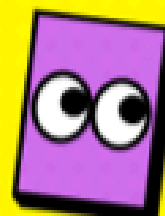
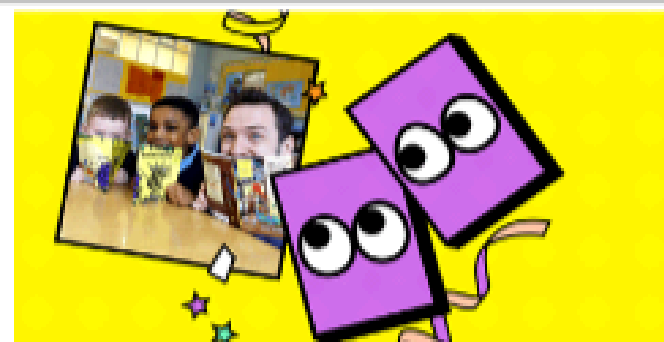
Whole school attendance average: **95.3%** Our target is **97%** - please come and chat with us regarding any attendance issues.

Best Attendance: KS1: Ducks 97.7% KS2: Otters 98.9%

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Ducks 8 late minutes KS2: Dragonflies 12 late minutes



St John the Baptist C of E Primary School



**WORLD
BOOK
DAY®**

March 5th 2026

Dear St John's families,

With World Book Day just around the corner, we have been busy preparing an exciting day for everyone. We would like to invite children to dress up as their favourite book character, or alternatively bring a bag or box filled with objects that could belong to a favourite character. This will be a fun opportunity to test our literary detective skills and guess who the items belong to. A prize for the most creative recycled, homemade costume or character objects will be awarded in each class.

Before and after school on the day, there will be a selection of bookthemed fundraising games on the playground. Money raised will help us cover the cost of not one, but two author visits this year.

There will be prizes throughout the day, including £25 worth of book vouchers to spend at our Book Fair, which arrives in school on 24th March, as well as books from our first visiting author, Karen Inglis, who will be meeting the children on 26th March.

Lessons during the day will be themed around World Book Day, with plenty of opportunities for art, drama, and creative activities.

At the end of the day, children can visit our 'story book cinema' and watch a wellknown story on the screen. Children can pay £1 to take part and are welcome to bring a cuddly toy from home to snuggle with, along with a movie snack (no nuts please). Further information about this will be shared after the halfterm break.

Thank you for your support — every penny goes straight back into helping all children across the school. From maths resources to mental health support, it truly makes a difference.

100 Club- Thank you to everyone who bought a number! It was completed this week and drawn last night with the winner being 51 -Sally Graham...congrats Sally!

Coin Wars- A huge thank you to everyone for taking part in coin wars. It has been a huge success this year and was truly lovely seeing how excited the children got about it.

A few of our PAFS members had a mammoth 5hrs of counting last night to ensure we got the results ready for today.

The overall amount raised was £508.06!!!

The winning class were Otters with an overall £19.93 after sabotaging!





What's next:


RAFFLE TICKETS – Raffle tickets will be in your children’s bags today. Prizes include 4x day tickets to Victorious, Afternoon tea at The New Place Hotel, 2 x VIP at Meon Valley plus many more.



Thank you for all your help and support with the events - money raised will be going towards the school regenerating the outside areas, any and all help is greatly appreciated!
Plans are in the pipeline for this – watch this space.

Clubs after the break

 St John the Baptist Church of England Primary School After School Extra-Curricular Activities 2025-2026 Spring 2 						
Club	Teacher	Day & Time	Term	Year Group	Contribution	Location
Active-me KS2 Multi Sports	Active-me coach	Monday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 2 02/03/26 – 23/03/26	KS2	Funded by school	Playground
Dance	Belinda Langford-Butler	Tuesday 15.10 – 16.00 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 2 24/02/26 – 24/03/26	Years R, 1, 2 & 3	Book directly with Dance Kidz	Hall
Y6 Booster	Mrs Livings, Mrs Reilly, Mrs Sheppard & Miss Young	Tuesday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 2 24/02/26 – 24/03/26	Year 6 (Invite only) This will not appear on Arbor	Free	Year 6 Classroom (Kingfishers)
Rock Steady	Rock Steady coach	Wednesday afternoons, during the school day	All year round	All year groups	Book directly with Rock Steady	Music and Drama Room
Sing up choir	Mrs Walton	Wednesday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 2 25/02/26 – 25/03/26	KS2	Free	Music and Drama Room
Board Game Club	Miss Mathews	Thursday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 2 26/02/26 – 26/03/26	Years 1,2,3,4,5 & 6 (First come, first served)	Free	Year 4 Classroom (Otters)
Running Club	Mrs Thomson	Thursday 15.10 – 16.10 (Pickup from reception)	Spring 2 26/02/26 – 26/03/26	KS2	Free	Playground/field

 **Contact details for externally run clubs:**
 Dance – 07889 419 681 or Belinda@pazzazz.me
 Rock Steady – 08450 941 259 or contact@rocksteadymusicschool.com
 Some clubs are run by outside agencies, please book with the companies directly using the information above.

Dates for your diary

This term important dates:

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

5th March - World Book Day. Look forward to seeing you dressed up as your favourite book character

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

World Book Day

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





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>

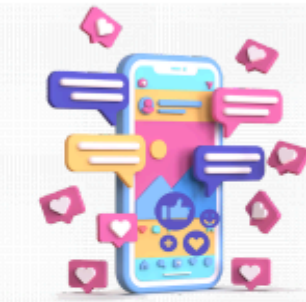
Blocking and Reporting

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/>

Room Hire

Our Community Room is furnished with a easy to move table and chairs and is easily accessible. It can host up to 8 people. From £16.50 an hour



Advertise with us

We offer various opportunities to promote your goods and services. Display your posters, banners or leaflets at a very reasonable price.

Digital Library



Spydus Library
Renew & reserve
Our library app where you can search our catalogue, reserve and renew books



BorrowBox
eBooks & audiobooks
Read e-books and listen to e-audiobooks for free. Download up to 5 at a time using your library account

These apps are **FREE**

You will need a library account to use them

Opening hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	1.00 - 5.00pm
Wednesday	9.30 - 1.30pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	1.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 1.30pm
Sunday	Closed



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Rhyme time, craft groups and so much more!



Library Service



hants.gov.uk/library

What's on for Children...

Board Games Fun

Every Friday 3.30 - 4.40

Enjoy some classic board and card games as an after school treat.

Construction Club

Every Saturday 10.00-12.00

Our Saturday construction club is a great family activity. We have a range of building blocks to suit all ages. The only limit to the creations is your imagination!



Rhyme Time

Every Tuesday 1.45 - 2.15

Join in with rhymes and actions to get your little ones moving and off to a great start on their literacy journey

Stay and Play

Every Wednesday 10.00 - 12.00

Drop-in session with toys suitable for babies up to preschoolers.



New Parent Meet and Connect

Every Tuesday 2.15 - 3.15

A perfect session for new parents and carers - a chance to meet and chat with other parents while little ones explore sensory toys.



What's on for Adults...

Knit and Natter

Alternate Wednesdays 10.00-12.00

Are you a knitter or is crochet more your thing? Perhaps you quill or even quilt. Whatever it is that gets your creativity flowing, come and join like minded crafters to share ideas, advice and friendship, while working on whatever project you have on the go.



Learning in Libraries

We also offer many free courses and workshops through our partners, Learning in Libraries.

Visit shop.hants.gov.uk to find your next interest!

Warm and Welcome

Pop in to enjoy time with a book, magazine or newspaper.

We offer free wifi and provide access to public computers.



Courage - Compassion - Creativity

From all of us at St John's - have a wonderful half term.