

The Jottings -27th 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 begin the second half of the spring term, I would like to warmly welcome all our children and families back to St John's. I hope the break offered a chance to rest and recharge, and that everyone is feeling ready for the busy and exciting weeks ahead.

Spring 2 is always a purposeful and energetic part of the year, despite being a very short half term. Across the school, children are already engaging enthusiastically with new learning, enrichment opportunities, and wider curriculum experiences. Our Year 6 pupils heading to Calshot are full of excitement, and the upcoming Year 3 and 4 show is creating a wonderful buzz. You will have received your child's curriculum overview for this half term, which outlines the key learning taking place and how you can support this at home.

A key focus for us always is attendance. Every day in school matters, and even small amounts of missed learning can have a significant impact on progress, confidence, and friendships. Good attendance is one of the strongest predictors of positive outcomes for children, and we are committed to working closely with families to support this. Thank you to everyone who ensures their child is in school, on time, and ready to learn each day — it truly makes a difference.

Please continue to check our website, Jottings, and class pages for key dates and updates throughout the term. These platforms also include curriculum information, online safety guidance, and ideas for supporting learning at home.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to a positive and productive half term together at St John the Baptist.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

Spotlight on Year 4

After a week off, Otter class has come back to school with a fantastic attitude and ready to learn.

In Maths, the children have been recapping telling the time to the nearest minute and have been using the clocks to help them with their learning. They have also been adding and subtracting different amounts of time.

In English, we have started our new writing unit. The children are writing a diary entry as either the badger or the coyote from the book 'Coyote and badger' by Bruce Hiscock and have explored different suitable vocabulary choices to include in their writing and the structures and features of a diary entry.



In P.E, the children have been working on their tennis skills. They worked in partners and were thinking about their aim and control of the ball and where they wanted it to go on the court and were further thinking and practising their control of using the racquet and the ball.



Finally, we also have also started our dance unit and are working towards our end of term school production of 'You are special' by learning the songs and dances to go with it. We are all very excited for you to come and watch it already!

Discretionary Support – Can We Help You?

Dear St John's Families,

We may be able to help you.

As a school, we receive a small education discretionary grant fund and are required to report on how we use this to support our families.

We provide this support in the form of supermarket vouchers, which can be used towards food bills, or to help offset energy and/or water bills.

If you feel you would benefit from this support, please complete the form below. The amount will be less than last time due to the overall amount we have received and we cannot guarantee the amount until the form closes. Please be assured that the information will only be seen by Mrs Livings.

Should you have any questions, please speak to her at the gate or make an appointment via the school office.

[Discretionary Grant Application \(March\)](#)

Closing date: Friday 6th March.

Going-Home Arrangements

As we move through the term, please can we remind all parents and carers to contact the school office if your child's usual going-home arrangements change.

For safeguarding reasons, this notification must come from someone with parental responsibility, not from the adult who is collecting your child.

Thank you for helping us keep all children safe at the end of the school day.

Please also ensure that you tell the office and not the adult in class in the morning as there can often be different adults in class in the afternoon.

The Boardwalk - closure will continue.

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

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

Attendance Matters



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

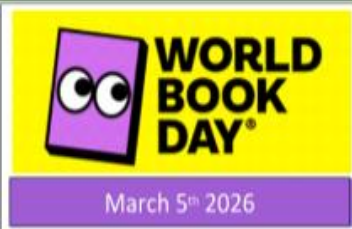
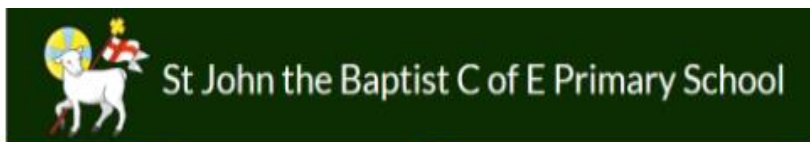
This Week:

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

Best Attendance: KS1: Frogs 99.5% (so close!) KS2: Dragonflies 100% (Well done Dragonflies)

Best Timekeepers: KS1: Tadpoles 0 late minutes KS2: Otters 0 late minutes

A reminder – World Book Day is next half term.



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.

Story Book Cinema – Thursday after school

On World Book Day, we invite children to join us for *Story Book Cinema*, where we will be showing *The Lorax*. This event will run straight after school from 3:10pm to 5:00pm for the bargain price of £1, helping us raise money towards our upcoming author visit.

Children are welcome to bring a cuddly toy and some 'movie snacks' (no nuts – thank you).



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.

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.

LEGOLAND – 19/06

PAFS have again managed to secure discounted tickets for Legoland on the June inset day – tickets are only £23 pp. Tickets only valid for inset day.

Tickets available for all events on PTA Events –

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/pafs/index.cfm>

RAFFLE TICKETS – Hopefully everyone has received their raffle tickets now after being sent home in school bags – if you would like anymore please go to the school office who have some spare and more will be on sale at the Bingo Event.

Prizes include:

4 x Tickets to Victorious Festival

30 Day pass to 365 Gym

Back neck and shoulder massages at Amelias Therapies Plus many more!

Dates for your diary

This term important dates:

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



5th March - Chartwell Menu Theme Day for World Book Day - Please see menu above

9th March - Parents evening opens on Arbor at 15.00

10th March - 13th March - Year 6 Calshot Residential

19th March - Parents evening closes on Arbor at 15.00

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" 2.15pm doors open at 2pm



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 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:

1st May 2026

19th June 2026

Advertisement for Benefice Administrator

The United Benefice of St John the Baptist Shedfield and St Nicholas, Wickham

The Rector of the United Benefice of Shedfield and Wickham is seeking a Benefice Administrator. The job will involve supporting and assisting the Rector and leaders of the two parishes including: key office/church functions and co-ordinating voluntary help/administration. Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and experience in assisting/managing with some administration ability. They should be a practising Christian as their role will include listening and talking with those who have pastoral/faith needs. In summary, the role is to help grow the discipleship and witness of the church. The job is initially expected to be for 15 hours per week, but this may increase. Flexible working arrangements will be considered.

Salary: £10,140 - £11,700 per annum (£13 - £15 per hour)

Hours of work: 15 hours per week Monday to Friday mornings, based in the Parish Office at St John the Baptist, Shedfield. Exact days/hours to be agreed and flexible working arrangements will be considered e.g. holiday/term time.

Holiday: 4 weeks per annum, pro rata plus statutory holidays

Pension: Enrolment into a Work Place Pension Scheme at contribution level to be agreed subject to a maximum of 6% of gross salary.

The appointment will require a DBS. This is a post with a genuine occupational requirement under regulation 7 of the

Job Description and Person Specification provided on request – please email
admin@stjohnthebaptistshedfield.org.uk

Application letter with CV should reach Adrian Jordan (Warden) at the church office by Sunday 15th March 2026
St John the Baptist Church, Church Road, Shedfield, Southampton SO32 2HY 01329 832162
admin@stjohnthebaptistshedfield.org.uk

Job Description and Person Specification provided on request – please email



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.knowsleyvics.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/>

Items you may be interested in

 **FACE**

March 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)

Improving Family Communication	2 Mar 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	2 Mar 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Mar 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 Mar 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Mar 10am
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	10 Mar 10am
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Mar 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Mar 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 Mar 10am
What is ACT	17 Mar 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Mar 10am
Decreasing Depression	23 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Mar 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Mar 7pm
FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance	26 Mar 7-8pm

Come and enjoy -

YOLO ?

FREE Easter Activity Day

For
 Primary School Children

Tuesday 31st March
9.30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Stories
 Drama
 Games
 Craft
 Cooking
 Pizza Lunch

Book on
<https://forms.gle/gkkEysiDUTu198Jh9>

Courage - Compassion – Creativity