

The Jottings - 2nd October 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's been another vibrant week here at St John's! We've welcomed new faces at our first open event for prospective parents, hosted a joyful "Stay and Play" session for under- 5s, and held a brilliant phonics workshop for our Year R families. Thank you to everyone who joined us, your involvement makes our community stronger and reflects the compassion at the heart of our school.

Across the school, children have been busy making thoughtful choices as they elected their new Class Ambassadors. We've also had the privilege of reading applications for Prefects and EARA representatives (Equality and Rights Advocates). It has been heart- warming to hear their voices, aspirations and ideas. The courage they have shown in putting themselves forward is something we are incredibly proud of. After careful consideration, the final decisions have now been shared, and we know our pupil leaders are going to help make big changes this year.

We're also delighted to announce our newly appointed Junior Road Safety Officers and House Captains, who will work alongside the teaching team to represent their peers and help drive positive change throughout the school. A huge thank you to every child who applied, you've demonstrated remarkable courage, leadership and commitment, and your creativity in sharing your ideas has shone through.

This week, we have also been getting into classes, not just teaching, but working closely with staff on our School Development Plan and how we are supporting all children, all of the time. We have fantastic teaching staff here at St John's who work hard every day to ensure every moment counts. Their compassion for your children, their courage in continually refining their practice, and their creativity in the classroom are what make our school such a special place.

Our plea for volunteers has also been answered, and we are delighted to welcome James Hammond and Adam Jowett into school to share their coaching skills with our children. As always, volunteers are an invaluable resource in our community, and we thank them all sincerely for their time and commitment. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office, who can guide you through the process.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

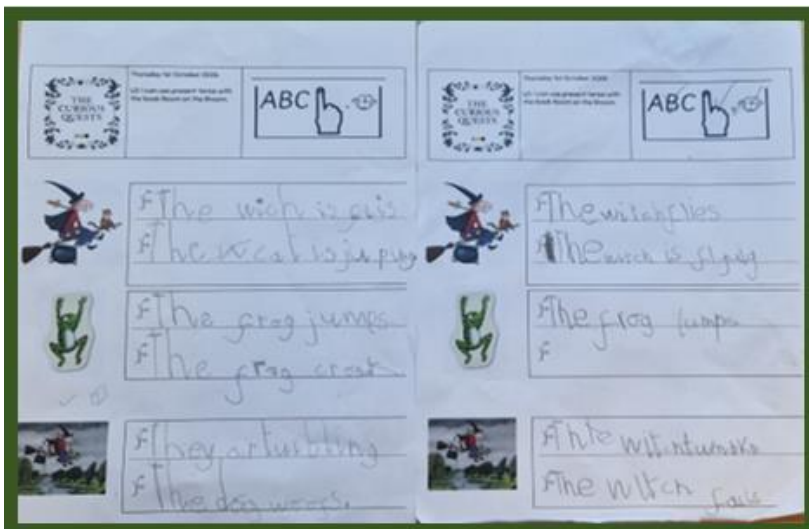
In the Spotlight - Year 1

This Week in Year 1

We have had a wonderful and exciting week of learning in Year 1!

In English, we have been going on an exciting adventure with the witch from *Room on the Broom*. We have been developing our use of adjectives to help us describe characters in more detail. We have also been practising using our magical conjunction “and” to join ideas and make our sentences more interesting.

In Maths, we have been learning how to compare and measure lengths. We have been using the mathematical vocabulary “longer,” “shorter,” and “the same length” to compare different objects. We have also been measuring and comparing lengths using Multilink cubes, helping us to develop our understanding of measurement in a practical and hands-on way.



In RE, we have been thinking about what makes the world special to us. The children have shared their ideas and created drawings to show the things they value and appreciate about our wonderful world.

It has been a fantastic week of learning, and we are very proud of all the enthusiasm and effort the children have shown. Well done, Year 1!

Cross Country success

A massive congratulations to the 11, year 5 and 6 children who participate in the cross country at Swanmore this week. They showed huge courage in a field of 250 children. We are extremely proud of them.

A Huge Thank You!

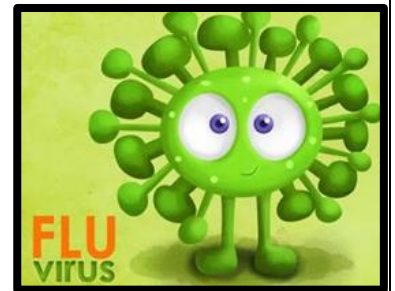
Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our phonics worship with Mrs Graham today. It was lovely to have you with us and to share the children's learning together.

Flu Vaccine

Flu Vaccine 30th November

The vaccine protects against flu, which can cause serious health problems such as bronchitis and pneumonia. It is recommended for children from Reception to Year 11 every year. Find out more about the children's flu vaccine on NHS.UK.

More information and consent forms to follow soon.



Harvest Time

Thank you for the donations so far....

Harvest Donations for Southampton City Mission

Monday 28th September - Friday 2nd October

Non-Perishable food and toiletries only.

Please check the dates.



Our donation station can be found outside reception.



As we head into autumn, it's important to stay active and spend time outdoors whenever possible. To encourage this, Hampshire County Council's Travel Planning Team is inviting schools to take part in Walktober 2026 as part of International Walk to School Month.

Walktober encourages pupils, families and staff to choose active and sustainable travel throughout October.

We hope as many of our pupils, families and staff as possible will take part by walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, using Park and Stride or travelling by public transport for journeys to and from school, work and for other journeys too.

Top Tips, More Trips

As part of Walktober 2026, we are inviting pupils, families and staff to share their top tips for active and sustainable travel. Tell us

about your journeys and share practical ideas to inspire others to walk, wheel, cycle, scoot, use Park and Stride or travel by public transport more often.

Whether you regularly travel in an active and sustainable way or, as part of Walktober, decide to try it for the first time, we'd love you to share your top tips!

Your journeys could include travelling to or from school or work, a local walking or wheeling trip during the school or working day, a journey made using public transport, or an active trip taken in your leisure time.

Your Top Tips, More Trips entry can be in any format, such as a report, poem, rap, photo collage, presentation, blog, podcast or diary. Be as creative as you like!

Every eligible entry from staff, pupils, parents and carers counts towards our school's Walktober total. The school with the highest number of eligible entries, relative to school size, will be crowned the Walktober 2026 winner. The winning school will be able to choose from a range of exciting prizes that support outdoor exploration and learning, including wildlife and nature resources, gardening equipment, vouchers and more.

Pupil entries will also be entered into the pupil competition for a chance to win books, nature-themed games, outdoor exploration kits, vouchers and other great prizes.



Rotary
Club of Bishop's Waltham

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2026

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

The instructions are in the leaflet, but in addition:

You can do a box or more, please do one that would give you the most pleasure or that you would like to receive, but if you are unsure, these are the preferences from last year, which may help your decision:

1-3 years	Boy	17
1-3 years	Girl	20
4-7 years	Boy	63
4-7 years	Girl	109
8-11 years	Boy	39
8-11 years	Girl	94
11-15 years	Boy	63
11-15 years	Girl	60

We can only accept the Shoe Boxes we provide as they are size controlled to fit into the packing cases. Once all received, they are checked and packed into cartons, delivered to the Transport Company along with all the other Boxes from Rotary Groups in the area, last year we achieved 19,000 and then shipped and delivered to Rotary Clubs in Ukraine (via Poland), Moldova, Montenegro and Romania for distribution to all the children via Schools, Clubs and Charities.

If you are unable to do a box, but have new or in as new condition items, we are happy to take these as well as we sometimes need to add a few items to boxes when we check them all

If you can please decorate the box with Christmas pictures, drawings or stickers and if you can add the £2 for transport costs, that really helps.

Please don't hesitate to contact us via our website www.bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk or email debbie.walker@bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk or call 07785 577801

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR MAKING A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

The Rotary Club of Bishop's Waltham Charity Trust is a Registered Charity Number 1032602

Shoe boxes and leaflets giving all information can be picked up from the school office.

Shoe boxes are being sent to children in Ukraine to help give them a great Christmas

This half term:

1 October - Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
2 October - Year R Parents workshop & stay and play (9.00 - 10.00)
6 October - Tag Rugby (3.30 - 5.00)
7 October - Open session (9.30 - 10.30)
13 October - SEND coffee afternoon
14 October - Year 6 Educational visit
14 October - Shoebox appeal - boxes in please
16 October - Open session (9.30 - 10.30)
20 October - Open session (1.15 - 2.15)
22 October tbc - Community Hub (9.00 - 10.00)
23 October - INSET Day, school closed to children for staff training
26 - 30 October - HALF TERM, school closed
5 November - Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers (9.00 - 10.00)
6 November - Kinetic Letters workshop and Stay and Play (9 - 9.45)
11 November - Open session (9.30 - 10.30)
23 November - Open session (5.00 - 6.00)
30 November - Flu Vaccine
3 December - Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers (9.00-10.00)
3 December - Christmas Disco
4 December - Christmas shop
9 December - Rock Steady Concert to parents (2.00 - 3.00)
15 December - School Carol Service at St John's church (6.00 - 7.00)
6 January - Open sessions (9.30 - 10.30)
7 January - Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers (9.00-10.00)
4 February - Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers (9.00-10.00)
11 February - None School Uniform (to raise money for the colour run)
22 February - 5 March - Coin wars
4 March - Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers (9.00-10.00)
19 March - Easter Trail
23 April - Games Night (Adults only)
6 May - Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers (9.00-10.00)
2 July - Colour Run

** If you would like to volunteer for any of the events please contact PAFS pafswalthamchase@gmail.com **



INSET dates 2026-2027

- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Friday 12th February 2027
- Friday 25th June 2027



Online Safety Newsletter

October 2026

CapCut

CapCut is a video editing app. Their services are intended for those over the age of 13 (those under the age of 18 must have consent from their parent/legal guardian). It is rated as 13+ on the App store.

What can I do on CapCut?

CapCut is used as a video and image editing tool allowing users to edit their videos/ images as well as add music, sound effects, text and stickers.

What should I be aware of?

- The templates are user generated, therefore they may not always be appropriate for your child to view, for example may contain adult themes.
- CapCut includes access to a library of music that may include explicit lyrics.
- Premium content – CapCut does include in-app purchases/monthly subscriptions to allow users access to premium content.

Further information

Wayne Denner provides further information about the social side of CapCut including a comments section. <https://www.waynedenner.com/capcut-parents-guide/>

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

AI companions

What are AI companions?

AI companions are artificial intelligence services designed to interact with users to simulate friendship or romantic relationships. There are many different AI companions available, accessible via apps or websites. **Many of these apps are intended for adults and have an age rating of 18+.**



Why are children using AI companions?

There are many reasons a child might want to use an AI companion, including:

- To ask advice and questions that they may be embarrassed to ask another person. It may be easier to talk to an AI companion, so it is imperative children understand the difference between AI and real people.
- They feel lonely and are looking for friendship.
- Children may just be curious and want to try new technology.

What should I be aware of?

- **Age restrictions:** it is important to check the age rating to see if it is appropriate for your child.
- **Inappropriate content:** there is often a lack of moderation so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- **Emotional dependence:** AI companions are designed to act as a friend, encouraging an emotional dependence. This may lead to your child becoming over reliant on the service. A chatbot should never replace a parent, a medical professional or other trusted adult.
- **Relationships:** repeated use of AI may influence a child's understanding of relationships and consent in real life.
- **Privacy and personal information:** children should not share personal or confidential information with AI companions.

What can I do?

- Check the age rating and any privacy settings.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- It is crucial to have regular conversations with your child about the risks outlined above and about what they are doing online. Ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ai-chatbots-and-virtual-friends-how-parents-can-keep-children-safe/>

Discord

Discord is a social networking app originally designed for gamers, but is now used by lots of different people to **chat to each other online**. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. **The App store rates it as 17+.**

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server, and it can be set as either public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups. Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat whilst playing the game (**rather than using the game's own chat facility**). In-app purchases are available through Discord's subscription service called Nitro.



How can I make it safer?

Discord have created a Family Centre, which provides further information about what Discord is, as well as information about different safety settings available:

<https://discord.com/safety-family-center>

As always, we would encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use Discord and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. **Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord, as well as inappropriate language.** Discord have produced this article, which answers frequent questions:

<https://discord.com/safety-library>

5 fun online activities

Whilst we must be aware of the negative aspects of the internet, it's also important to remember that it can also be a great place to have fun or learn something new as a family. Why not try the following?



1. Play a game together.
2. Take a family quiz – it could be around the topic of online safety (e.g. from Childnet) or you could use Kahoot to create your own.
3. Learn something new – explore BBC Bitesize, National Geographic Kids or Khan Academy.
4. Create something – make a digital drawing or video.
5. Read an Audio book.

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.10.20. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

Doki Doki Literature Club

Doki Doki Literature Club is a game that, due to its cartoon anime appearance, may appear to be a game suitable for all. However, as the game progresses, it contains much darker and potentially distressing themes. The game includes references to suicide, self-harm and death.

The App store rates it as 18+ as it has cartoon or fantasy violence and horror/fear themes as well as infrequent profanity and crude humour. The game is described as psychological horror. You should also be aware that the app also includes in app purchases.

The game's own website also states that it "is not suitable for children or those who are easily disturbed."

Please ensure you have set up appropriate parental controls on any devices and platforms that your child uses to ensure they can't access games that are not suitable for their age.

Happy Tree Friends

Happy Tree Friends is another animated series that might look harmless because of its cartoon graphics, but the programme contains violence, death and blood. Clips of Happy Tree Friends are also circulating on social media platforms.

As above, we would recommend that you have set up appropriate parental controls to limit exposure to content like this. Also, chat to your child about what they are watching online and ensure they know that if they do see something online that upsets them, then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information:

<https://www.common sense media.org/website-reviews/happy-tree-friends>



OCTOBER ACTIVITY CLUB

Fareham Academy
St Anne's Grove, PO14 1JJ

8:30AM - 4:30PM
26TH OCTOBER - 30TH OCTOBER

Our holiday courses give children from Year R to Year 9 the ideal blend of play and structure. With safety and enjoyment always in mind, every day is designed to keep children active and engaged.

£26 PER DAY
MULTIPLE DAY DISCOUNT

- ✓ CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED
- ✓ QUALIFIED PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID
- ✓ DBS CERTIFICATED
- ✓ REGISTERED BY OFSTED
- ✓ CHILD PROTECTION TRAINED

www.cm-sports.co.uk



LIGHTHOUSE CLUB LIGHT PARTY

Thursday 29th October 09:30-12:30
WALTHAM CHASE METHODIST CHURCH

GET READY FOR A FUN-FILLED SESSION
PACKED WITH GAMES, COOKING, CRAFT
AND MORE

£3.00 PER CHILD AGED 5-11 YEARS
TO BOOK A SPACE
CONTACT: ANOUSKA@CHASEMETHODIST.ORG
TEL: 07875218141

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- Our dedicated team of educators are passionate about helping your child grow and thrive.
- Excellent Wrap around care, open 7.30am-6.00pm



APPLY FROM 1ST NOV 2026

Book your visit to see our school in action, meet our Headteacher & Early Years team.

OPEN SESSIONS

Tuesday 29th September 9.30-10.30
Wednesday 7th October 9.30-10.30
Friday 16th October 9.30-10.30
Tuesday 20th October 1.15-2.15pm
Wednesday 11th November 9.30-10.30
Monday 23rd November 5.00-6.00pm
Wednesday 6th January 9.30-10.30

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





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PACKED WITH FOOTBALL, FITNESS AND
FRIENDSHIP FOR KIDS OF ALL ABILITIES
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SCAN HERE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT JOSH NACE AT jnace@eastleighfc.com**



Hampshire SENDIASS Online Workshops

- Free impartial advice relating to SEND for 0-25 years.
- Confidential sessions not recorded.
- Peer support, talking to others experiencing a similar journey.
- A dedicated session with an experienced support worker

**9
OCT
13:00**

Considering an EHC Plan?
Independent and
impartial information to
guide you through the
process

**13
OCT
13:00**

Responding to a draft
EHCP
If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**14
OCT
17:30**

Appeals to SEND Tribunal
A step-by-step guide
through the appeals
process

**20
OCT
13:00**

Ordinarily Available
Provision and SEN Support
Looking at support
available for those who do
not have an EHCP

**28
OCT
10:00**

Responding to a draft
EHCP
If you are in that critical
time frame having
received your draft

**21
OCT
16:00**

Alternative Provision
What constitutes as a
suitable education in
relation to section 19 of
the education act

www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops

*Have a good weekend.
Courage - Compassion – Creativity*