

The Jottings - 9th 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,

As we move further into the term, I am continually impressed by the enthusiasm, curiosity and determination our children are showing in their learning. Across the school, classrooms are buzzing with discussion, creativity and a love of discovery, and it is a pleasure to see our children embracing new challenges each day.

One area that remains a key priority for us is reading. Reading opens the door to the entire curriculum and plays a vital role in children's academic success, confidence and wellbeing. Through reading, children build knowledge, develop vocabulary, expand their imagination and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

We are committed to fostering a genuine love of reading at St John's. Whether children are sharing stories in Early Years, developing fluency in Key Stage 1 or exploring increasingly complex texts in Key Stage 2, we want every child to see themselves as a reader and to experience the joy that books can bring.

Thank you for the support you provide at home. Research consistently shows that regular reading practice has a significant impact on children's progress. Just ten minutes of reading each day, sharing a story together, discussing a book, or asking questions about what your child has read can make a real difference. These moments not only strengthen reading skills but also create valuable opportunities for conversation, connection and learning.

Alongside reading, we continue to encourage children to develop positive learning habits. Resilience, independence, curiosity and a willingness to learn from mistakes are all qualities that help children thrive both in school and beyond. We celebrate effort as well as achievement and encourage our pupils to approach challenges with courage and determination.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

In the Spotlight

This Week it is Year 2!

Year 2 has been incredibly busy this week as they continued their mission to solve the mystery of the classroom mess! In English, the children wrote postcards to the office in the hope of uncovering clues. They were thrilled when they received a letter from Duncan asking for their help and have enthusiastically begun planning persuasive letters to convince the crayons to return home.

In DT, the children have been designing and creating moving pictures inspired by *The Colour Monster*, which they are looking forward to sharing with Year 1 next week. They also thoroughly enjoyed welcoming Year 3 into the classroom to showcase their English learning.

In Maths, the children have been investigating the addition and subtraction of multiples of ten, identifying patterns and making connections within their learning. They have also begun exploring length and measure, enjoying practical, hands-on activities, including measuring objects around the school grounds.

In Geography, the children have been developing their understanding of the locality of our school and learning how to use a compass to navigate. Meanwhile, in our Happy Minds sessions, the children reflected on the benefits of happy breathing, sharing that it helps them feel calm, focused and ready to learn.

It has been another fantastic week of enthusiastic learning, curiosity and teamwork in Year 2!



Online Safety Newsletter

Please find below the link to the recording and presentation of the Parent/Carer session that took place recently with Knowsley Council Online Safeguarding Team:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WUXtaCvNbI_FAYMLnuyCgO9M4IV2NBj8?usp=sharing

Knowsley Council have also embedded a copy of the video on their website for those who would prefer to watch it via a browser or share this link:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-parent-carer-session-sept-2026/>



Online Safety Newsletter

October 2026

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 Center, 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>



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>

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/>

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/>



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.

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

Learning in Action

As you know, the partnership between home and school is incredibly important to us. We are so grateful for the many ways you support our school community, whether through volunteering, attending trips, supporting PAFS events, or simply taking an active interest in your child's learning.

We believe that children achieve their very best when parents and school work together. It is wonderful when you know what your child is learning, how they learn, and how you can support them at home.

With this in mind, we are delighted to announce that our **Learning in Action** sessions are returning this term.

Save the Date

	Learning	in	Action
KS1 	Tuesday	20th	October
 9:00am to 9:45am			
KS2 	Wednesday	21st	October
 9:00am to 9:45am			



These sessions provide a fantastic opportunity to come into school, spend time in the classroom, and see learning taking place first-hand. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the wonderful experiences our children enjoy each day.

For our Reception families, Learning in Action will look a little different this year. As the children continue to settle into school life, and because we already invite parents into school for Phonics and Kinetic Letters sessions, these are/will be our Learning in Action opportunities for YR. These sessions provide a wonderful chance to see your child's early reading and writing skills developing and to learn more about how we support them on their learning journey.

As you know, our classrooms are quite cosy spaces and, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate siblings during these sessions.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing learning with you.

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 on the items.

Our donation station can be found in the Foyer..

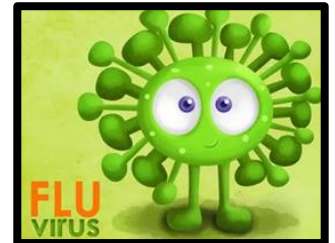


Flu Vaccinations

School Age Immunisation Service - Parent Newsletter

Annual Flu Vaccination Programme

All children are eligible to receive the flu vaccine. Parents and carers are sent a link to the online consent form between September and November, ahead of the school vaccination session.



The vaccine is usually given as a nasal spray. For children who cannot have the nasal spray due to medical or religious reasons, a porcine-free injectable vaccine is available. Details about how to request this are included on the electronic consent form.

Why should I get my child vaccinated? Flu is a highly infectious illness that children can catch and spread easily. For many children, flu can be very unpleasant and may lead to complications such as ear infections, bronchitis, or pneumonia. In some cases, it can result in serious illness requiring hospital treatment.

Vaccinating your child not only helps protect them from flu but also reduces the spread of the virus to others who may be more vulnerable to serious illness, including babies, pregnant women, older adults, and those with long-term health conditions.

What if my child misses their school vaccination session? If you provide consent for your child to receive the flu vaccine and they are absent on the day of the school session, you will automatically receive an email inviting you to book an appointment at a local community clinic, ensuring your child still has the opportunity to be vaccinated.

It's not too late to complete the consent form. Even if your child's school vaccination session has already taken place, submitting a form now will allow you to book an appointment at a local community clinic.

For contact details and further information about the School Aged Immunisation Service and the vaccination programmes offered, please visit:

<https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/hampshire/collections/school-age-immunisation-service/>

This half term:

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 - 9am Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
5 November - Special Let's Rocket lunch to celebrate Bonfire Night
11 November - Open session (9.30 - 10.30)
23 November - Open session (5 - 6pm)
30 November - Whole School immunisations
3 December - 9am Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
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 (5.00 - 6.00)
6 January - Open sessions (9.30 - 10.30)
7 January - 9am Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
4 February - 9am Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
11 February - None school Uniform (to raise money for the colour run)
22 February - 5 March - Coin wars
4 March - 9am Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
19 March - Easter Trail
23 April - Games Night (Adults only)
6 May - 9am Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
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

Thank you for all the kind uniform donations. Can we please ask that all donated uniform is **clean and in good condition - no holes please.**



AGM in November - More details to follow





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



EASTLEIGH FC IN THE COMMUNITY AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

ST JOHNS THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL



OPEN TO:

- YEAR 3+4
- BOYS AND
GIRLS

FUN FILLED AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
PACKED WITH FOOTBALL, FITNESS AND
FRIENDSHIP FOR KIDS OF ALL ABILITIES
JUST £6 A SESSION!

LIMITED
SPACES
AVAILABLE



SCAN HERE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE

CONTACT JOSH NAGE AT jnage@eastleighfc.com



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 EHC

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

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.'

- Discover a world of wonder and learning at our fantastic primary school!
- 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

COURAGE, COMPASSION, CREATIVITY.

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



Have a good weekend.
Courage - Compassion – Creativity