

The Jottings - 16th 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,

What a fantastic week it has been at St John's! Our children have enjoyed a wealth of enrichment opportunities, including Year 3's visit to the church and Year 6's visit to the Mary Rose. These experiences are an important part of our curriculum and help bring learning to life in meaningful and memorable ways.

Enrichment is about providing children with opportunities beyond the classroom that deepen their understanding, build cultural capital and create lasting memories. Whether through educational visits, visitors, performances or hands-on experiences, enrichment helps children make connections between their learning and the wider world. We know that when children experience learning in different contexts, it becomes more memorable and is more likely to "stick", supporting both their understanding and long-term retention of knowledge.

It has been wonderful to hear the excitement and enthusiasm from pupils as they have shared what they have learned from these experiences. Opportunities such as these help to spark curiosity, develop confidence and inspire a love of learning.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to our families for their incredibly generous Harvest donations for Southampton City Mission. Your kindness and support will make a real difference to families and individuals in our local community. Our children showed great compassion through their giving, living out our school values in a meaningful way.

Next week will also be Mrs Mullen's final week at St John's as she leaves us to continue her valuable work supporting children and families within Children's Services. I know many families will join me in thanking Mrs Mullen for the tremendous contribution she has made to our school community. Throughout her time at St John's, she has worked tirelessly to support children and families, always showing kindness, compassion and dedication. Whilst we will miss her greatly, we are proud that she will continue making a positive difference to the lives of children and families across the wider community. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role.

We also look forward to welcoming families into school next week for our **Learning in Action** sessions. These provide a wonderful opportunity to see your child's learning first-hand and experience some of the approaches we use in school.

Learning in Action Sessions

- **Key Stage 1:** Tuesday, 9:00am to 9:45am
- **Key Stage 2:** Wednesday, 9:00am to 9:45am

We hope as many families as possible will be able to join us.

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

Rebecca Livings
Headteacher

In the Spotlight

Year 3 has enjoyed a very productive and insightful week of learning!

On Monday, the children arrived at school to discover a large spider's web and a spider on one of our classroom windows, along with a message from the spider asking for help! This exciting discovery introduced us to our new class text, *Charlotte's Web*. The children have been using the characters Wilbur and Charlotte to write sentences containing subordinating conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions.

In Maths, the children have been applying their knowledge of addition and subtraction strategies to solve a range of word problems, developing their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

On Tuesday, the children enjoyed a walk to St John the Baptist Church in Shedfield to help answer our big History question: *How did our school get its name?* During the visit, they listened to members of the local community share their knowledge of the church and the village's previous school. The children also explored the Roll of Honour and learned about the sites of the former church and school. One particularly exciting discovery was a lamb with a halo in a stained-glass window, which inspired our school logo!

In Science, the children have continued learning about the human body, focusing on bones and muscles. To bring their learning to life, they created models of hands to demonstrate their understanding of how bones, muscles and tendons work together to help us move.

Well done, Year 3, for another fantastic week of learning and discovery!



INSET DAY REMINDER

INSET Reminder

We are closed for staff training on Friday 23rd October.

Football

Year 5 and 6 girls showed tremendous courage in their football tournament at Deer Park. They won two, drew two and lost two matches. All the girls showed determination and fantastic teamwork. We are very proud of you!

Parent Governor Vacancy – Did you see our letter?

Dear St John's Families,

I am writing to share that we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our Governing Board and would be delighted to hear from any parent or carer who is interested in becoming more involved in the life of our school.

Being a Parent Governor is a rewarding opportunity to make a positive difference to the school community, support our children and help shape the future of St John the Baptist Primary School. Governors work closely with school leaders to provide support, challenge and strategic direction, helping to ensure that every child receives the very best education and has the opportunity to flourish.

The Governing Board has three key responsibilities:

- Ensuring the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the school's finances and ensuring that resources are used wisely and effectively.

At St John the Baptist, our values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity underpin all that we do. We are looking for someone who shares these values and is passionate about helping every child thrive academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. You do not need any special qualifications or previous experience to become a governor. The most important qualities are enthusiasm, a willingness to learn and a commitment to supporting our school community. Full training and ongoing support will be provided.

The role offers a wonderful opportunity to develop new skills, gain a deeper understanding of school leadership and governance, and contribute to the continued success of our school. The Governing Board meets several times throughout the year, and governors work together to ensure the very best outcomes for all our children.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the school office and I would be very happy to speak with you about the role, answer any questions and explain the application process.

Applications (election statements) must be received by 12.00 noon on Friday 23 October.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our school community. Parent Governors bring valuable perspectives and experiences, and your contribution could make a real difference to the future of our school.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher, St John the Baptist Primary School

This half term:

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
27 – 29 October Road Works on Solomons Lane
5 November - 9am Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
5 November - Special Let's Rocket lunch to celebrate Bonfire Night
10 November - AGM 7pm
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 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 thank you.



AGM 10th November 7pm

 PAFS SAVE THE DATE DATES FOR THE DIARY	
 Christmas Disco	Thurs 3rd Dec
 Christmas Shop	Fri 4th Dec
 Wear Red/Non Uniform (TBC)	11 Feb
 Coin Wars	22 Feb – 5 Mar
 Easter Egg Hunt	Fri 19th Mar
 Quiz Night	Fri 23rd April
 Legoland/Theme Park (TBC)	Fri 25th June
 Colour Run	Fri 2nd July
2026–2027	



EASTLEIGH FC IN THE COMMUNITY AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL
EVERY WEDNESDAY, 15:10-16:10PM

OPEN TO:

- YEAR 2
- YEAR 3
- YEAR 4

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT JOSH NAGE AT [JNAGE@EASTLEIGHFC.COM](mailto:jnage@eastleighfc.com)



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



Aged 4 & in Yr 7? **IT'S FREE!!** £28 per day 9am-4pm extended hours available For ages 4-13

THIS HALF TERM: 26-30 OCT

COLOURBURST
SPORTS CARNIVAL

ColourBurst Multi-Sports, Football & Dance Carnival holiday camps.

FIVE DAYS OF SPORT, FUN, ACTIVITY, FRIENDSHIP & TEAMWORK.
At Swanmore College

- Multi Sports**
Try a range of fun sports & activities every day
- Dance**
5 days of Street Dance & -POP, hip-hop, Pop Party & grime art!
- Mini Campers**
Our free Multi-sports pump, for little ones! (ages 4-6 & 7-9)
- Football**
Play Like A Pro with our FIFA qualified coaches, learning techniques, ball skills & game strategies

See over for more details about our dance and football camps

FIND OUT MORE & BOOK NOW!!
Scan the QR or visit activeme360.com for more information

*Have a good weekend
Courage - Compassion – Creativity*