

The Jottings - 11th September 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,

This week has been full of learning launches and there has been a purposeful buzz across school. Children have already enjoyed collective worship with Reverend Jill and our Open the Book team, they have explored the new developments on the playground, and they have risen brilliantly to the high expectations set by their teachers.

A very warm welcome to our new Year R children and families, who started full-time this week. They have settled beautifully, and it has been wonderful to see them already becoming part of the SJTB community.

We have also been talking with the children about their rights, using these as a reference point in class discussions. This has provided a strong foundation for launching this year's pupil voice groups, including our Prefects (Y2 & Y6), House Captains (Y2 & Y6), Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs), Class Ambassadors, and—new for this year—our Equality and Rights Advocates (EARA Group). We have explained to the children what each group does and how they will contribute to active change and the continued growth of our school. We are genuinely excited to see their leadership flourish.

If your child wishes to be considered for the role of House Captain, they will need to write a letter to Miss Mace. For a possible JRSO position, letters should be addressed to Miss Young. Class Ambassadors will be elected within classes. For Prefects and the EARA Group, children will need to complete the application form provided by class teachers.

All letters and applications need to be submitted by Friday 18th. New groups will be announced the following week. Finally, thank you for ensuring your children are in school on time and ready for learning each day. Your support makes a real difference to the purposeful start we have seen across SJTB this week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Rebecca Livings
Headteacher

Are you in receipt of Universal Credit?

We have shared this before, but rules around eligibility for **Free School Meals** have recently changed. Any children from households in receipt of **Universal Credit** can now register for Free School Meals. If you haven't yet checked your child's eligibility, you can do so quickly and easily online at <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>, or you can contact the **school office** who can complete this check for you (you will need your National Insurance number). This can be done at any point during the school year. We always deal with such enquiries discreetly, and even your child does not need to know that their meals are free.

If your household receives Universal Credit and has a **net income of less than £7,400**, the school is also able to claim additional funding called **Pupil Premium**. This funding has previously supported a range of provision across the school, including additional **ELSA hours**, our **Home School Link Worker**, speech and language support, and targeted learning interventions. Children eligible for Pupil Premium also receive a **£30 school uniform credit** with our main supplier each academic year, provided they remain eligible for Free School Meals.

Due to changes in Pupil Premium eligibility this September, we are expecting our funding to reduce significantly. It is therefore really important that any families who are eligible do register, even if your child already receives **Universal Infant Free School Meals in Year R, Year 1 or Year 2**.

Home Learning and Reading Challenge

Well done to all those who kept reading over the summer, and to those who completed the **Summer Reading Challenge** — you will be invited to a celebration treat soon.

This week we sent home information about this year's home learning model. It has been wonderful to receive so many positive comments about the launch, particularly around the consistency and achievability of the tasks.

Please remember that in KS2 it is still excellent practice to hear your child read, and to sign off their reads on the homework sheet. Year R and KS1 will have received their half-term reading log, launching our reading challenge badges for this year.

Research shows that children and young people who enjoy reading, and who read regularly at home, are far more likely to experience success at the end of secondary school. It is definitely worth helping your child build good reading habits now, as it will benefit them for life.

Y6 Parents

We have already sent out information on how to apply for your child's secondary school place if they are currently in Year 6. We would like to remind Y6 parents that you will need to make your choice regarding which secondary school you would like your child to attend by 31st October 2026. The online admissions form is now open and can be accessed here [School admissions | Education and Learning | Hampshire County Council](#)

We will send out information regarding open days and events for local secondary schools via Arbor, and we also recommend that parents check the relevant school websites for the most up-to-date details on open days and meetings to support you in making an informed choice for your child.

We need your old pots, pans and dress-up outfits

We need your old pots, pans and dress-up outfits!

We are continually developing our curriculum and wider education offer, and this extends to play and lunchtimes. You will have seen that we began with the Year R space and playground last year, and have now extended into the KS1 top playground, building the new sand pit and, soon, a new mud kitchen. These developments support children's play, helping them to build social interactions, work together and enjoy an important part of school life.

To go with our mud kitchen, we are looking for **pots, pans and stirrers** (e.g. whisks or wooden spoons). If you have any and are happy to donate them, we would be pleased to take them off you — **no glass items please**.

Similarly, the KS1 space now has the new cabin, and some children are very keen on role play. Unfortunately, dress-up clothes do not last long outside, so we are in need of more. If you have dress-up outfits your child no longer wears, we would be happy to receive them. *(We are looking for sizes 6–8.)*

Finally, thank you for the offer of other donations. However, we cannot always accept items if the school does not have a need (or the space), so please call ahead to check whether it is something we can make use of.

Volunteering - Want to get involved?

At **SJTB**, we greatly value the contribution of volunteers, and there are lots of different ways to get involved. If you are interested, please contact the school office if you would like to find out more or talk through the different ways you can support the school.

Please be aware that all volunteers are subject to a **DBS check**, which we can arrange through the school office.

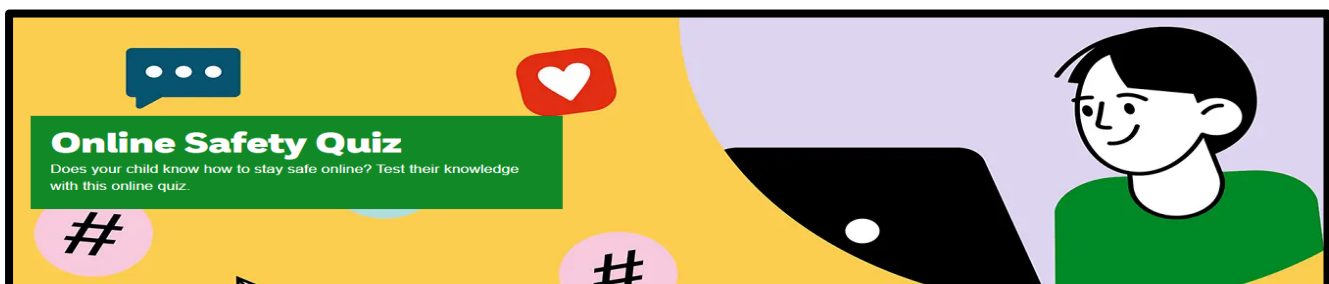
As well as parent volunteers, we also welcome contact from **grandparents** or **retired members of the community** who would like to get involved. Inter-generational contact is valuable for both young and older people, so please do pass on the link above if you know someone who may be interested.



Safeguarding Matters: staying safe online newsletter

I hope you were able to access the first of our **e-safety newsletters**, which was sent out last week. These newsletters are provided regularly throughout the year to help parents stay up to date with online safety.

If you have older children, we encourage you to look at the **NSPCC online safety quiz** featured in the latest edition. This quiz is designed to help parents find out what their children know about keeping safe online and to open up helpful conversations at home. You can access the quiz by following the link [Online safety quiz | NSPCC](#)



This half term:

14/15 September - Year 6 Bikeability
17 September - Year R Teddy Bears picnic (3.15 - 4.15)
21 September - Volunteers Afternoon Tea, by invitation (2.00 - 3.00)
22 September - Football at Swanmore Primary (3.30 - 5.00)
23 September tbc - Flu Immunisation, whole school
1 October - Stay and Play for Pre-schoolers and Toddlers
2 October – Year R Phonics workshop (9.00 – 10.00)
6 October - Tag Rugby at Droxford Junior School
13 October - SEND coffee afternoon
14 October - Year 6 Educational visit to The Mary Rose
22 October - Community Hub (9.00 - 10.00)
23 October - INSET Day, school closed to children for staff training
26 - 30 October - HALF TERM, school closed

INSET dates 2026-2027:

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

Uniform & Lunchbox Reminder

Following this week, we wanted to remind parents that we encourage **healthy lunchboxes**. This includes **no chocolate bars**.

Break time should be a **healthy fruit or vegetable-based snack**. KS1 and Year R have fruit/veg provided as their snack; **KS2 children need to bring their own**.

Food bins are available on the playground and in the dinner hall for food waste; however, **wrappers will come home**.

Finally, we do have children and staff in school with **nut allergies**, so we are a **nut-free school**. Please help us keep everyone safe by ensuring that no items containing nuts are brought into school.

Please ensure your child continues to come to school in the **appropriate P.E. kit**, ready for their PE/Games lessons. Football shirts are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn on P.E. days. No football tops.

Many thanks for your support.



If it is your child's birthday, they are allowed to wear what they want on that day, or if it falls on a weekend or during a holiday, their own clothes can be worn the day before or after the break.

YR Parents Workshops & Stay-and-Play Sessions at St John's

Mrs Graham will be running a series of workshops and stay-and-play sessions for Year R parents, as well as families who have recently joined Key Stage 1. These sessions will help you understand how best to support your child's progress with **phonics** and **handwriting**.

YR Phonics Parents Workshop & Stay-and-Play

Friday 2nd October 2026 — 9:00–10:00am

Join us in the **Music Room** for an introduction to the *Bug Club Phonics* scheme and practical ways you can support your child at home.

After the workshop, Year R parents will be invited to **Tadpoles Class** for some phonics fun with their child.

Families new to St John's with children in Year 1 or Year 2 are warmly welcome to attend the phonics workshop from **9:00–9:30am** in the Music Room. Please note: there will not be an opportunity to visit your child's class on this occasion.

YR Kinetic Letters Parents Workshop & Stay-and-Play

Friday 9th November 2026 — 9:00–9:45am

We will begin in the **Music Room** with an introduction to our handwriting approach from Year R. You will learn how to support your child with:

- building core strength
- developing a tripod pencil grip
- forming letters correctly using the *Kinetic Letters* scheme

Year R parents will then join their children in **Tadpoles Class** to explore early writing skills together.

Families new to St John's with children in Year 1 or Year 2 are welcome to attend the workshop from **9:00–9:30am** in the Music Room. Please note: there will not be an opportunity to visit your child's class on this occasion.

Does your child enjoy singing?

Hampshire County Youth Choirs are opening their doors to invite potential members to our open rehearsal and come and sing alongside their current singers.

With choirs for everyone from Year 2 to Year 13, this is the opportunity for children and young people who love to sing to come and find out more about what we do, with the view to join us.

The evening will end with a showing to parents and a chance to meet the Directors.

Friday 11th September 2026

The United Church, Jewry St, Winchester

5.00pm – 7.00pm – Hampshire County Youth Show Choir

5.15pm – 6.30pm – Hampshire County Junior Choir

Concert to parents at 6.30pm

7.30pm – 9.00pm – Hampshire County Youth Choir

7.30pm – 8.45pm – Hampshire County Youth Crescendo Choir

Concert to parents at 8.45pm

To find out more and to sign up, please use the link:

[SpeedAdmin](#)

*If your child is in Years R, 1, 2 or 3, read on...,
My name is Belinda and I run an after school
dance club at this fabulous school on a Tuesday.*

The club is called Dance Kidz

*I have some spaces for this next term and I'm
reaching out to new parents of year R and any
parents with children up to and including year 3
whose children would love to dance?*

*We dance to modern tracks, party favourites and
a variety of styles of music. It's a fun class that
encourages children to gain more confidence
when moving around amongst others. We use
shakers, and ribbons etc too. Which they all love.
So, please contact me here or on my mobile 07889
419681 for further information and to book your
child in for the next half term.*



Hampshire County Youth Choirs
Open Rehearsal

Friday 11th September 2026
The United Church, Jewry St, Winchester

- 5-7pm - Show Choir (Y7 to Y13)
- 5:15-6:30pm - Junior Choir (Y2 to Y6)

Concert to parents at 6:30pm

- 7:30-8:45pm – Crescendo Choir (Y7 to Y10)
- 7:30-9pm - Youth Choir (Y10 to Y13)

Concert to parents at 8:45pm

For more info and to sign up, please use the QR code



 hcyc.hmsensembles.org.uk 



★ **AFTER
SCHOOL CLUB
TUES
3.10- 4.10**

**DANCE KIDZ AT
STJOHNS**

Year Groups R, 1, 2 & 3 can book for next term now

CONTACT ME ON 07889 419681
TO BOOK YOUR CHILDS SPACE

LOTS OF FUN WITH PARTY DANCES, ANIMATIONS, GROU
DANCING, AND LEARNING NEW RHYTHMS

★  ★



A massive thank you to Josh Nace from Eastleigh FC, who kick-started the Year 5/6 girls lunchtime football club today.

Free Girls' Football Sessions – Eastleigh FC

<https://eastleighfc.com/community/fa-wildcats-at-eastleigh-fc/>

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS*

The Community Public Health Advisors from the Andover & Winchester Public Health Nursing Team(5-19y) are offering support with your primary aged child's health

Scan the QR code
to book a 30-minute slot at
Cromwell House,
Winchester



How do I manage
challenging behaviour?

Why does my child wet the bed?

Where can I access support
for my child's anxiety?

How do I encourage
healthy eating?

* These slots should not be used as a place to seek advice regarding specific medical conditions

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