

The Jottings - 18th 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, our whole school community has been reflecting on the value of Compassion — the theme guiding our collective worship and shaping conversations and learning across classrooms. It has been inspiring to see children recognising moments of kindness, supporting one another and showing empathy in ways that truly reflect our St John's spirit.

We have also enjoyed a wonderfully busy week. Year R hosted their delightful Teddy Bears' Picnic, which led to a flurry of baking, teamwork and excitement as the children created treats to share. In Year 6, pupils rose to the challenge of Bikeability, developing new skills, showing resilience and encouraging one another throughout each session.

Across the school, children have continued to demonstrate compassion not only in their learning but in their play, friendships and daily interactions. These small moments, the quiet kindnesses, the thoughtful choices, the willingness to help, are where our values truly come alive.

As we move forward, we remain committed to nurturing these values in every child, every day.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Rebecca Livings

Headteacher

In the Spotlight - Year 6

What a wonderful and busy week Year Six have had!

We began the week with our two-day Bikeability course. The Bikeability team were incredibly impressed by the children's excellent listening skills, positive attitudes and the respect they showed towards their instructors. Everyone made fantastic progress and, although the course was certainly physically tiring, the children remained enthusiastic, determined and resilient throughout. We were incredibly proud of their efforts.

Throughout the rest of the week, we have travelled back in time to explore life in Tudor England through our English focus text, *The Diver's Daughter* by Patrice Lawrence. The children have investigated the main character through careful questioning and, as aspiring historical writers, have begun to build a rich bank of technical vocabulary linked to the period. Our writing has focused on sentence structure, precise adjectives and the use of personification to bring the River Thames to life. We have certainly learnt a lot about pottage, wherry men and the infamous 'Big Stink'!

In Art, we have begun developing our drawing and painting skills, experimenting with colour mixing to create a wonderful range of blue and green hues.

In Maths, our focus has been on the value of decimal numbers. The children have enjoyed using our new resources to partition decimals flexibly, demonstrating their understanding of tenths and hundredths. This has helped us to tackle addition and subtraction problems involving decimals and larger numbers. We have also sharpened our multiplication skills, with a particular focus on the 7 and 8 times tables.

Finally, our new My Happy Mind programme has helped us to think about how our brains work best and how we can support ourselves to learn, focus and thrive. We are very proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and kindness the children have shown in their learning this week.



PLEASE NOTE THAT YEAR 6 HAVE CHANGED THEIR PE DAYS TO MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Home Learning and Reading Challenge



What an **amazing** start to our new homework model, designed to reinforce learning and support children in practising the retrieval of key knowledge. We truly appreciate the effort families are putting into this, and want to say a heartfelt thank you for your continued support.

A reminder that we run a Homework Club every Thursday after school for any child who may benefit from a little extra help. If you would like a place, please contact the school office to book.

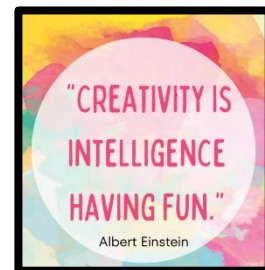
From all the Teaching Team at SJTB – thank you.

KS1 Playground Update – A place to practice our values of Courage, Compassion and Creativity.

Last year, we developed our Year R playground into an amazing space where our youngest children can play, learn and grow. It truly is fantastic — designed to meet their needs as they explore, strengthen their skills and develop through purposeful play.

As part of our continued development, we have now invested in the KS1 playground to ensure those same rich opportunities continue beyond Year R. We have added a sand pit for digging and creative building, rebuilt the cabin to support role play, and this week opened our new mud kitchen to encourage collaboration and imaginative play. The children are loving these new additions, which sit beautifully alongside the woodland area and existing play apparatus.

Everything we do at St John's is for our children — and that includes their play and lunchtimes. While they may feel they are simply playing, they are in fact learning, practising key skills and growing every day.



Reception School Places 2027

If you have a younger child due to start school in September 2027 (children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023), please see the attached flyer containing important information about applying for a school place at Whiteley Primary School.

Key dates:

- **Applications open:** Sunday 1 November 2026
- **Applications close:** Friday 15 January 2027

We encourage all eligible families to submit their application within the application window.



St. John the Baptist Primary School

Courage • Compassion • Creativity



WE'RE UPDATING HOW WE SHARE PHOTOS ONLINE

Same special moments. Stronger protection.

Following new guidance about the use of children's images online, linked to the increasing risks of Artificial Intelligence (AI), we are changing how we share photos and videos of school life on our website and social media.



HANDS ON LEARNING

We can still share the amazing learning and creativity without showing faces.



BACKS OF HEADS

We can still show the moments that matter while keeping children recognisable but safe.



SIDE FACING PHOTOS (WITH PERMISSION)

Only when we have consent from parents/carers. No front facing photos.



CREATIVE MOMENTS

We can still capture the joy, curiosity and teamwork that show who we are.



UK Safer Internet Centre

Guidance we follow

Our approach is informed by guidance from the UK Safer Internet Centre, which highlights the importance of protecting children's images online and reducing the risk of misuse, including through AI. We are following this guidance to help keep children safe while continuing to celebrate their learning.



saferinternet.org.uk



Why are we doing this?

AI technology can copy and misuse images in ways we cannot control. By following the new guidance, we are taking extra steps to protect every child and reduce the risk of their image being used inappropriately online.

St. John the Baptist Primary School

Courage • Compassion • Creativity

This half term:

- 22 September - Volunteers Afternoon Tea, by invitation (2.00 - 3.00)
- 22 September - Cross Country Event (3.30 - 5.00)
- 23 September tbc - Flu Immunisation, whole school
- 29 September - Yr 5 & 6 Cross Country Event (3.30 - 5.00)
- 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)
- 13 October - SEND coffee afternoon
- 14 October - Year 6 Educational visit
- 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

INSET dates 2026-2027

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



Starting school
in September
2027

If your child is 4 or
will turn 4 before
1 September 2027,
they can start school
in September 2027

Applications open for
Hampshire residents on
1 November 2026

THE NATIONAL CLOSING
DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS
FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2027
DON'T MISS IT!

For more information go to
www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

Hampshire
County Council

hants.gov.uk

BEST
START
IN LIFE

Christmas Box appeal launched this week



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

Rotary
Club of Bishop's Waltham

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2026

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

All the instructions are in the leaflet, but in addition:

If 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 figures 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

Items you may be interested in:

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](#)



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



 hcmc.hmsensembles.org.uk





BRICK FESTIVAL

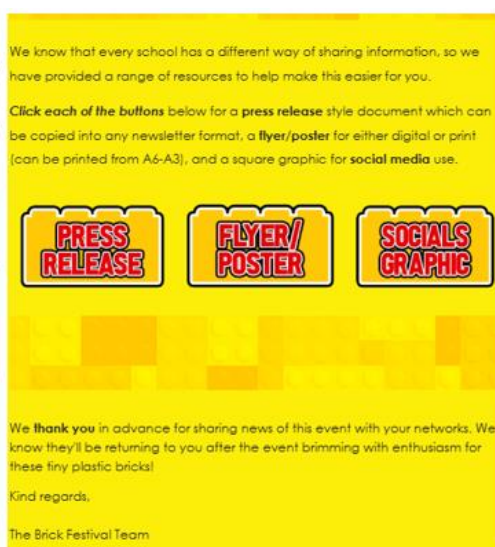
LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

is there.

hope this email finds you well. I am getting in touch to let you know about an awesome event filled with millions of LEGO bricks that is coming up in your area. and I think your students, parents (and even teachers!) would love to hear about it.

he **SOUTHAMPTON BRICK FESTIVAL** is an exciting celebration of all things LEGO, but it isn't just about fun – although it is absolutely packed full of that too! Brick festival events also invite visitors to explore a range of **STEM subject skills** through the medium of LEGO bricks.

ow do you become more interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths? By understanding them. And how do you best understand things? By **having fun while learning**. LEGO is the perfect tool for developing new skills, exploring new ideas and having new adventures.



We know that every school has a different way of sharing information, so we have provided a range of resources to help make this easier for you.

Click each of the buttons below for a **press release** style document which can be copied into any newsletter format, a **flyer/poster** for either digital or print (can be printed from A6-A3), and a square graphic for **social media** use.

We thank you in advance for sharing news of this event with your networks. We know they'll be returning to you after the event brimming with enthusiasm for these tiny plastic bricks!

Kind regards,

The Brick Festival Team



BRICK FESTIVAL EVENTS ARE PACKED FULL OF LEGO

FUN!!

BRICK FESTIVAL
BRICKFESTIVALEVENTS.COM

MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF

No longer wish to receive news about our awesome themed events? [Unsubscribe here!](#)

Brick Festival events run nationwide for fans of LEGO by fans of LEGO.

Registered office: Brick Festival Ltd, c/o Baird House Seebeck Place, Knowhill, Milton Keynes.

Bucks, MK5 8FR, United Kingdom

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ROCK STEADY

A BAND FOR EVERYONE

ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS IN YOUR SCHOOL

- Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
- Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
- Instruments provided and no experience necessary.
- Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
- Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.

0330 113 6130
Phon: 0800 800 000, Thurs to Mon 10am, local and
rocksteadymusicschool.com

BOOK TO START LESSONS THIS TERM!

ROCK STEADY A FUN AND INCLUSIVE WAY TO LEARN MUSIC

Choose from: Drums, guitar, bass, keyboard or vocals.

- Accessible and hassle-free!**
Takes place in school, instruments provided and no experience necessary!
- Have fun and learn by playing**
Children work their way through a curriculum of up to 300 musical skills.
- Taught by professional musicians**
Rocksteady band leaders are highly trained musicians who make learning music fun.
- Much more than music**
Improves wellbeing, confidence, social skills and academic achievement.
- Progress at their own pace**
Your child can achieve an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification!
- End every term on a high note**
Watch your child shine as they perform in their end of term concerts.

£16.50 per month (no payment in August). Money back guarantee for the first month. Cancel at any time.

98%

of parents say their child loves or enjoys their Rocksteady lessons
(Survey Feb 2023)

"Rocksteady is the favourite time of the week. He can't get to school quickly enough on a Monday morning!"
- J. Doe

92%

of Rocksteady pupils report greater confidence and self-belief!
(Survey Feb 2023)

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ONLINE!



0330 113 6130

Phon: 0800 800 000, Thurs to Mon 10am, local and
info@rocksteadymusicschool.com

TRINITY

Rocksteady Music School is a Trinity Music School

Approved Member of Trinity Music Schools, 2022

*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.

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

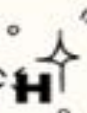
DANCE KIDZ AT STJOHNS

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, GROUND DANCING, AND LEARNING NEW RHYTHMS

★ ★



FRIDAY, SEPT 25TH
5:30-6:45 PM 
WALTHAM CHASE
VILLAGE HALL

PARTY



PARENT & CHILD
DISCO EVERYONE
WELCOME

£10 INCL 1 ADULT 1
CHILD (UPTO YR6)
ADDITIONAL CHILDREN
£4 EACH
LET'S ALL DANCE

TO BOOK CONTACT BELINDA -
DANCE KIDZ
07889 419681

bring your own drinks and snacks
(no alcohol)



Have a good weekend.
Courage - Compassion – Creativity