

The Jottings - 25th 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,

With the term now in full flow, it has been a joy to watch our children thrive as they learn through play, exploration and discovery. Across the school, pupils are showing what it truly means *to* belong to St John's, supporting one another, celebrating successes and embracing every opportunity to grow.

Our learning environments have been alive with curiosity: children building, investigating, imagining and achieving in ways that reflect the very heart of our school. Whether they are collaborating outdoors, problem- solving in class, or expressing themselves creatively, they continue to shine.

Alongside this, our weekly Collective Worships remains a special moment where we come together to recognise the children's achievements, from teamwork and kindness to reading milestones, musical accomplishments and class celebrations. It is wonderful to see how proud they are of one another.

As autumn starts to appear, please ensure your children come to school dressed for the changing weather, with all items clearly labelled.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Rebecca Livings

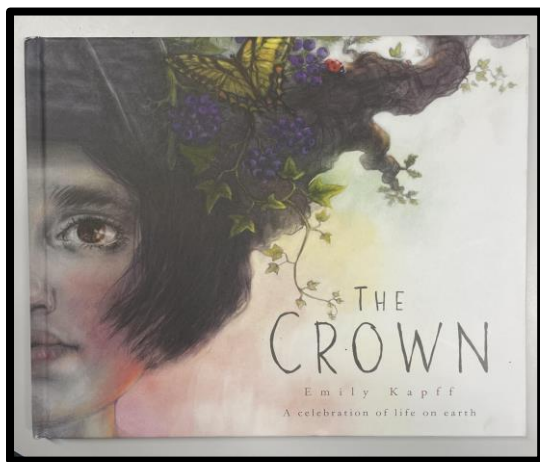
Headteacher

In the Spotlight - Year 5

Year 5 have been busy exploring the power of words and numbers this term! In **English**, the children have been inspired by *The Crown* to write persuasive, powerful speeches encouraging others to appreciate the magic and beauty of the natural world. Their aim was to inspire their audience to make meaningful changes to protect the environment.

In **Maths**, the children have been developing their understanding of **place value**, exploring the value of digits in numbers up to 100,000. They have also been building their fluency in **mentally adding and subtracting numbers up to five digits**, using efficient strategies and explaining their mathematical thinking.

In **RE**, Year 5 are exploring the fascinating question of **Genesis vs Science**, considering different perspectives on how the world began and how these ideas can be understood. This links closely with their **Science** learning, where they are investigating the geological timeline of the Earth and exploring how life has changed and evolved over millions of years. This cross-curricular learning is giving the children opportunities to make meaningful connections between subjects and think deeply about some of the biggest questions about our world.



Cross Country success

Congratulations to all of the children who showed tremendous courage in their cross-country running at Swanmore School this week. Every pupil represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating determination, resilience and fantastic sporting spirit.

A special mention goes to Harry, who won the Year 2 race, on his birthday, with Teddy finishing close behind in second place. We also celebrated sisters Evie and Isla, who continued their success from last year: Isla won her Year 4 race, and Evie achieved a superb third place in her year race.

We are incredibly proud of all of the children who participated.

We need your help!

School census day is more important to a school than many people realise.

On census day, the number of children who take up a school meal - especially those who take up the universal free school meals in reception, year 1 and year 2 - as it is this information that the government use to calculate funding allocations to the school.

You did read that correctly: the number of children who order a school meal on Thursday 1st October is used to decide how much funding we will get for all children in the next financial year.

If fewer children take up/order a meal on this day, the school could receive less funding.

Please help us by ordering a school dinner on Thursday. The menu is one of the more popular menu choices for this reason, however, if your child does not like this, please consider sending them in with something, but still ordering a meal as it really does help especially if they are in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2.

We have never had 100% take up on a census day, but if we did, we would be in the best possible position for the year ahead.

If you have any questions, please speak to the school office.





As we head into autumn, it's important that we all keep active and where possible, get outdoors. To encourage this, the My Journey Team at Hampshire County Council has invited schools to celebrate International Walk to School Month by taking part in Walktober.

This event is designed to inspire pupils, families and staff to travel actively and sustainably throughout October. We are hoping as many of our pupils, families and staff as possible travel actively throughout October by walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting, using Park and Stride or public transport to and from school and in their leisure time.

More details and top tips to follow, but start planning what you are going to do now!

Harvest Time

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.

This half term:

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
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)
11 February – Non-School Uniform (to raise money for the colour run)
22 February - 5 March - Coin wars
19 March - Easter Trail
23 April - Games Night (Adults only)
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



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



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

[School cook vacancy](#) Please use this link to apply

School Assistant Cook

com/1809/43463001/52824041/R/BU

> Number of Positions:	1	> Closing Date:	18/10/2026
> Contract Type:	Part Time	> Job Category:	Chefs
> Salary:	£12.71 per hour	> Business Sector:	Chartwells
> Working Hours:	25	> Sub Sector:	State Schools
> Location:	Southampton		

What you'll be doing:

As a Catering Assistant, you'll be part of a dynamic, fast-paced team, contributing to a positive and friendly work environment. The role offers numerous opportunities for growth within a company that values individuality and invests in its employees. Your hard work will be recognised and rewarded, making it an excellent chance to advance in a supportive setting.

Here's an idea of what your shift pattern will be:

- Mon: Mornings
- Tues: Mornings
- Weds: Mornings
- Thurs: Mornings
- Fri: Mornings

Please note: This role is contracted to 42.6 weeks per year

Your key responsibilities will include:

- Preparing delicious, high-quality food that delights our clients and customers
- Crafting eye-catching food and counter displays that draw customers in
- Proudly representing Chartwells and embodying our positive brand image
- Handling transactions with ease and operating the cash register efficiently
- Upholding the highest standards of Food Handling & Hygiene
- Ensuring a safe and healthy work environment by adhering to Health & Safety regulations

Our ideal Catering Assistant will:

- Bring a positive, can-do attitude to everything you do
- Show genuine passion for delivering exceptional customer service
- Excel as a supportive and collaborative team player
- Embrace the excitement of thriving under pressure
- Demonstrate impeccable time management and reliability
- Prioritise safety in every task you undertake
- Previous experience in a similar catering role is a bonus, but your enthusiasm is what truly matters

Part of Compass Group UK&I, Chartwells is the leading provider of catering and support services to the education sector. For over a quarter of a century, Chartwells has been focusing on helping those in education to build strong bodies, sharp minds and lead long healthy lives. Every week, Chartwells serves millions of nutritious and delicious meals to pupils and students in primary and secondary schools, academies, independent schools, colleges, and universities across the UK. Chartwells is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all employees to share this commitment. Any offer of employment will be subject to successfully completing pre-employment checks, including an enhanced DBS disclosure and a Children's Barred List check. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and we ask applicants to declare all previous convictions and cautions in order to assess their suitability to work with children.

Job Reference: com/1809/43463001/52824041/R/BU #State Schools

Compass Group UK&I is committed to fostering an environment where every individual can truly be themselves at work and has equal opportunities to advance in their careers. We strive to build a culture that respects and celebrates the unique talents, beliefs, backgrounds, and abilities of all our team members. We want our colleagues to feel valued, empowered to reach their full potential, and to thrive – because diversity is our strength!

cm sports

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



★ **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, GROUP
DANCING, AND LEARNING NEW RHYTHMS



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