

ST JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

23.01.2026



It has been another positive and purposeful week across the school, with children showing real pride in their work across a wide range of subjects. It has been particularly encouraging to see pupils recognising both their successes and the improvements they are making, and taking increasing ownership of their learning.

Our **girls' football team** also represented the school this week, showing great teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship. We are very proud of the way they conducted themselves.

In Collective Worship, the children spent time exploring **Psalm 23**, using the image of a shepherd to think about guidance, care and reassurance, and how these ideas can help us when we face choices or challenges.

Mr Power

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Stars of the week

**LEARN TOGETHER
ACHIEVE TOGETHER
CELEBRATE TOGETHER
AND 'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'**



Reception - Henry for doing an excellent job in handwriting this week!

Albie for doing a great job at using his phonics knowledge in writing!

Year 1 - Aniela & Cooper for always working hard and trying their best in everything they do. I am so proud of how hard they are working to write independently.

Year 2 - Bertie for his amazing progress in writing.

Jarvis for super vocabulary choices in writing.

Year 3 - Logan for working hard on his reading and striving to develop his answers in comprehension sessions. Keep it up!

Isabelle for always working hard and showing perseverance when given a challenging piece of work!

Year 4 - Cohen for your creativity when writing - you suggest such great vocabulary!

Hudson H for your great enthusiasm when writing. You work so hard and create such great stories.

Year 5 - Leo for amazing imaginative writing - your Word Wizard work was so creative.

Reuben for thinking like a scientist! Your questioning skills are impressive.

Year 6 - Jemima for always coming back into class ready to learn straight away. You are a super independent learner!

Emily for producing a wonderful leaflet all about Victorian inventions - you thought carefully about what to write and it was presented beautifully.

ACHIEVEMENTS around SCHOOL

Vee (Y2) for winning **2nd Place** twice in **Beavers' Swim Gala**.

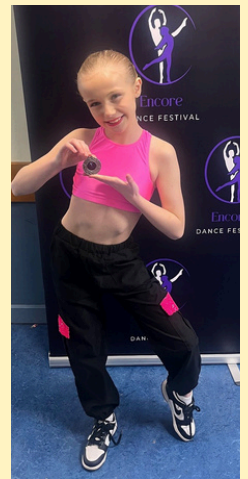


William W (Y1) for winning **2nd Place** twice in **Beavers' Swim Gala**.



Oliver (Y5) for achieving a **1st and 3rd** in **1st Danbury Cubs' Swim Gala**.

Scarlett (Y5) for achieving **Silver** at the **Encore Dance festival** for her first **Street Solo**.



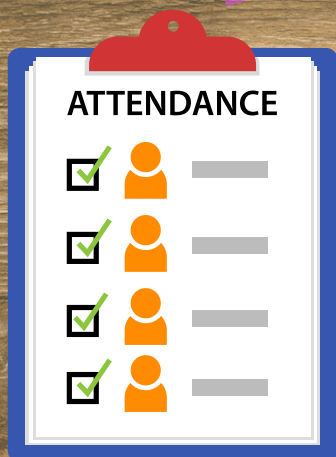
Eleanor, Gracie and Flo (Y2) for winning **Gold** at the **Encore Dance festival**.



ACHIEVEMENTS

around **SCHOOL**

LEARN TOGETHER
ACHIEVE TOGETHER
CELEBRATE TOGETHER
AND 'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'



Well done to Year 4
100% attendance
Whole School - **95.3%**

Any communication regarding attendance will no longer be sent via letters. It will be emailed from the following account: attendance@st-johns-danbury.essex.sch.uk

Please do not use this for when your child is absent from school.

House Points

Well done to
St David House
for winning this week's
House Cup



Team	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Running total
St Andrew	2			6822
St David	3	1		7009
St George	7			7189
St Patrick	1	2		7903



UPDATE

Governor News



As the end of the school's financial year rapidly approaches, our focus was on finance at this week's Full Governing Body meeting. We reviewed forecasts to year end for all areas, benchmarking data and compliance to financial standards.

In addition, we approved updates to a significant number of policies and discussed the Autumn Term pupil attainment and progress data, cyber security and data protection. This is all part of the strategic role that governors undertake ([Maintained schools: governance guide - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintained-schools-governance-guide)) and we are preparing for our strategy session in February, which supports our main strategic review in July.

For your future planning, we approved the non-pupil dates for 2026/27 and these can be found below and on the website.



Term	Starts	Ends
Autumn 1	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
INSET DAYS	TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2026	WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2026
October Half Term	Monday 26 October 2026	Friday 30 October 2026
Autumn 2	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Christmas Holiday	Monday 21 December 2026	Thursday 31 December 2026
Spring 1	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
INSET DAY	MONDAY 4th JANUARY 2027	
February Half Term	Monday 15 February 2027	Friday 19 February 2027
Spring 2	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Easter Bank Holiday	Friday 26 March 2027	Monday 29 March 2027
Easter Holiday	Tuesday 30 March 2027	Friday 9 April 2027
Summer 1	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
INSET DAY	MONDAY 12th APRIL 2027	
Early May bank holiday	Monday 3 May 2027	Monday 3 May 2027
INSET DAY	FRIDAY 28th MAY 2027	
May Half Term	Monday 31 May 2027	Friday 4 June 2027
Summer 2	Monday 7 June 2027	Wednesday 21 July 2027
Summer Holiday	Thursday 22 July 2027	Wednesday 31 August 2027

Provide | **Children & Family** SERVICES

Children's Speech & Language Therapy

Do you have a child of pre-school age?

Have you got some worries or questions about their speech, development of language, or their communication skills?



Then the Speech and Language Therapy **Communication Station** can help.

Communication Stations

Communication Stations are 15-minute appointments that involve meeting a Speech and Language Therapist to assess or review your child's speech, language and communication through listening to your current concerns, observation and play. We will then offer advice and ensure that your child is put on the correct care pathway.



When: Tuesday 27th January 2026

Where: St John's Primary School

Who: For children from 2 and a half up to Reception age with a mid-Essex GP, you can book a Communication Station appointment without needing to complete a referral.

How: Please call 0300 303 9960 between 8:00 - 8:30am on 27th January to get a booked appointment for the same day. Please have your child's NHS number ready.

Call: 0300 303 9960 to book an appointment

For more information visit:

<https://providechildrenandfamilyservices.co.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/>

Provide | **Children & Family** SERVICES

Children's Speech & Language Therapy

In aid of...



Essex **Dementia Care**

Life doesn't stop with dementia

The charity committee will be selling OREOS* during 1st break every day for 1 week.

Y5/6 9:50am

Y2/3/4: 10am

Y1: 10:30am

Reception class will give their money to their teacher and receive their Oreo at lunchtime.

50p a biscuit

Every Oreo bought will help support people in Essex living with dementia. Sharing a biscuit is an everyday moment that can spark memories and connection for someone living with dementia.

Taking place during the week beginning:

2nd February 2026

*Alternatives will be available for those who are gluten-free.



BINGO

Night

Please save the date for the first St John's Bingo Night! All money raised will be used for curriculum enhancement, directly benefiting the children. More details to follow in the new year.

FRIDAY

07.00PM

**27TH
FEB**

**B
12**

We look forward to seeing you!

**B
12**

30

14

30



Essex County Council
Libraries

**10 January
to 22 February
2026**



Winter Reading Challenge

Children across Essex are being challenged to read and get creative at their local library this winter!

Explore our Pawfessionals' amazing careers as you progress through the challenge.

Choose from twelve fun activities to complete. For each one, you'll get a sticker! Complete six, and you'll receive a certificate and get to enter our prize draw for the chance to win some incredible goodies!

Plus, you can join in with themed events and activities at the library!



Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website: libraries.essex.gov.uk

This week's story and big question

In the news this week...

Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.



Things to talk about at home...

- What do you think about the new award? Share with someone at home. Do you believe it's important to recognise kind actions?
- Can you think of someone you know who helps others or cares for the world in everyday ways?
- Can you come up with other ways that people can be recognised for their actions?



PE & Swimming



PE days – Children to wear PE Kit to school
Swimming days - Children to wear uniform to school
 These days will run for the entire year

Day	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Monday		PE	PE	PE	PE	PE	PE
Tuesday	Swimming			Swimming	PE	PE	
Wednesday	PE	Swimming	PE		Swimming		PE
Thursday	PE	PE	Swimming	PE		Swimming	Swimming



Reminder that earrings are **not to be worn** for PE or Swimming



SCHOOL DINNERS

WEEK 2

Home-cooked hot dinners with locally sourced food for just **£2.70**
 School meals are to be ordered and paid for on ParentPay

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Pasta & Pepperoni Sauce Garlic Bread, Coleslaw and Mixed Salad	Pepperoni Pizza Salad Bar, Sweetcorn and Coleslaw	Roast Chicken Yorkshire pudding, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Peas, Carrots and Gravy	Chicken Chunks Potato Wedges, Peas or Beans	Fishfinger Baguette Chips and Beans
Option 2	Pasta & Cheese/Tomato Sauce Garlic Bread, Coleslaw and Mixed Salad	Cheese Pizza Salad Bar Sweetcorn and Coleslaw	Quorn Fillet Yorkshire pudding, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Peas, Carrots and Gravy	Quorn Dippers Potato Wedges, Peas or Beans	Omelette Chips and Beans
Option 3	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese
Option 4	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham
	Mandarin and Pineapple Fruit Salad	Apple Sponge Cake and Custard	Vanilla Ice cream with Orange Slices	Strawberry and Grapefruit Salad	Chocolate Muffins with Orange Slices
Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Pasta & Pepperoni Sauce Garlic Bread, Coleslaw and Mixed Salad	All day breakfast – Butchers Sausage, Bacon Egg, Beans, Hash Browns and Mushrooms	BBQ Chicken Kebabs and Rice Roasted Peppers and Onions, Sweet Chilli Sauce and Flatbread	Beef Burger in a Bun with Sweetcorn, Tortilla Chips and Tomato Sauce	Bubble Cod with Chips, Beans or Sweetcorn
Option 2	Pasta & Cheese/Tomato Sauce Garlic Bread, Coleslaw and Mixed Salad	All day breakfast - Vegetarian Sausage Egg, Beans, Hashbrowns and Mushrooms	Quorn Fillet and Rice Roasted Peppers and Onions, Sweet Chilli Sauce and Flatbread	Vegetarian Burger in a Bun Sweetcorn, Tortilla Chips and Tomato Sauce	Cheese Puff Triangles Chips, Beans or Sweetcorn
Option 3	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese
Option 4	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham
	Strawberry Ice Cream with Orange Slices	Fruity Flapjacks	Jelly and Pineapple Pieces	Cinnamon Cookies with Apple Slices	Fruit Smoothies
Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Homemade Chicken Korma Curry Rice and Naan Bread	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce Pasta, Garlic Bread and Runner Beans	Roast Chicken Yorkshire pudding, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Peas, Carrots and Gravy	Chicken Burger Lettuce, Mayo, Sweetcorn and Tortilla Chips	Butchers Sausage Chips, Beans or Sweetcorn
Option 2	Homemade Vegetable Korma Curry Rice and Naan Bread	Quorn Meatballs in Tomato Sauce Pasta, Garlic Bread and Runner Beans	Quorn Fillet Yorkshire pudding, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing, Peas, Carrots and Gravy	Quorn Burger Lettuce, Mayo, Sweetcorn and Tortilla Chips	Veggie Sausages Chips, Beans or Sweetcorn
Option 3	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese	Jacket Potato Baked Beans, Tuna or Cheese
Option 4	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham	Baguettes with Cheese, Tuna or Ham
	Chocolate Ice Cream with Orange Slices	Cherry Sponge Cake and Custard	Vanilla Traybake	Pancakes and Chocolate Sauce with Banana Slice	Fruit Platter or Yogurt

Key Dates 2025-2026

Below are some of the key dates for the upcoming academic year as well as more detailed events for Spring & Summer Terms 2026.



New dates added in red.

Spring Term	
27.01.26	Communication Station
10.02.26	Year 4 - Superstars
16.02.26-20.02.26	HALF TERM
27.02.26	Bingo Night
05.03.26	World Book Day
12.03.26	Music Celebration Evening
17.03.26 & 19.03.26	Parents' Evening
18.03.26	Year 3 Trip
19.03.26	Infant Music Festival
20.03.26	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt
23.03.26	Whole School Cross-Country
24.01.26 & 25.03.26	Band It Performances
26.03.25	Easter Service @ St John's Church
27.03.26	INSET DAY
30.03.26-10.04.26	EASTER BREAK

Summer Term	
11.05.26-14.05.26	SATs Week
25.05.26	HALF TERM
08.06.26	Year 6 Residential
19.06.26	Year 5 Trip
25.06.26	Year 4 Trip
26.06.26	Sports Day
03.07.26	Arts Festival
08.07.26	Triathlon
17.07.26	Leavers' Service & Last Day
20.07.26	INSET DAY

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