

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Learning and Growing Together, Unique in God's Eyes



RECEPTION CLASS 2025-2026 Starting School Booklet



A warm welcome to you and your child!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all looking forward to welcoming you and your child to St John the Baptist school in September.

This Starting School pack aims to give you as much information as possible about how things will happen in September. We have also enclosed a picture book to show your child how the school and classroom will look.

The reception class teacher is Mrs Charlotte Goss, who is an excellent, experienced teacher and will provide a warm and nurturing learning environment for the children, supported by teaching assistants.

We look forward to getting to know you and your child in September and to working in partnership with you to ensure that your child has the best possible start to school life.

With best wishes

Carly Carden
Headteacher

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Vision

At SJB our vision is to provide the highest quality education within a Catholic ethos. Through the love of God, we will foster individual uniqueness recognising every child is created in the image of God (Gen 1:27)

Together, with our families, our parish and wider community, we seek to create a safe, happy and inclusive school where children become confident, responsible, caring citizens, rich with the rewards that faith and learning bring to heart, mind, body and spirit. Learning and growing together; Unique in God's eyes.

Mission

We love one another, just as God loves us.

We are respectful, welcoming, and inclusive.

We learn together, using our unique gifts to achieve personal excellence.

We are active members of our parish, our community and wider world seizing every opportunity to make a difference.

'Love one another as I have loved you'

John 13:34

OUR SCHOOL RULES



We have high standards of behaviour at St John the Baptist School and as Christians, we respect and value each member of our community. Our rules are very clear and very simple; we focus on being calm and positive with the children at all times and helping them to understand why we should behave in the way that we have agreed. We ask that parents work with us and support us in this. Our complete Behaviour Policy is available on our website.

An infographic titled 'At SJB we are...' with three main sections: 'ready', 'respectful', and 'safe'. Each section has a blue background with yellow text and icons. The 'ready' section includes icons of a pencil, an open book, a tie, and a clock. The 'respectful' section includes icons of a crossed-out wheel, a handshake, and a heart. The 'safe' section includes icons of a laptop and a smartphone, a head with gears, and a no-running sign.

At SJB we are...

ready    

respectful   

safe   

'Love one another as I have loved you'

John 13:34

SCHOOL UNIFORM



SJB is a uniform school. The wearing of a uniform, we believe, helps to develop a sense of community and belonging. We ask you to support us with this and to encourage your child to take pride in wearing their uniform and looking after it. All items with SJB logo can be purchased from:

www.monkhouse.com/school/st-john-the-baptist-catholic-primary-school-urn-114540

Uniform
Grey or black plain trousers (not combat or tracksuit type) Grey skirt pleated or A- line skirt/ pinafore Navy blue school jumper or cardigan, with logo White shirt - short or long sleeves School tie Grey, navy or black socks or tights Black shoes (these can be plain, trainer type shoes without logos / stripes) Hot weather option: blue polo shirt. Summer dress: blue / white check PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM IS NAMED
PE Kit
SJB navy t-shirt Black or navy track suit bottoms or shorts Black plimsolls or black or white trainers (KS2) All kept in a drawstring bag PLEASE ENSURE ALL UNIFORM IS NAMED

Children in reception class do not need a rucksack, just a book bag. Trousers, shirts dresses etc. can be bought from any high street shop.

Buying School Uniform

School uniform is now available to purchase online or you can visit the shop -

Monkhouse Schoolwear Specialists

40 Blatchington Road

Hove BN3 3YH

Website: www.monkhouse.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Physical Education (PE)

It is compulsory for all children to take part in PE lessons. They must be correctly dressed for this and cannot take part without the correct clothing or if they are wearing jewellery. Please check the uniform list for PE clothing. This is a health and safety requirement.

Footwear

All children should wear 'sensible' black shoes during the school day. Trainer-type shoes maybe worn but they should be completely plain, no stripes / designs or fashion logos. Children should have a pair of black plimsolls for PE (FS / KS1) and black plimsolls or a pair of black or white trainers for games / sports (KS2).

Jewellery

It is easier and safer all round if children do not wear jewellery at school. The only items of jewellery that can be permitted are small stud earrings and a watch (a quiet one please!). Please remember to remove these however, on PE days. Staff cannot take any responsibility for items of jewellery that go missing. If you are considering having your child's ears pierced, please do so in the summer holiday and not during term time.

Hairstyles

Hairstyles should be in keeping with a uniform school- smart, neat and natural. All hair longer than shoulder length should be tied up. Hair bands and hair accessories should be blue or white and not too prominent. Please do not send children to school with designer logos/coloured hair/street styles. This is just not appropriate for a primary school.

Outdoor Play and Learning

We believe that children should have opportunities daily to play and learn outdoors. At some point in the year, they will also have the opportunity to take part in forest school. If you can, please provide your child with a pair of wellies, which can be left in school, and remember a coat!

MORNING PROCEDURE

To encourage personal and social skills, especially independence, and to assist your child to settle happily into the school routine we ask for your co-operation in establishing our **morning procedure**. This will be your child's first target and we ask you to work in partnership with us to encourage your child to do these things independently.

There is no parking available on school premises and parking around the school is very restricted. We encourage walking to school where possible, or parking close by and walking part of the way. The school gate will be open from 8.45 and children go straight to their classrooms. Children should be in their classrooms at 8.55 am for the register. Members of school staff will be waiting to meet and greet them.

To develop independence, we encourage children to:

- ❖ come into the classroom on their own
- ❖ put their belongings in the appropriate place
- ❖ sit at a table with their friends ready for 'Funky Fingers'

We understand that your child may be anxious about coming to school initially. During the first few weeks, you are welcome to come into the classroom to settle your child. After this settling in time, we hope you will encourage the children to become independent in coming into school all by themselves.

Although it can be distressing for you, try not to worry if your child cries. Sometimes children cry on the first day, some settle immediately and never cry; others cry after the first few days, and even the few weeks after apparently settling quite happily. This is not unusual and is often just a temporary phase. Staff are very experienced in dealing with upset children.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

You can prepare for the first step of independence at home by encouraging your child to do the following:

- ❖ Get dressed and undressed independently.
- ❖ Fasten buttons and zips.
- ❖ Put on coats and jumpers.
- ❖ Putting shoes on and off and fastened- we strongly recommend Velcro fastening!
- ❖ Look after him / herself in the toilet- we are aware that especially in the early days accidents may happen, please keep spare pants in your child's PE bag and ensure that your child knows they are there.

*** Your child will be much happier if they can at least attempt these on their own.**

SNACKS AND LUNCH

Fruit

All children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are provided with free fruit every day as part of the government's 5-a-day scheme. This is delivered daily from a local supplier. All children under five years of age will also get free milk each day. When your child turns five, you will receive an email giving you the option to continue with the milk but at a small cost.

Water

Children are encouraged to drink water regularly throughout the day so should have their own small, labelled bottle. These should be taken home each day for washing. Please do not send juice or other drinks, we encourage all children to drink water.

Lunch

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. All school lunches are freshly prepared on site each day and there are plenty of healthy choices for the children. All meals should be booked in advance from the menu on the ParentPay site. You will receive log in details for this. We ask that you make your choices for the week with your child Monday morning and remind them each day what they are having. You will also continue to have the option to send a packed lunch from home. This should contain a good balance of healthy foods.

Please do not send sweets to school in packed lunches

Birthdays

Birthdays are special! We celebrate in school each Friday at Awards assembly by singing 'Happy Birthday' to the birthday children.

Please do not send cakes, sweets or party bags. Please do not ask staff to distribute birthday invitations as this often causes upset for some children.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Attendance and punctuality are monitored by the school and by the local authority. Arriving late is very upsetting for your child and disruptive for the teacher and other children. It is so important that you establish good routines for your child from the beginning.

MORNING SESSION:

Start time Classrooms are open from 8:45 for children to get settled for the day, before register starts at **8:55am**.

Playtime 10:30-10:45am

Ends 12:00 noon - lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION:

Start time 1:05pm

Playtime 2:15pm – 2:30pm

Ends 3:10pm (Doors will open at 3:05pm)

At the end of the day, children can be collected from their classroom door. Please let your child's teacher and the school office know if someone different will be collecting your child.

THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their personal, social and academic development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **seven key areas of learning and development**.

The initial focus will be in **three prime areas**:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children are ready, they will develop skills in **four specific areas**:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design.

These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities in the class. The teaching and support staff will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like the curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it is more suitable for very young children, and it is designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.



We will have more information about the EYFS curriculum for you at a 'settling in' meeting in September.



School Term Dates 2025/26

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

	September 2025					October 2025					November 2025					December 2025				
Monday	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29
Tuesday	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30
Wednesday	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31
Thursday	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	
Friday	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	
Saturday	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	
Sunday	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	

	January 2026					February 2026					March 2026						April 2026				
Monday		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27
Tuesday		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28
Wednesday		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29
Thursday	1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30
Friday	2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	
Saturday	3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Sunday	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22		1	8	15	22			5	12	19	26	

	May 2026					June 2026					July 2026						August 2026				
Monday		4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24	31
Tuesday		5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25	
Wednesday		6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29		5	12	19	26	
Thursday		7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30		6	13	20	27	
Friday	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24	31		7	14	21	28	
Saturday	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22	29	
Sunday	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23	30	

Key

- Bank holidays (see details below)
 - School holidays
 - INSET Days
- (5 INSET days in total, chosen by individual schools)

First day of term for pupils

Last day of term

Bank holidays 2025/26

Christmas Day	Thursday 25 December 2025
Boxing Day	Friday 26 December 2025
New Year's Day	Thursday 1 January 2026
Good Friday	Friday 3 April 2025
Easter Monday	Monday 6 April 2026
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 25 May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday	Monday 31 August 2026

Number of days (total requirement 195)

Autumn 1 st half	38
Autumn 2 nd half	35
Spring 1 st half	30
Spring 2 nd half	25
Summer 1 st half	29
Summer 2 nd half	38
TOTAL	195 days
	(includes 5 INSET)