The Friday Flyer
John Bunyan Primary School & Nursery
Friday 27th November 2026

Advance Notice
Last day of term:
Friday 18th December, **1.30pm finish**

Return to School: Monday 4th January 2027

Christmas jumper/wear something festive day
We invite everyone to wear a Christmas jumper or something festive to school on the last day of term, Friday 18th December. Please do not buy something especially for the day – a top dressed up with tinsel/decorations will be great! Children can wear non-uniform with their Christmas jumper.



Donations can be made to Save the Children online at
www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate-here

Year 1 Story Time



Story time for Spruces class (Mrs Cutmore) takes place on Tuesdays
from 3rd November to 8th December.
These story time sessions will run from 2.40pm to 3.00pm.



Trips and Activities now booking
- Permission to walk home alone (Years 5&6)
- Home School Agreements
- Book bags, PE bags, swim hats
- Snack
- Young Voices at the O2
- Trip to Colchester Castle for Year 1

ParentPay

School Dinners
Winter 2026 Menu
Week commencing 30th November – Week 2
Week commencing 7th December – Week 3
Week commencing 14th December – Week 1

Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 9th December
Roast chicken and chipolata sausage, or
Vegan no-sausage roll
Yorkshire pudding
Roast potatoes
Carrots/broccoli/peas/sprouts
Gravy

Chocolate muffin with snowflake shortbread
Christmas crackers

Christmas Party Day
Wednesday 16th December
Sausage roll, or
Veggie hot dog
Salad sticks, sweetcorn
Crisps
Chocolate milk shake
Jelly and ice cream

💛 **Kindness Week: 16th–20th November** 💛
We had a wonderful time celebrating Kindness Week last week, with children across the school embracing opportunities to show kindness to themselves, to their peers, to those in the wider community, and to the often-unsung heroes of the John Bunyan family. Each child contributed an act of kindness to our giant kindness chain, creating a powerful reminder that while one small act of kindness may seem insignificant on its own, together our actions can create something truly meaningful and make a lasting difference.

Farleigh Hospice Reindeer Run

On Monday 14th December (weather dependent) we will be holding a sponsored Reindeer Run in aid of Farleigh Hospice, our local hospice charity. This is for our children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The children can take part by walking/jogging our 'Golden mile' wearing their reindeer antlers, which Farleigh Hospice will provide.

Farleigh Hospice provides care to people affected by life-limiting illnesses and bereavement across mid Essex, free of charge. All of the money we raise will help the Farleigh doctors, nurses, therapists and counsellors to continue to support local people in their time of greatest need. Sponsor forms will be sent home soon. Please bring your donations into school on or before 14th December. Thank you for your support.

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Reception Year 2027 Intake

From 9th November 2026 you can apply for a Reception Year place for a September 2027 start. Applications close on 15th January 2027. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. All of the application information is available on the website above.

After School Clubs

After school clubs and tutoring will finish on 3rd December.

Wrap around care (Evergreen Club) will continue until Thursday 17th December but will not be available on the last day of term, Friday 18th December, when we break up for the holidays at 1.30pm.

Football Tournament

Our fantastic football team took part in the Essex regional finals at Billericay Town FC this week. They play 4 matches:
Won 1, Drew 1, Lost 2.
The whole team played really well and should be proud to have represented the Braintree District.

Mobile phone/online safety

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we are writing to ask for your continued support in monitoring your child's mobile phone and online activity at home.

While smartphones and tablets offer great ways for children to learn and stay connected, they also open the door to age-inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and large, unmoderated group chats. Issues that happen online outside of school hours often spill over into the classroom, affecting friendships, wellbeing, and learning. Online safety works best when home and school work together. To help keep your child safe, we recommend taking a few simple steps this week:

- Check devices regularly: Take time to look through your child's phone together, including their messaging apps, group chats, and browser history.
- Review privacy and parental controls: Check that age restrictions, safe search filters, and privacy settings are switched on across all apps and games.
- Keep devices in shared spaces: Encourage children to use phones and tablets in family living areas rather than behind closed bedroom doors, and agree on a "devices off" time before bed.
- Keep the conversation open: Ask your child to show you their favourite games and apps. Reassure them that they can come to you or a trusted adult at school without fear of getting into trouble if they ever see something upsetting or feel pressured online.

For practical guides on setting up parental controls on specific apps and devices, you can visit Internet Matters or the NSPCC Online Safety Hub.



Thank you for your ongoing support in helping our pupils build safe, healthy digital habits. If you have any concerns about your child's online activity or would like further advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.
Many thanks

Help Us Refresh Our School Library!

We are working with the children to update and restock our school library. The children have requested the books and authors listed below. If you have any spare copies that your children no longer need, please drop them off at the school office, where they will be gratefully received.

As we are currently reorganising our library, please only donate books from the list below.

Thank you for your support!

1. Moonfall Series (When the moon hatched etc). Sarah Parker
2. Conrad the Cat Detective series (The cat and the Halloween murder). L T Shearer
3. Cozy mystery / Cozy Crime series
4. Storey Tree House books
5. Geek girl books
6. Bunny v Monkey
7. Captain underpants series
8. Danny dingles
9. Dog man series
10. Young Bond series
11. Onjalif Rauf books
12. Harry Potter series
13. How to train your dragon series
14. Dork diaries / Diary of a Wimpy kid / Tom Gates books
15. Dead Famous series
16. Night Bus Hero / Hope on the horizon / The letter with the golden stamp etc.
17. Malorie Blackman books
18. Goosebumps series
19. The Wonder Team series
20. Kid Normal
21. Worst Witch series
22. Lottie Brooks books
23. Warrior Cats
24. Murder most Unladylike series
25. Lemony Snicket series
26. Tom Oldfield football books

















Diary Dates

Wednesday 2nd December – Nursery Christmas celebration, 11.00am and 2.30pm
Friday 4th December – PTFA Christmas non-uniform day
Wednesday 9th December – Whole school Christmas dinner day
Thursday 10th December – PTFA Christmas Fayre, 3.30pm
Saturday 12th December – Choir to perform at St Mary's Church, Bocking, Christmas Tree Festival
Monday 14th December – Farleigh Hospice Reindeer Run (Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2)
Monday 14th December – Cherries class Christmas celebration, 9.15am
Monday 14th December – Poplars Christmas performance
Tuesday 15th December – Maples Christmas performance, 9.15am
Tuesday 15th December – Beeches Christmas performance, 2.30pm
Wednesday 16th December – Whole school Christmas party lunch
Wednesday 16th December – Year 2 Carol Service, 2.30pm
Thursday 17th December – Year 1 Christmas performance, 9.15am and 2.15pm
Friday 18th December – Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18th December – Break up for the Christmas holidays (1.30pm finish)

Term Dates for 2025-2026 Academic Year

Autumn Term:	Tuesday 1 September 2026 – Friday 18 December 2026 Half Term 26 October – 30 October Non-pupil days: 1 September, 23 October
Spring Term:	Monday 4 January 2027 – Thursday 25 March 2027 Half Term 15 February - 19 February
Summer Term:	Monday 12 April 2027 – Wednesday 21 July 2027 Half Term 31 May – 4 June, May Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May Non-pupil days: 28 May, 20 July, 21 July