



The Friday Flyer

John Bunyan Primary School & Nursery



Friday 9th January 2026

Welcome Back

Welcome back to all our children and families — we hope you enjoyed a restful break. As we begin the new year, we look forward to continuing working together to ensure our school remains a place where **kindness leads, resilience grows and every learner is inspired to achieve their full potential with purpose and pride.**

Reminder

It is very important that parents/carers phone the school if their child will be absent or late (01376 321814). The School Office opens at 8.15am if you need to speak with us or you can leave a message on the absence line (option 1) at any time.

School Uniform

We have recently updated our school uniform policy, which will be shared in full on our next flyer. Over the coming weeks, staff will be working closely with the children to ensure they are coming to school in the correct uniform, and we kindly ask for your continued support with this.

We would also like to remind parents of our earring policy: **stud earrings only**, and these **must be removed for P.E. lessons**. Please ensure your child comes to school with the correct P.E. kit on their allocated P.E. days. Many thanks for your support.

Open Afternoon

Our next whole school open afternoon will be held on Friday 13th February. Parents and carers are welcome into school from 2.30pm to view their child's recent work and play or read with their child in class.

Trips and Activities now booking

- Permission to walk home alone (Years 5&6)
- Home School Agreements
- Year 4 swimming
- Book bags, PE bags, swim hats
- Snack
- Year 5 trip to Layer Marney Tower



School Dinners

WINTER MENU

- Week commencing Mon 12th January – Week 2
- Week commencing Mon 19th January – Week 3
- Week commencing Mon 26th January – Week 1

Copies of the school dinner menu are always available to view on our website www.johnbunyan.co.uk and paper copies are available from the school office.

School Applications for Reception 2026

You can now apply online for your child's Reception Year school place for September 2026. Applications are open until **15th January 2026** and should be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

All of the application information is available on the website above or search the Essex County Council website.

We will be holding another open morning for parents of children who will be starting Reception Year in September 2026. Come along for a tour of our Foundation Stage area and ask any questions:

Saturday 10th January 2026 10.30am - 12.00pm

Please share this information with any friends who may have a school aged child.

Swimming

Year 4 swimming lessons will start on **12th January**. You will have been notified via ParentPay of your child's swimming this term. Swim hats are available to buy from the school via ParentPay.

SEND Parents

Parent Support Group
Support for parents and carers with children of any age with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Drop in Coffee Afternoon
1:45pm – 2:45pm

Wednesday 28th January 2026: Emotional Regulation
Wednesday 18th March 2026: SEND Provision in School

Come in for an informal chat

Contact Mrs Powell or Mrs Lewis for further details



Year 1 Story Time

Year 1 story time sessions resume next week. Parents and Carers are welcome to come into school and enjoy a reading session with their child on Tuesdays at 2.40pm, led by the class teacher.

This half term will be **Willows** Class.



World Book Day

Save the date: Thursday 5th March

World Book Day will be celebrated in School and Nursery on Thursday 5th March. The children can dress as their favourite book character and we are busy organising a fun-filled day for the children.



Cold Weather

Please ensure your children have clothing for cold weather with them each day, including a named warm coat and suitable shoes.

Thank you

Well done to all the children who took part in the Farleigh Hospice Reindeer Run and we would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, carers, family members and friends who donated money and sponsored the children. We raised a fantastic **£1,428**.

The money raised will help Farleigh Hospice to continue providing care to families across mid-Essex affected by life-limiting illness and bereavement.



After School Clubs

After school clubs start next week (week commencing 12th January), except the Thursday clubs (Year 6 Reading, Year 6 maths and Year 1-2 sports and games), which all start the following week (22nd January).

Rockstars Day and Number Day

We will be celebrating Number Day on **Friday 6th February**.

All children in Nursery, Reception Year 1 and Year 2 are invited to come to school wearing the colour of their favourite Numberblock, or wearing something which has a number on it. Please do not go to any expense, using what you have at home is always best.

Reception and Year 1 children will be visiting each other's classes for exciting number themed activities. Nursery children will celebrate numbers with lots of counting and number fun.

Years 3 – 6 will have TT Rockstars Day and can dress up as rock/pop stars! There will be times tables competitions and many more fun activities for the children.

Reminder

We kindly ask parents and carers to avoid swearing on or around school grounds, as young children are present.
Thank you for your consideration.

Attendance Matters

At John Bunyan we value good attendance and punctuality.

Leave of Absence

The school is not permitted to grant leave of absence during term time, unless there are **exceptional circumstances**. Evidence of exceptional circumstances needs to be provided alongside a completed leave of absence form. Forms are available from the School Office. If you have any queries, please ask the School Office.

If an absence request is not authorised and the holiday is taken, the Local Authority can issue a penalty notice.

Be Punctual

We expect pupils to be in school before the gates close, ready to start learning. If pupils are on time they will be calm and ready to begin learning. They will not miss out on the vital introduction to a lesson or feel anxious about walking into a classroom once the lesson has started.

Let us know

We do understand that children become ill! If that is the case, please remember to phone the school by 9.30am on the first day of illness.

Absence Line: 01376 321814, option 1

Illness:

Children should not be in school:

- For 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhoea
- If they have anything contagious. Your doctor or the school will be able to advise you on when they should return.
- Until you have discussed any broken bones or fractures with the school

If you are not sure, please speak to the school.

Please think carefully before keeping your child at home

**90% ATTENDANCE = ½ DAY MISSED EVERY WEEK.
1 school year at 90% = 4 WHOLE WEEKS OF LESSONS MISSED!
Learning and achievement will be severely affected.**

Attendance

Attendance is important
Together we can achieve the best for each child
There is advice and support for parent/carers
Establishing good habits from the start
Not being in school affects life opportunities
Discuss with your child what goes on in school
Arriving late can be disruptive
Notify the school when your child is absent
Celebrate good attendance
EVERY DAY COUNTS

Above all we want your child to be happy and successful at school and we believe that only by working in partnership with you, will this be possible.

Diary Dates

Friday 16th January – Rowans class visit to Braintree Library
Wednesday 21st January – Choir to Young Voices at the O2
Friday 23rd January – Junipers class visit to Braintree Library
Friday 30th January – Larches class to Braintree Museum
Friday 6th February – Times Tables Rockstars Day / Number Day
Friday 13th February – Open Afternoon from 2.30pm – Parents are welcome in School from 2.30pm
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February – Half Term Holiday
Thursday 5th March 2026 – World Book Day
Tuesday 24th March 2026 – Year 5 trip to Layer Marney Tower

Term Dates for 2025-2026 Academic Year

Spring Term: Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026
Half Term 16 February - 20 February

Summer Term: Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026
Half Term 25 May – 29 May
May Bank Holiday - 4 May
Non-Pupil Days Friday 22 May, Monday 1 June, Monday 20 July



**John Bunyan
Primary School and
Nursery**

Early Years Open Day

Is your child starting school in September
2026, don't miss the boat, come visit us
before the application deadline!

Saturday 10th January 2026
10.30 - 12.00

Call to secure your slot
01376 321814

Visit our Reception classrooms, outdoor area and
whole school tours.

Our school is a place where kindness leads,
resilience grows and every learner is inspired to
achieve their full potential with purpose and pride.