



A warm welcome back to St John's

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St John's School,

A warm welcome back to our existing parents, and a happy hello to our new parents and children at St John's School. The summer holidays feel like a long time ago, now that the leaves are falling and autumn is here, but we hope many adventures were had, and that everyone has now settled into the new school term.

For governors, the autumn term brings new responsibilities: refreshing the school strategy, allocating roles at our annual business meeting and making sure we have our training requirements up to date, especially on safeguarding. It's also a time to plan and prepare for the school year ahead, looking at finance, wellbeing of staff, monitoring of the school curriculum and engagement with our school community.

Last year was a busy one, with two school inspections from Ofsted and SIAMS. It goes without saying we were delighted with the results - a 'good' from Ofsted and an 'excellent' from SIAMS. Thank you to all our staff, parents and governors who contributed. With our Ofsted and SIAMS inspections behind us, we are in a wonderful place to move the school forward and enjoy this academic year.

The school's new IT safeguarding system is working well, we have set targets for subject monitoring to ensure continuous improvement in all areas. We have carried out building and asset management audits and we are setting our building improvement net zero goals as part of our Let's Go Zero pledge. Via the staff, we continue to carefully monitor children's wellbeing and as a leadership team we support our Headteacher and staff. It's a family feel here at St John's, and we are lucky to have such wonderful parents, children and staff who continue to make it feel that way.

Like many schools in the area, we are down on numbers in our reception class this year. It's a low birth rate year so that's the main reason. Low numbers do affect our budgets as we are given money from Surrey County Council on a per head basis, so please help us spread the word about this great school and make recommendations to new parents where you can. We can accept in year applications and are on a marketing drive for next year with our open days. We will be fine financially supporting this year's children, and we are aiming high for more pupils joining reception class next year. Please support us where you can.

This term we welcome four new Governors, Lisa Dunleavy, Simon Dobinson, Lisa Margretts and our new Reverend at St. John's Church Helen Hancock. Sadly Mike Shorthose has decided to step down as Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of the Resources Committee, from which he will be missed. His drive, passion and determination for the school means we have great resources for many years to come and a new nursery school in the village. It's a huge thanks to him and the Churt Village Hall Committee that we welcome Dottie Tots nursery who are now open in Churt Village Hall. Thank you Mike for all you have done.

Here's to a fun packed and engaging term! We look forward to meeting new and existing parents very soon. Our very best wishes,

Clair Craven
Chair of Governors



Marion Stevens
Headteacher
DSL



Clair Craven
Chair
Safeguarding,
resources, EYFS

Alice Jones
Vice Chair

Safeguarding, SEND,
mental health and
wellbeing



Ewan Austin
Chair Resources
Parent governor,
resources, net zero

Lisa Margretts
School Staff



Myra Johnson
SEND,
Data Protection,
Policy, SIAMS

Peter Luckham
Heath and Safety,
Estates



Lisa Dunleavy
Policy, SEND,
PTA link and
fundraising

**Revd Helen
Hancock**
Ex-Officio Governor,
SIAMS



Simon Dobinson
LA Governor
Resources,
net zero

Nicola Perkin
Communications,
fundraising, SIAMS



If you have any questions or would like to know more about what being a governor involves, please email: ccraven@stjohns-farnham.surrey.sch.uk

Parent Governor role

There is one place left on our Governing body. We have a position available for a parent governor role. If you are a friendly, helpful person who would like to be more involved, please let us know and we can set up a short chat with our Chair, Clair Craven.

Any questions? Contact our other parent governor Ewan, or call the school office to speak to Mrs Stevens.

Come join the team and help make a difference to our school.

Our Let's Go Zero Pledge.....

We've taken the Let's Go Zero pledge, declaring our aim to better manage our carbon footprint by 2030.



We're joining schools across the UK to show our support and to help tackle the climate crisis.

In the coming pivotal 'climate decade' we will be part of Let's Go Zero's national network of schools, sharing information about how to reach zero carbon and working to make it happen. At St John's we are aiming to cut carbon in a number of key areas.

- Lighting - introducing more energy efficient LED lighting where we can, sensors and turning off when not in use.
- Windows - repairing old windows to improve energy loss and help with insulation.
- Purchasing - limiting use of single use plastic, thinking about sustainable suppliers.
- Waste - helping our children understand about food waste and managing all our resources carefully.

In our regular lessons, at Forest School and through community linked projects and talks we will be teaching children more about:

- Growing - so our children understand where food comes from.
- Respecting nature - showing and sharing with them the species rich environment in which they live.
- Renewable energy - solar, wind, tidal, hydro and geothermal.
- Small steps at home that add up to make a difference to climate change.

Over the course of this year we will be launching a number of activities, ranging from in class learning to community awareness to wider fundraising. If you would like to help in any way, please let the school office know.

Find out more about Let's Go Zero here: <https://letsgozero.org/>
Visit the school website and Facebook pages to keep up to date.