



Happy New Year from St. John's

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing on behalf of the Governors and St John's staff, to wish you all a very Happy New Year. We are delighted to be starting this year working on some new projects for the school and our focus continues to be quality of education, creating a safe, secure and sustainable school and managing the strategic and financial direction of the school for all our pupils.

We have recently purchased a new IT safeguarding system, are increasing the amount of subject monitoring we do to ensure continuous improvement in all areas, have carried out building and asset management audits, and via the staff, are carefully monitoring children's wellbeing at the school.

We were pleased to hear about the progress made with reading and phonics and thank all staff and parents for the efforts made with the Read Write Inc. system. We were thrilled with the latest performance results too, putting St. John's above national average in all areas. We always look forward to receiving information from the staff at our governor meetings – pupil progression being key to all we do.

Like everyone else, we have a number of challenges as a Governing Body this year, rises in energy costs, in building maintenance costs, and limited funding for school resources to name but a few. 2023 will be a juggling act so please bear with us as we manage the spreadsheets! We may also be in line for an Ofsted review. With their criteria getting stricter and their expectations for all schools to have specialist teachers in all areas – even the small schools like ours – we have our work cut out, but we firmly believe in an ambitious curriculum for our children and will aim high as always.

There are also many opportunities this year. We are pleased to announce that the school has joined the net zero pledge and that as part of that we will be seeking opportunities for 'green finance' from some of the schemes associated with it. We have also set up a Fundraising Committee so that we can make the most of grants, sponsorships and other opportunities as they arise. We hope to establish an Alumni association this year and make some improvements to the school building. We also hope to combine fundraising efforts with other local businesses and organisations – more to follow on that in the spring.

Sadly we said goodbye to one of our Governors last year. We will no longer benefit from the advice and wisdom of Reverend Debbie Smith as she moves on to a new role. We await news of a replacement, but thank Debbie for her involvement and time at the school. We currently have a strong and supportive Governing team however there is a parent vacancy so if anyone is interested please get in touch.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you for all your help and support last term. We are very grateful to have such wonderful parents, carers and pupils at St. Johns and for your continuous support. In this dark and chilly January, we wish you the warmest of wishes for 2023.

Clair Craven
Chair of Governors



*Marion
Stevens*



*Myra
Johnson*



*Nicola
Perkin*



*Peter
Luckham*



*Euan
Austin*



*Alice
Jones*



*Mike
Shorthose*

Myra Johnson



SEND,
Data and Policy

**Alice Jones
Co-vice Chair**



Safeguarding, mental
health and wellbeing

Nicola Perkin



Communications and
fundraising

**Ewan Austin
Parent Governor**



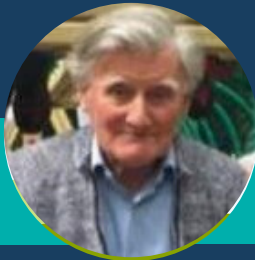
Resources, asset
management, net zero

**Mike Shorthose
Co-vice Chair**



Resources,
sustainability.

Peter Luckham



Health and Safety,
Estates

**Clair Craven
Chair**



Safeguarding,
EYFS

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