



28 March 2018

Dear Parents

### **Governors' News: Spring 2018 – Vision & Strategic Direction**

One of our key roles as governors is focusing on the Vision and Strategic Direction of the school. After the retirement of our Head in 2016, we made the decision to appoint another Head. This was a lengthy process, which resulted in Richard Rowe stepping in as Interim Head. The recruitment of a new Head is one of the most important decisions a governing body can make and we went through two rounds of interviews to find the right person for St John's.

Ginnie came to our school and revitalised St John's, just as we had hoped. It was, therefore, with great sadness that she left us at Christmas. She had wanted to be with us for many years to come and it was a very difficult decision for her to make. Thankfully we were quickly able to appoint Gillian without delay and she started as our Interim Head in January. Gillian is a very experienced Head, who brings with her a wealth of knowledge, a sound understanding of church schools and a calm and professional manner. She has hit the ground running and continues to move St John's forward according to our School Development Plan.

As a governing body we are working very hard to plan for the future. Our vision is for St John's to be the school of choice in the local area by ensuring that every child leaves our school resilient, inspired and equipped to be a life-long learner, with an enquiring mind and open heart. That vision is embedded in the school through our learning tools, our school values, our Christian distinctiveness, our delivery of the Curriculum and the children's understanding of themselves in the world. That vision is, of course, dependent on our staff and we work hard to ensure that we have the right people in the right positions. Sometimes this involves finding creative solutions and quick thinking, but our vision is at the heart of all of these decisions.

With all of this in mind we are focused on the Strategic Direction of the school and how to ensure St John's remains a strong community church school. Small village schools should be the heart of a village and we are working hard to ensure that this is the case for many years to come. It may be that all small schools will have to work differently in the future, but I hope you feel as strongly as we do that St John's Infant School plays a vital role in our community and has a long future ahead. We are very grateful that Gillian has agreed to remain as our Head through this process.

Please come along to our next Parent Forum at 8pm on Wednesday, 25 April to find out more about the Vision and Strategic Direction at St John's.

With best wishes  
St John's Governing Body

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