

The School

St John's is a thriving school of approximately 90 pupils located in the heart of the village of Churt. It was built in 1870 and has been constantly updated over the years - see *Historical Perspective*. The school has three classrooms, an extra learning and teaching room, a large hall, staff room, kitchen and cloakrooms. We also have very well-used outside areas adjoining all classrooms, plus two fields and a playground.

As a church school, we seek to nurture in the hearts and minds of our children the love of God. We welcome all families, with different faiths, the same faith and no faith. We provide our children with opportunities to participate in a spiritual, moral, social and cultural educational experience.

The children are encouraged to think deeply and ask challenging questions about spirituality, awe, wonder and their place in the world. We aim to challenge and support all our children as individuals, instilling in them a genuine love of learning.

School Organisation

Children who will become five during the academic year will be admitted in the Autumn term. The school has three classes: one each for the Reception Year (Rabbit Class) and academic Years One and Two, (Fox and Badger Classes).

Admissions Policy

A copy of our 2019 – 2020 Admissions Policy is enclosed.

Mission Statement

“Enquiring minds and open hearts.”

General Information

All new parents are given a copy of the Parent Handbook which provides all the day-to-day details that parents need to know.

School Times

The school day is from 8.45am to 3.00pm. The door is open from 8.30am. If you are late in arriving, please go to the front reception desk.

Collecting

No child will be sent home with another parent unless permission is given. If you are making an alternative arrangement it should be written on the form provided.

Emergencies

If for any reason, eg, severe weather, and the school is forced to close, we shall do everything possible to keep parents informed via the school website or email.

School Council

Two children from each year group represent their fellow classmates at this council. Children are able to make contributions to many decisions made in school.

Medicals

There is a medical examination by the school nurse for children in their second term at school.

Illness

Parents are asked to phone school before 9.00am if a child is absent. Medicines may not be given without your permission, and then only if prescribed by a doctor. In the event of an injury at school first aid will be given by one of the staff. If it is evident that further medical attention is required, parents will be informed

School Lunches

The majority of children have a school lunch which is cooked on the premises - eating together is a really important part of the school day, where the children from Reception to Yr 2 can all talk together. We have excellent catering facilities and our staff like to see the children enjoy their lunch. Since the Government initiative in September 2014, infant school meals are free for all pupils.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear school uniform as listed in Appendix II. All items of clothing that may be taken off by a child while at school should be clearly named.

Additional Activities

For educational visits, and visitors to St John's, funding is sought by voluntary contributions. Visits are part of our topic-based curriculum and, without sufficient contributions, they could not take place. Reply slips contain a statement for parents to indicate if they are willing voluntarily to donate their share of the costs.

Signed permission must be given, prior to any out of school visit.

Hedgehog Club

This is our Wrap-around Care provision, available for all our pupils. Breakfast is available from 8.00am and children can be looked after at the end of the school day until 5.00pm each day. Please see the office for further details.

After School Clubs

A variety of clubs are available after school, including Spanish, cookery, sport and art.

Holidays

Parents are advised not take their children out of school during the school term. If you wish them to be absent during term time this should only be for extraordinary circumstances and the Headteacher will carefully consider your request (and may take your child's attendance record into account). Holidays will be counted as an "unauthorised absence" on your child's attendance record.

Homework

We are very keen for parents to be involved in their child's learning, so reading, spelling and maths will be sent home regularly.

Historical Perspective

St John's was built in 1870 and opened a year later, so in 1996 we celebrated our 125th Anniversary. A village elementary school which began in the late 19th century has little in common with the infant schools of today, serving a different purpose in a very different environment. In those early days St John's had to house over 100 children in just two classrooms, one with tiered seating for children up to seven and a larger one for the older children. The parents had to pay 'school pence' until free schooling was introduced in 1891.

In the early days the headmaster was often assisted by his wife in teaching and there was also a system of teenage pupil-teachers in support – no National Curriculum in those days.

The school was built on land given by Mr Cubitt MP (later Lord Ashcombe) and he was also on the subscription list, together with Mr Carrington FRS of Jumps House, to provide the £600 needed for the building. In 1888 the school house was built for the headmaster.

In 1893, when the school leaving age was raised to 11, the first improvements to the school buildings were made. There were other changes but it was not until 1934 that electricity replaced oil lamps and as

late as 1962 that flushing sanitation was installed. These changes were part of the major works which, that year, also provided the hall and kitchen extensions which were opened by the Bishop of Guildford.

School and the Community

Churt is a small village with a thriving community spirit. The children are encouraged to take part in village activities from the outset of their school life.

Church

St John's Parish Church has very strong links with the school. At the end of each term a school service is held in the church, which every pupil and staff member attends, and to which parents are also invited.

Our local vicar comes and works in school, taking regular, fun-filled assemblies.

Events

Parents and guests are invited to plays and musical productions in the school, and the local nursery visits us for special events. Yr 2 children also take part in country dancing at the Village Fete and visit the Community Centre to sing carols to the senior citizens of Churt. Children from Yr 1 and Yr 2 also attend the evening "*Carols by Candlelight*" at Quinnettes Barn in the village.

Open Day

At the beginning of the Autumn Term prospective parents are invited to attend an Open Day to see a 'normal' school day and ask questions to the staff and governors.

Visits and Visitors

Educational visits, and visitors to the school, are an integral part of the curriculum and benefit the children immensely. Recent trips include:

Look Out Discovery Centre, Bracknell
Rural Life Centre
Sculpture Park
Thursley Nature Reserve
Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
Arundel Castle
Pierrepont Farm

Parent Partnership

Parents are invited to many activities held in the school. There are Parents' Evenings every term when children's work can be seen and progress discussed with the teacher. There are also "Stay & Share" assemblies each term where, again, parents can see all that the children have been doing.

There is a 'Meet the Teacher' meeting held in the Autumn Term, and class assemblies – to which parents are invited to attend – as well as the Christmas productions, Sports Day, and the end of year Celebration Evening.

We operate an 'open door' policy so if you have any concerns or worries about any aspect of your child's education or welfare, do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher or the Headteacher. If the matter is likely to take more than a few minutes we would advise you to make an appointment and let us know the reason for your visit so that the teacher is prepared appropriately, and we have plenty of time to talk.

The website gives weekly updates from each class about the learning that has taken place, the learning for the following week and how parents can support their children's learning at home.

Our partnership with parents is fundamental in ensuring that we know the “whole child”. Consequently, all teaching and learning can be far more meaningful.

Parent Helpers

We welcome offers of parental help, which will not only benefit the school but will help you feel more involved with your child’s education. At the moment we have help with crafts and choosing library books, as well as reading, comprehension activities, helping out every lunch time in the dinner hall and maintaining the library.

Parent Teacher Association

All parents become a member of the PTA when their child starts school. The Association is run by a committee who volunteer themselves in the Autumn term. The PTA organises events which raise a lot of money for the school and it is hoped that all parents will support its efforts. Recently money raised has been spent on new interactive whiteboards for the class rooms, a new, large AV screen for the hall, and role play equipment for Rabbit Class.

Other, more regular, services and benefits provided by the PTA, include:

- Christmas Panto
- Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt
- Online Payments Service
- Refreshments at Sports Day

Safety

To ensure that school remains a happy and safe place, children should:

- Consider the feelings and property of others
- Arrive at school, ready to learn and participate
- Be respectful of all adults and other children

For safety's sake we make these rules:

- Children are not allowed to run inside the school
- Once in school no child is allowed out of the gate
- If a parent is late for collecting, the child waits in the school
- Parents and children must enter and leave the school premises by the black metal gate and not via the car park

Assemblies

Assemblies are a fundamental part of the school day with the values and themes running through the whole week. They are fun and interactive, expressing our general ethos of joy and care for each other.

Assemblies are held every day, taking different forms. Each week the children's achievements are recognised and celebrated by the whole school community.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship, and should contact the Headteacher if this is the case.

Curriculum

We provide quality teaching and learning through a rich, creative, challenging and fun curriculum. In Reception Class the children follow the Foundation Stage curriculum which gives this very important stage of education a distinct identity. This covers three prime areas:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Physical development and four specific areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and design

Progress in all subjects is closely monitored through formal teacher assessment or standard assessment tests in line with national expectations.

The curriculum of St John's is planned to help the children explore a wide variety of experiences, using their imagination and exercising their powers of thinking to make sense of the world around them.

Whilst independence and resilience in learning is encouraged, time is also devoted to fostering collaboration and demonstrating the benefits of teamwork. The majority of learning is taught through a cross-curricular approach so that children are able to links in their learning.

Learning takes place in both the indoor and outdoor environments.

When a teacher or parent believes a child has a particular learning difficulty, steps are taken to establish what needs to be put in place to support the child's learning. The school's SEN Policy is available on the school website.

Reading

A genuine love of reading is facilitated by giving the children access to a wide range of exciting and attractive books. They are encouraged to read both stories and poems, as well as using books for finding out information. Interest and enjoyment is further fostered by a take home 'shared reading' scheme. In a structured approach, books are chosen to be read with both teachers and parents. Comprehension skills will be developed through discussions with the teacher as well as reading and discussing a variety of literature. A reading diary provides a method of recording books read and enables liaison between school and home. Great importance is placed on discussion and conversation around the book, as well as accurately decoding the text.

Writing

Handwriting is taught using a joined-up style for phonic sounds from the outset; spelling is learnt by using a variety of patterns, with encouragement to apply new found knowledge to an ever widening range of words. Children are taught to write for a variety of purposes and audiences using an increasingly wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

Speaking & Listening

Spoken language underpins the development of reading and writing. Children will be given opportunities to discuss their understanding of reading and be given opportunities to prepare their ideas before writing. Children will have regular “show and tell” activities and make contributions during class debates and class assemblies.

Mathematics

We try to ensure that children get off to a good start by *enjoying* maths. To foster a positive attitude we provide stimulating activities. This leads to the understanding of concepts, skills and the ability to problem solve.

We also hold an annual Maths Evening where parents can become familiar with the methods and resources used so they can help support their children at home.

In Years 1 and 2, maths homework is sent home, accompanied by a diary. This forms part of on-going class work while allowing parents a greater insight into their child’s progress.

Science

Through exploration and discovery science helps children to understand the world around them. Investigations and experimentation develops the skills of observing, measuring, questioning, predicting and communicating. The children will use their new found scientific approaches in extra-curricular activities to support the half termly topics. They will also be encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things behave and analyse causes.

Computing

Skills are fostered with simple construction toys, progressing to quite sophisticated models. Children are supervised when using the internet (see E-Safety Policy).

Geography

Pupils will develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and the local community. They will compare similarities and differences through studying human and physical geography. They will learn key vocabulary and identify seasonal and daily weather patterns, and learn how to use maps, atlases, globes, photographs, etc.

History

Pupils will develop knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. Pupils will develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time. They will be taught about changes within living memory and significant events beyond living memory. They will be taught about the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements, and they will also learn about significant events, people and places in our locality.

Art & Design

Art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge children. They will gain knowledge and skills to create their own pieces of art, craft and design. They will use a variety of mediums and learn about great artists, craft-makers and designers.

Design Technology

Children will use their creativity and imagination to design and make products within a variety of contexts. They will learn to evaluate and test their own products and the work of others.

They will also understand where food comes from, the principles of a healthy diet and prepare and cook a variety of food.

Music

Pupils will be taught to use their voices expressively by singing songs and rhymes. They will experiment with and combine sounds, play tuned and un-tuned musical instruments, whilst listening with concentration and understanding to a variety of music.

PE

Pupils will be taught how to master a variety of physical skills, participate in team games and dances. They will become increasingly competent and confident across the games, gymnastics and dance curriculum offered. We have an annual Sports Day to which parents are invited.

RE

Much of the exciting RE taught is based around the Diocesan guidelines with a great focus on questioning and “Big Questions”. The curriculum reflects on the big issues of life and has a sympathetic grasp of the beliefs of others.

Forest School

All children have the opportunity to be part of our Forest School where they will develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands-on learning experience, in our natural environmental and in local woodland.

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE)

PSHE is a non-statutory subject that can encompass many areas of study. We tailor the PSHE education to reflect the needs of our pupils. Areas covered include drug education, relationship education, keeping safe, and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.

Assessment

Apart from statutory assessment in the form of KS1 SATs and Phonics Screening in Yr 1, we also have a robust system of internal assessment so we can constantly ensure our children are supported and challenged.

Appendices

Appendix I: Documents

The following documents may be viewed on the school's website:

- 1) Surrey Statement of Curriculum Policy
- 2) Complaints Procedure - see also Appendix III
- 3) Diocesan Syllabus for RE
- 4) Minutes of Governors' meetings
- 5) School Policies

Appendix II: School Uniform

Boys

Navy 'V' necked sweatshirt* with school logo
Short or long grey trousers, dark socks
White polo shirt *
Warm, waterproof coat or navy fleece* with school logo for
playground and games

Girls

Navy 'V' necked cardigan * with school logo
Warm, waterproof coat or navy fleece* with school logo for
playground and games
Winter: Black Watch tartan kilt or long grey trousers in the winter
White polo shirt*, navy tights/dark socks
Summer: Navy and white check dress

Long hair should be tied back with navy or black ONLY accessories

Shoes

Black, navy or brown. No open sandals or trainers

PE Kit

White t-shirt* with school logo, navy shorts*, black slip-on plimsolls
Navy jogging bottoms and trainers

Hoodies

Turquoise hoodie* with school logo for off-site, school events

* available from school office

Appendix III: Complaints Procedure

Policy Documents and rules for dealing with complaints are available if required; the following points should be noted:

- It is always advisable to seek to resolve any difficulty with the school in an informal discussion with the teacher or Headteacher and/or other staff in the school; most concerns or potential complaints can be best settled this way.

Similarly, if the concern is about an action of the LA it is suggested that an approach is made to the relevant LA officers first.

- The rules deal only with the complaints arising from the National Curriculum provisions of the 1988 Education Act and do not cover complaints about the actions of individual teachers or the Headteacher.

Appendix IV

Dates - Academic Year 2018 – 2019

Autumn Term

Tuesday, 4 September – Wednesday, 19 December
(Half Term: 22 – 26 October)

Spring Term

Thursday, 3 January – Friday, 5 April
(Half Term: 18 – 22 February)

Summer Term

Tuesday, 23 April – Wednesday, 24 July
(Half Term: 27 – 31 May)

Bank Holiday: Monday, 6 May