

# An update from the Governors at St John's School



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

It's been a while since our last newsletter but we are glad to be putting pen to paper again and sharing our news. It has been a busy time for the Governing Board, with lots of updates from Government, Surrey County Council and the associated borough wide East Surrey, West Surrey restructure. We are still working hard on joining the multi academy trust and are dealing with some difficult challenges around lower birth rates and it's impact on names on roll.

In our meetings we continue to look at the school strategy, and make sure we have all our training requirements up to date, especially on safeguarding. We've also been following the national debate on the use of mobile phone technology in schools, which largely effects Year 6 children and above, but does mean infant schools will need to set the appropriate ground rules.

In the current climate it's all about keeping our strategic and financial targets on track - even though the goalposts around us keep shifting. We do this with great care whilst making sure we keep our focus on education and curriculum 'letting every child's light shine'.

**Our big news this term** is that we have a new parent governor who has joined our team. We are delighted to welcome Matthew Smith to the Full Governing Board.

**It also gives us great pleasure** to report that we continue to have excellent results with our phonics reading scheme and with our maths - hitting higher than national average levels again in both areas in 2025. Please take time to look at these results and share them with parents looking for new schools. As we have said before word of mouth is our strongest marketing tool and if every family could recommend just one more family to join our school, it would significantly help with our names on roll.

We are introducing new and reinforcing some of our existing **fundraising initiatives** - see below for more information on this and how you can help. Note also there will be an invite sent out next term for a parent social evening - a chance to get us all together to celebrate the best of St John's and talk about our future plans. Cheese/pizza and wine at the ready!

The observant among you will have noticed our **new website** - lots of work from Mrs Stevens and Mrs Batchelor to get this live so its a huge thanks to them. We hope you will agree that it better sells our wonderful school.

**Finally, it's a huge thank you** from us to you, our wonderful parents and carers. Thank you for your ongoing time, energy and commitment to St John's School. It would not be the place it is without you all!

Our very best wishes,

*Clair Craven*  
*Chair of Governors*



*If you have any questions or would like to know more about any of the above please email:  
[ccraven@stjohns-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:ccraven@stjohns-farnham.surrey.sch.uk)*

# Our results!

We continuously track our results across all age groups at St John's to make sure we meet (or exceed) expected standards and give our children the very best start.



- At the end of Reception year children are assessed against the early learning goal. If they reach the expected level in 12 of 17 areas, they reach the GLD - Good Level of Development. **In 2025 80% of our children reached the GLD, much higher than the national average of 68.3% and exceeding the Surrey Local Authority average of 74.1%.**
- Year 1 children complete a phonics assessment in June each year. If they do not meet the threshold in Year 1 then they retake in Year 2. **85% of Year 1 pupils and 100% of Year 2 pupils met the 2025 threshold, great results - well done all!**
- At the end of Year 2 children are assessed to see if they have met the expected level of development or exceeded it with greater depth understanding. We have **high percentages of pupils (93%, 80% and 90%) reaching expected levels in reading writing and maths with 48%, 30% and 30% reaching greater depth.** The time, energy and commitment staff and parents give to phonics, reading, writing and maths is really paying off. Thank you to everyone involved.

*Note: Full data sheet of results available on school website.*

## Let's Go Zero Pledge

We've taken the pledge and continue to work towards our climate change commitments.



Last year was an excellent year for us in terms of building improvements and applications for grants. Our aim: to make the school building as sustainable as we can, improving heating, lighting and energy costs and providing a safe, warm and secure environment for pupils at the school.

Last time we reported new windows, LED lights and a new boiler with our next task being our flat roof. We are pleased to report works on the roof have been completed.

In the pipeline we have an improvement project for the toilets making them more water efficient, cleaner and smarter with accessible space.

*"Small things done with great love and affection can change our world..."*



# Fundraising

Fundraising plays a key part in the operations of St Johns helping provide extra resources and classroom equipment for the school.

Fundraising at St Johns is carried out in a number of ways.

- The PTA play a huge part. They run annual fundraising events, which make a BIG difference to the pupils at the school. **Last year they provided a new shed, musical flowers, planting area, and a Lego workshop.** We are very grateful for all they do and they always welcome ideas on new initiatives and ways to support. Perhaps you could organise a sponsored cycle, a sponsored silence, a run or a sponsored read-a-thon. Your company may even match fund you. If you have any ideas to raise some BIG funds let them or us know:  
**ptachair@stjohns-farnham.surrey.sch.uk.**
- We ask parents to sign up to **Give as You Live**, which is a donate as you shop scheme. A number of shops give a percentage of the money you spend on your ordinary shopping to a charity of your choice - in this case St John's - so if you haven't signed up already please do so at this link **<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/stjohncofe>**. St John's PTA is the charity to support.
- **One off donations** can be made via Give as You Live too or bigger donations can be made directly to the Business Manager at the school. Some businesses choose to sponsor and support the school in this way. Please get in touch via the school office if you wish to support.
- It's also our great pleasure to announce we are working on a new **Patrons Scheme**. More information to follow on this at our **parent social evening** next term.

All help is appreciated however BIG or small. Thank you for all you do.

## You are invited...

to our Parent's social evening next term. **SAVE THE DATE:** evening of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026.



We really hope **all parents and carers** will join us for this evening at the school - it's a chance for us to catch up with parents and carers, talk through any questions and celebrate this wonderful school. More information to follow next term. Cheese and wine at the ready!

## And finally...



We just wanted to take a moment to thank all our school staff. The team at St John's is small but mighty and we are very grateful for all they do.



**Marion Stevens**  
**Headteacher**  
DSL



**Clair Craven**  
**Chair**  
Safeguarding,  
resources, EYFS

**Alice Jones**  
**Vice Chair**

Safeguarding, mental  
health and wellbeing



**Ewan Austin**  
**Chair Resources**  
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



**Nicola Perkin**  
Communications,  
fundraising, SIAMS

**Matthew Smith**  
Parent Governor



*Governor profiles are available on the school website.....*