



# An update from the Governors at St John's

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

A very warm welcome to our existing parents, and a happy hello to our new parents and children at St John's School. We hope all our Reception Class are now settled in and that everyone is looking forward to spring and summer adventures at the school.

For governors, the autumn and winter terms are busy. In our meetings we've been looking at the school strategy, allocating roles at our annual business meeting and making sure we have all our training requirements up to date, especially on safeguarding. We've also been preparing for the school year ahead, looking at finance, wellbeing of staff, monitoring of the school curriculum and engagement with our school community. It's a time we enjoy, but there are challenges, so we continue to work hard behind the scenes to keep our strategic and financial targets on track.

**Our big news this term** is that we have worked hard on our climate commitments as part of our 'Let's Go Zero' pledge and have been successful in getting our energy bills down. We've also got funding for more building improvements at the school. New LED lights and a new boiler are now in, so our next project is improving the flat roofs. We also have funds to improve the school toilets and for adding a new accessible toilet space. Special thanks to our School Business Manager and our Resources Committee for all their hard work on this. Let's keep going with our Let's Go Zero pledge and bring our water, waste and energy costs down.

**It also gives us great pleasure** to report that we've had some excellent results with our phonics reading scheme and with our maths - hitting higher than national average levels again in both areas in 2024. Please take time to look at these results and share them with parents looking for new schools. Word of mouth is our strongest marketing tool. Time to tell all about how great this school is. Thanks to the teachers and pupils for all their hard work here.

We have 9 Governors volunteering on our team this year, and an energetic, warm and friendly PTA. **Volunteering is at the heart of this small school**, so however much or little time you have, please help where you can. You can contact the school office for more details about volunteering opportunities at any time. We welcome parent applications to our governing team and have other opportunities across the school. "Small things done with great care and affection can change the world" so the little things count!

**And finally**, it's a huge thank you from us to you, our wonderful parents and carers. We hope 2025 is all you and your families wish for. Thank you for your time, energy and commitment to St John's School.

Our very best wishes as always,

*Clair Craven  
Chair of Governors*



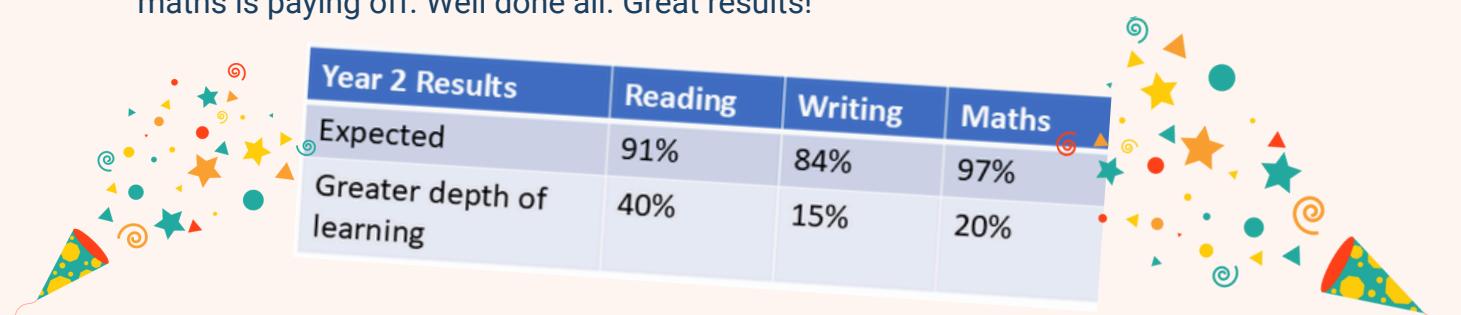
*If you have any questions or would like to know more about what being a governor involves, please email: [cocraven@stjohns-farnham.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:cocraven@stjohns-farnham.surrey.sch.uk)*

# 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 2024 70% of our children reached the GLD, (68% being the national average).**
- 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. **90% of Year 1 pupils and 97% of Year 2 pupils met the 2024 threshold, beating the national averages of 80% for Year 1 and 91% for Year 2.**
- 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. **Such high percentages of pupils reaching expected levels is an excellent outcome for St John's and the greater depth in learning is fantastic.** Investing time and money in our phonics and maths is paying off. Well done all. Great results!



A decorative graphic of colorful confetti and streamers on either side of the table.

Year 2 Results	Reading	Writing	Maths
Expected	91%	84%	97%
Greater depth of learning	40%	15%	20%

## 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 attending the school.

- Check out our new windows in the school hall - better insulation keeping energy costs down.
- Switch on our new LED lights as you walk round the school - lighter, brighter and cheaper than before.
- Watch how the veggies grow in our school veg beds - teaching children about growing food.
- Enjoy that rosy glow now that we have a new boiler fitted.

Lots more to do but heading in the right direction. Next task, our flat roofs.

# Volunteering opportunities at St John's school



- The PTA is a good place to start. They need help with their fundraising events, which make a BIG difference to the pupils at the school. **They have a variety of roles - including small ones that can be done in the evening** - so any help is greatly appreciated.
- **Teachers welcome support** from parents who are happy to hear children read or who are interested in supporting maths. Working with children requires a DBS check so contact the school office if you are interested in helping with this.
- **The school needs help on school trips** so if you would like to help on these, get a DBS check done and you can volunteer to go on a school trip.
- There is work to do **in maintaining the school garden and growing area**. If you are a keen gardener or like working outdoors then help would be appreciated. This can be done at weekends or in the evenings in spring and summer so maybe a good one if you work.
- **Become a parent governor.** If you take on this role, it is for 4 years so you need to be committed and interested in the role. It involves a few evening meetings each year and a willingness to learn about the school strategy and finances. Speak to the Chair of Governors, Clair Craven if this is of interest to you.

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



## Strategy and Finance

At St John's we have a few things that help us keep on track with our strategic vision and finance plans. Here's a quick summary of some of the work we do in the Governing Body. Our aim: to let every pupil's light shine as bright as it can.

- Monitor and help manage the School Development Plan with the Headteacher. Set targets for school improvement.
- Secure the strategic and financial direction for the school.
- Monitor and react to changing education standards and changes in legislation or regulation.
- Help manage Ofsted and SIAMS reviews.
- Maintain relationships with the Diocese, Church and local community as a Church of England Infant School.
- Manage the school buildings, assets and land.
- Do annual training e.g. Safeguarding, GDPR.

# St John's Governors



**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**

Health and Safety,  
Estates



**Lisa Dunleavy**

Policy, SEND,  
PTA link and  
fundraising

**Revd Helen  
Hancock**

Ex-Officio Governor,  
SIAMS



**Nicola Perkin**

Communications,  
fundraising, SIAMS

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

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](mailto:ccraven@stjohns-farnham.surrey.sch.uk)