

New year, new term at St John's School



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

New term, new school year and a very warm welcome to our new parents and children who have joined our school. This is the Autumn newsletter from the governors of St John's School intended to keep you up to date with what we are doing and give you some insight into the management of the school.

We've started the term with great energy, pleased to be back and looking forward to the year ahead. We have a lot of new policies to update and adopt (thanks to the Department for Education and other legislative updates throughout the summer), and continue to monitor progression of the borough wide East Surrey, West Surrey restructure going on at Surrey County Council level. All policies are available on the school website.

We are still working hard on joining the multi academy trust and are dealing with the difficult challenges around lower birth rates and the potential impact on names on roll. School staff and PTA team are already on it, driving forward the school marketing plan for open days.

In our meetings we talk safeguarding, school strategy, about training and school wellbeing. 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'.

We are delighted to now have two parent governors as part of our team and warmly welcome Marc Cowley who will work alongside Matthew Smith who joined us as parent governor last academic year.

Sadly, we report that Peter Luckham, a long standing governor and previous caretaker of St John's school passed away recently. Our thoughts are with his family and friends and our prayers give thanks for the huge amount of work and wise counsel he gave to the school.

Three other governor terms have come to an end - Lisa Margretts, Nicola Perkin and Ewan Austin - and we are truly grateful for all the work they have done for the school during their terms. We are recruiting again - this time community governors, so if you know any community members (not parents of this school) who would like the opportunity to become a school governor, please let us know.

Included within this newsletter, school results, upcoming events and a piece on our new Patron Scheme. We hope you find the content helpful - any feedback, just let us know.

Thank you again for your time, energy and commitment for our school. We hope you and the children have a fabulous autumn term at St John's.

With 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

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 2026 60% of our children reached GLD - well done everyone!**
- Year 1 children complete a phonics assessment in June each year. If they do not quite meet the threshold in Year 1 then it is checked again in Year 2. **95% of Year 1 pupils and 100% of Year 2 pupils met the 2026 threshold, great results - well done all!**
- At the end of Year 2 children are teacher assessment is used to see if they have met the expected level of development or exceeded it with greater depth of understanding. We have **high percentages of pupils reaching expected levels in reading, writing and maths with some reaching greater depth of understanding in these areas.** These are great results.
- Please share these results 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.

(Note: The full data set is available on the school website).

Upcoming events:

Our wonderful PTA have lots of events planned for the Autumn term. Have fun and support where you can to help fundraise....



Dates for the diary include:

Tuesday 3rd November 7pm - PTA meeting - Come along and share your ideas.

Saturday 28 November 2-4pm St John's School

Christmas Fayre 🎄 🎅 🎁

Volunteers needed to help plan the day and man the stalls - great fun for all the family!
Save the date....invite family and friends along.

And then there will be raffles, auctions, bake sales and other fundraising activities to enjoy. Check out the PTA noticeboards and emails for details.

Launch of new Patron Scheme

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



- 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 have launched the school **Patron Scheme** - aimed at Alumni, our wider community and other sponsors of our school. Find out more via the QR code or visit the school website.

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



In memory of...

Peter Luckham - Caretaker and School Crossing Patrol Officer at St John's School from 1992 - 2012 & School Governor from 2012 to 2026. Remembered for his love and commitment to the school, for his hard work and wise counsel. May he rest in peace.

