



*Let Your Light Shine!*

# St John's C of E Infant School

## A school that provides:

A nurturing family atmosphere

A love of learning and a joyful day

A curriculum that engages, challenges and excites each child

Committed and enthusiastic staff that love and care for our children



**"The curriculum is well designed to meet the needs of all pupils."**

# Welcome from the Head Teacher



A warm welcome to everyone,

As a rural school, in the centre of the village, we are blessed to have many resources at our disposal. A sports field, an onsite garden/forest and trim trail area as well as use of a larger woodland area in the village.

We seek to nurture in the hearts and minds of our children a love of learning. I have been at the school in many capacities over the past 20 years and I am honoured to now be the headteacher of this fantastic community. Our team of staff share my passion to educate the whole child academically as well as personally, socially and emotionally.

Our aim is for every child to develop skills that will allow them to be lifelong learners. St John's is where every child grows in faith and hope whilst making long lasting friendships.

*Marion Stevens*

## Our Vision

St John's is a place where we can grow as life-long learners, understand the value of trusting friendships, show thankfulness and compassion to others and can make mistakes, knowing that we will be forgiven. We find peace and become peacemakers in the knowledge that we are letting our light shine.

**"The vision is at the heart of a school culture that changes lives for the better as a matter of extraordinary and exceptional routine."**  
SIAMS 2023

## The School

St John's is a popular village infant school. It is a thriving school with a maximum of 90 pupils located in the heart of the village of Churt, near Farnham.

The school provides an excellent education, delivered through a broad and balanced curriculum, designed to engage, challenge and excite each child.

It offers a wide range of experiences, with weekly forest school sessions for every year group, to an extensive choice of after school clubs and activities, including sport, choir, language, and art. Staff are committed and enthusiastic, with a wealth of experience.

The school is extremely proud of its long-standing record of high academic achievement, and is a feeder school to both Waverley Abbey and South Farnham schools.

Its facilities include a purpose built library, outside trim trail, and light and airy classrooms – designed to encourage a love of learning, in a warm, happy and stimulating environment.

From the moment you walk through the doors of St John's you will be greeted by a friendly smile, and you can appreciate why this happy, and thriving school is loved by many.





The school has three large classrooms and all have very well-used outside areas adjoining the room.

The three classes are known as:  
 Reception Year - Rabbit Class  
 Year One - Fox class  
 Year Two - Badger Class

Children who will become five during the academic year will be admitted in the Autumn term.

We also have an extra learning and teaching room, library area, large hall, and onsite kitchen a wrap around playground, a garden trim trail area. In addition to this we have an offsite field and use of a large woodland area.

Our staff are experienced in the education and care of children, we regularly update our training so that we can provide the best for our young people.

We welcome all families, and all faiths or none, everyone is welcome. We enjoy learning from, and about, our families.

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.



## Parent Partnership

Parents are invited into school, regularly. There are class assemblies and services throughout the school year. There are Christmas productions and sports day. We also encourage parent helpers to come into school once a DBS check is completed.

There is an active Parent Teacher Association whom organise many events which balance fun, friendship and fundraising for both adults and children.

### Progress Information -

There are 'Meet the Teacher' meetings at the beginning of each year to give information about each year group. Progress is shared at parents' evenings every term when children's work can be seen and progress discussed with the teacher. Following class assemblies children get the opportunity to share with families their books. We also use an app called Marvelous Me to keep families updated on achievements and learning.

## Facilities



**Weekly Forest School & Outdoor learning**



**Inspiring Library**



**After school clubs & extended day**



**Imaginative play equipment**



**Laptop computers**



**Vegetable gardens**



**Sports field**



# St John's in Churt

St John's was built in 1870 and opened a year later, as a village elementary school. In 2021, the school celebrated its 150 year anniversary and long service of providing an education to the children of Churt and surrounding areas.

## Community Spirit

We can often be seen travelling through the village throughout the week.

We try to support our community where possible be that a collection for the food bank, singing Christmas carols, entering competitions in the horticultural society, country dancing at the village fete or decorating sculptures for Haslemere hens and hogs.

## A school in the community

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

The local parish church of St John's 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 minister comes and works in school, taking regular fun-filled assemblies.

The village has welcomed a full time nursery in the village hall. There are also football and cricket clubs for boys and girls weekend sports activities. There are tennis lessons at the tennis courts as well as very active Beavers, Cubs and Scouts groups. There is also drama opportunities with the local amateur dramatic society for youths and adults.



## Volunteers

We welcome community volunteers to support us, whatever age. We often provide work experience places for secondary school students and Duke of Edinburgh award students. Local people also help with reading, crafts or gardening.

## Showing our thanks

Our annual helpers tea party in the summer is a celebration for all those who have helped us throughout the year.





# Curriculum

*"St John's helps them to be strong academically, emotionally and spiritually"*

Our curriculum is planned into topics for each term and every subject then has a sequence of lessons planned to teach children the required knowledge and skills to ensure progression throughout each subject through early years and Key Stage 1. Wherever possible there are cross curriculum links made to embed and secure knowledge.

Progress in all subjects is closely monitored through formal teacher assessment or standard assessment tests in line with national expectations. The curriculum at 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 team work. Topic and thematic work and focus weeks help the children develop links between different areas of the curriculum. Learning takes place in both the indoor and outdoor environments.

## Early Years Curriculum (Reception Class)

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

Along with four specific areas of learning:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



## SEN Information

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. We have a dedicated SENCO to support children, families and teachers. For more information the school's SEN Policy is available on the school website.

**"This is an inclusive school." Ofsted 2023**

# Curriculum

## English

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 book, known as a library book. For the more formal teaching of reading we use 'Read Write Inc Phonics'. This is a systematic phonics scheme which teaches the foundation of reading, spelling and writing. We provide engaging opportunities across the school to enable the children to articulate their ideas in speech and in structured and creative writing.

## Science

Through exploration and discovery, science helps children to understand the world around them. Investigations and experimentation develop the skills of observing, measuring, questioning, predicting and communicating.

## Computing

To nurture our children's enquiring minds, each classroom is equipped with interactive whiteboards and children have access to chrome books. We use a platform called Purple Mash to teach our computing curriculum as well as set home learning on.

## Mathematics

Through carefully planned steps and sequences, children gain knowledge of concepts and a deep understanding of number calculations, shape, space and measure. The steps encourage the use of concrete materials before moving onto pictorial and abstract methods of calculation. Children are challenged to explain their mathematical thinking from the earliest ages, allowing them to truly demonstrate their understanding.

## Physical Education

We make use of our sports field and well equipped school hall throughout the week to practise a planned sequence of skills. The progression of these skills ensures we meet our physical milestones. We strive to improve on our personal best each time. Being physically fit and healthy is good for our well being.

## Personal, Social and Emotional development

Our curriculum provides a strong emphasis on our personal development throughout the school in all areas of our curriculum. Study covers relationships, safety, lifestyle, hygiene. A healthy mind and body is required to ensure we have successful learners.

## RE

The Guildford Diocese syllabus is followed to deliver the RE curriculum in weekly lessons. Our Christian values are modelled by every member of our school community.

## Art, Drama, Music & Design

Children are taught the skills and knowledge required to create and perform. We encourage studying the work of famous artists, musicians and inventors. We encourage children to express themselves creatively in a variety of forms and media. Skills, once taught, can be used in performances and displays.

## History and Geography

In history each class has periods of time and famous people to study each year building on the skills and knowledge learned in the previous years. In geography facts are learned and built upon each year. It includes studies of local as well global locations. Both subjects require careful observations of similarities and differences.

## Forest School

Children are given opportunities to explore the natural environment in both on and off site locations within our local area of outstanding natural beauty. The experiences gained improve resilience, whilst focusing on many curriculum areas; physical development, scientific enquiry, imagination and D.T.



*"The school has given all four of my children the strongest start to their education and independent lives"*



# Learning tools

We use learning tools to discuss our learning and promote skills for successful learners

Questioning  
Sticking at it  
Noticing  
Listening  
Working together  
Reflecting  
Making links  
Imagining



## Values

These promote skills needed to be successful citizens in our school, community & the world.

Thankfulness  
Friendship  
Peace  
Love and Compassion  
Forgiveness  
Trust



## Rainbow Rules

Be kind

Be honest

Be thoughtful

Be respectful

Be hardworking

Let your light shine.

These rules help us to live up to these values, following them will allow our light to shine!



# Welcoming your child to St John's



**"Really nurturing induction.  
She loved the badge, home and  
nursery visit"**

## Starting school

We understand how important it is for your child to feel happy and settled within their school environment. Whether your child is starting in reception or joining further up the school, we aim to make the transition to St John's as easy as possible.

Kindness is one of St John's rainbow rules, and Year 1 and 2 children are given the responsibility of buddying with new children, and helping them feel at home within the school. We have lots of ways to build relationships with children and induction to a new school is carefully planned.



## Welcome pack

Upon confirmation of a place, you will receive a welcome pack that includes the handbook, and important dates for your diary such as visits to school and meet the staff for both your child and you.

There will also be a postcard addressed to your child, and a badge to make them feel part of the St John's family.

*"Lovely gorgeous little school with a great community feel. Amazing teachers and staff that create a great environment to learn in"*



# Adventures beyond the classroom

## Visits & 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
- Rural Life Centre
- Sculpture Park
- Thursley Nature Reserve
- Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Arundel Castle
- Pierrepont Farm
- Brooklands Museum
- Marwell



## After school clubs and wrap around care



### After school clubs

We aim to offer a variety of after school clubs that enhance skills and develop interests. These are planned and delivered by skilled professionals. These popular clubs are currently on offer:

- French
- Football
- Forest school
- Dance
- Art
- Choir



### Wrap around care

We offer our own before and after school club, which aims to provide nurturing care in a safe, and familiar setting. During the club children are provided with a healthy snack. They take part in a variety of activities both indoors and outdoors. Activities follow the children's interests with the aim to continue each child's personal and social development, whilst promoting well being.





# Forest School

## Wellbeing and outdoor learning

Weekly forest school sessions for all classes provide the children with opportunities to develop skills in all areas as well as consolidate their curriculum learning.

Their knowledge of the natural world is developed alongside their physical emotional and social skills.



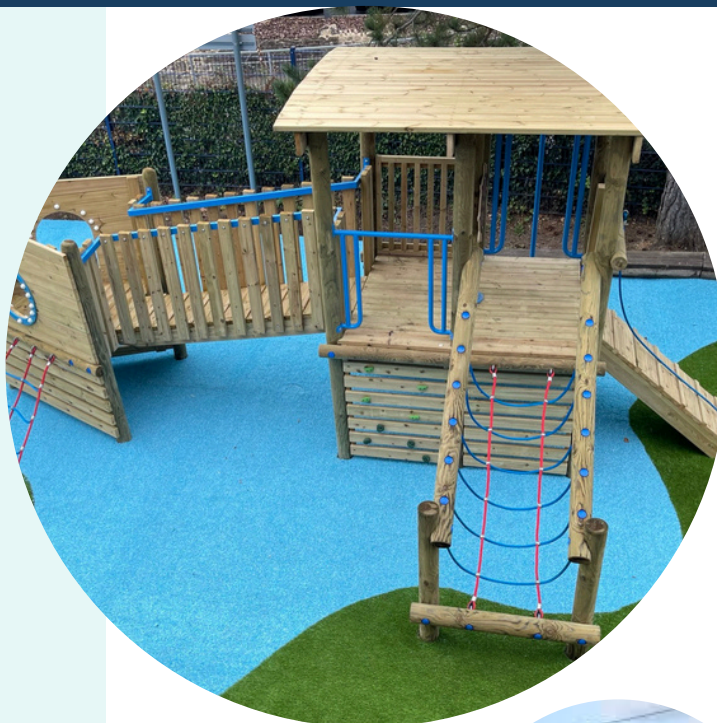


# Moving On

The school is extremely proud of its long-standing record of high academic achievement. It has strong links with a number of local independent schools, and is a named feeder school to both:

Waverley  
Abbey  
&  
South  
Farnham

*"St John's excels in spiritual, moral, social and cultural development"*



## Open Days



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 of the staff and governors. These are a fantastic opportunity to see the school in action, and find out more about what makes St John's so special. Private tours are also available throughout the school year.

Please contact the school office to make an appointment.





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