

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to a new school year at St John's, especially to our new families whose children have joined the school this week.

Ofsted Inspection

As many of you will be aware, school was visited by a team from Ofsted at the end of the summer term to make sure that your children are getting the education experience that they deserve. It is a very detailed process over three days with a team of inspectors visiting classes, talking to children, staff, parents and governors and looking at our results, books, website and school environment.

We are delighted with the report that you can read in full here: [Ofsted Report 2026](#)

The report says that we are doing everything a school should be doing to help children learn, flourish, and stay safe. There is a lot to celebrate, and I would like to thank all of the school community – including you - for our shared ongoing commitment to making school a safe, fun, special place for children to come and learn every day.

The most important section (I think as a parent myself) is when the inspectors write from a child's perspective about what it is like to be a child at this school and I have copied that below for you:

What it's like to be a pupil at this school

Pupils are happy to attend this improving school. They arrive each morning with a smile on their face and a cheerful greeting to their peers and staff on the playground. Pupils know what is expected of their behaviour. They respond readily to routines. This ensures that each day starts in a purposeful way. Throughout the school day, pupils live out the school motto. They are 'ready', 'respectful' and 'safe'. Pupils are clear that everyone is welcome at this school. Bullying is rare. Pupils are confident that staff will resolve effectively any worries that they have.

Pupils who need additional help with their learning or wellbeing are generally supported well. For example, they attend the 'Rainbow Room' and 'Calm Quarters' to support them to successfully regulate their emotions and to learn through play. Overall, pupils make secure progress through the curriculum. They enjoy learning. Where there have been some weaknesses in handwriting in the past, leaders have addressed these appropriately. Consequently, pupils are typically ready for the next stage of their education. Children in the early years are excited to introduce themselves and each other to visitors to their school. They find awe in the world around them.

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Pupils know that coming to school each day develops positive habits for the future and helps you to learn. Pupils are keen to talk about the different competitions that promote positive attendance. As a result, rates of attendance have improved. This includes a reduction in the number of pupils who are persistently absent from school.

There are a range of clubs and leadership opportunities for pupils. These help pupils to make a positive contribution to school life. For example, pupils attend sports and chess club. Furthermore, they show a sense of social responsibility. For instance, they raise money for charities by taking part in the school show.

The report is positive, but we know there are always lots of things we want to work on as a school community so that our children get the fantastic start to life that they deserve. This year we are continuing to work on helping our youngest children in nursery and Reception get the best start, helping all our children be great writers and making sure that children get the opportunities they need to be physically and mentally healthy.

A newsletter will come out on Monday with our term dates and information about visits, visitors, activities and clubs. I know Y5 already had letters about Bikeability, and Y6 have had information about a new residential opportunity. We have a range of after-school clubs planned for the children and these will start the week beginning 14th September.

We are excited by the opening of the Radcliffe Hub and the opportunities that will mean for our children – Y4 are booked into the new pool for swimming lessons later this term. The Government has also said there will be new opportunities to promote sport with local clubs which should start in January, and so we are looking forward to even more extra-curricular opportunities to come.

Save the date: Wednesday 9th September

If you are thinking about guitar or ukelele lessons for your child, you are welcome to come to the Front Row assembly at 9am on Wednesday where they will talk about the instruments. We also invite you to come back to school after pick-up on Wednesday 9th September at 3.30pm so that children can show you their new classroom – where they sit and where their locker is etc. You can meet their teacher too.

As staff, we do want to be available to speak to parents at the end of the day if you have a question but please do let us safely dismiss the children to their adults first – so that we can make sure everyone is with the right person before teachers talk to you.

Thank you for all you bring as families to our school life. We are looking forward to a great school year ahead!

Kind regards
Tracey Cansdale
Headteacher