



St John's
CE Primary School

Isaiah 40:31 'They will soar on wings like eagles'

Head Teacher: Mrs T. Cansdale

Deputy Head: Mrs M. Milne

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome as we begin the Summer term. We hope you and your families enjoyed a good break and that the children are returning refreshed and ready for the exciting weeks ahead. It was great to start the day with our free Breakfast Club operating from 8.15am - chat to the office if you have not yet booked a place for your child and would like to.

Dates for Your Diary - As always, we would encourage families to take some time to look carefully at the **termly list of dates**, which is available on the website (link has been texted to you on Teachers 2 Parents). The coming weeks include a wide range of events, trips and transition activities, and we hope that having these dates in advance will help families with planning, so you know when things like Sports Mornings are happening.

Looking Ahead – Welcoming New Starters and Preparing for Leavers - We are very much looking forward to welcoming **new families to St John's**, particularly children who will be starting in EYFS (either Reception or Nursery) in September. Over the term, there will be a number of transition events designed to help children and parents feel confident and excited about joining our school community and we offer a home visit to all our new families, so we can listen to you and learn about your child. If you have a child who would like a **nursery place in September** (they will be 3) then please let the School Office know and come along to our **EYFS Open Morning on Thursday 21st May at 9.30am**

At the same time, we will be supporting our **Year 6 children as they prepare for the move to secondary school**. Their final term at St John's is always filled with memorable moments, opportunities to celebrate their achievements, and activities to support a smooth and positive transition. We already have a number of meetings in the diary with receiving high schools and will do all we can to help children feel reassured and excited about this change.

Family Breakfast – Thursday 21st May - We would love to see as many families as possible at our **Family Breakfast on Thursday 21st May at 8am**. This is always a lovely opportunity to come together as a school community in an informal and welcoming setting.

We are particularly pleased that **Educational Psychologists** will be joining us on the morning and will be available to chat informally with parents and carers. This is a chance to ask questions or share any concerns you may have about your child's **development, emotional wellbeing or progress**, in a relaxed and supportive environment. No appointments are needed — please just drop in.

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Staffing Updates - We would also like to share an update regarding our staffing. Sadly, **Mrs Hanson**, who has been absent from school for some time, will not be returning to St John's. We are grateful to Mrs Hanson for her many years of dedicated service, care and commitment to our school community and we wish her all the very best for the future.

We also want to share some exciting news for **Mr Thomas**, who will be starting a new role as **Deputy Headteacher** at a school closer to his home in September. While we are very sad to be losing his experience, leadership and support here at St John's, we are also immensely proud that he will be taking on such an important role. We know he will make a fantastic Deputy Headteacher, and we look forward to celebrating his time with us properly later in the term.

We will be recruiting for new staff to start in September and will make sure children can meet them before the holidays. In the meantime, I am continuing to fulfil the SENCo role and have enjoyed meeting many of you as we create learning plans as parents and teachers together. I am never too busy to talk about a child in our school – so do just ask if you have a concern.

Uniform – Guidance and Proposed Updates from September - The Local Academy Governors have recently reviewed our **uniform guidance for parents** to ensure it continues to be **smart, practical and cost-effective**. Full details of our uniform expectations can be found on the school website. From **September**, we are proposing two updates:

Firstly from September, we will allow **plain black jogging bottoms** (with **no logos, stripes or branding of any kind**) to be worn as an alternative to school trousers. We recognise that these can be easier for younger children when managing toileting independently and can also be more sensory-friendly for some pupils.

Secondly from September, as our **school numbers grow**, we propose to **restrict rucksacks to Year 6 pupils only**, who each have access to their own lockers. Children in other year groups should bring a **red book bag** (which is provided free for all pupils at the start of their school life) and a **packed lunch bag if required**. We lack space for all children to bring rucksacks (everyone else shares a locker or has a small peg space) and it has led to other items being brought to school that are not needed. We would like to remind families that **children should not bring toys or pencil cases into school**, as everything they need for learning is provided.

A **spare change of clothes is required for younger children** who may have toileting accidents and we kindly ask that this is sent into school either in a **drawstring PE bag or a small carrier bag**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We are really looking forward to a positive and successful Summer term, full of learning, celebration and community. There are many opportunities to come into school this term and be part of your child's school life – we look forward to seeing you.

Tracey Cansdale
Headteacher