



Friday 17th July



A note from the Head...

We come to the end of the 25-26 academic year and I feel that the theme for this year has certainly been growth. Growth for myself as I become more experienced in my role as Head, growth for the school as we welcome more families and expand our Nursery.

I couldn't be prouder to a member of the St John's community and to have the privileged position of working alongside such dedicated, supportive and caring staff. There is a real sense of team within our workforce and the children thrive as a result of each and every staff member's hard work, dedication and commitment to ensuring the best learning experiences for all. The children of St John's are happy, bright, and enthusiastic and radiate joy every single day. That can only be achieved when the environment for learning is right.

Whether socially or academically, the children have blossomed this year and are a credit to you, their parents. The way in which they support one another, play nicely with each other and bring enthusiasm to the classroom is incredible. There is no sense of 'I', but of 'Us and 'We' and the nurturing relationships that the children enjoy with each other is a testament to that. We have welcomed 19 new children this year and having shown their families around, all parents have commented on the warmth and happiness that is felt when visiting the school.

The children have enjoyed many opportunities to deepen their learning and understanding across all curriculum areas this year with Forest School trips as well as trips and visits further afield to Zoos, Museums and Galleries. Our children have developed their skills musically with the introduction of Libby Morris, a chorister from the cathedral who has worked with children across the school. We have worked hard to support local and national charities with fundraising through coffee mornings, sponsored events which have all helped the children to understand their responsibilities to the wider community.

We have our highest intake due in September for over 20 years with 21 children now preparing to join the school, this, in conjunction with the exciting Nursery expansion will create further school places. Increased numbers of children will help us to provide wider opportunities for all learners at St John's and it is certainly an exciting time for the school – especially as we make preparations next year to become a part of the Pope Francis Academy Trust, a move that will only strengthen our school community and the provision we can offer our children.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt Thank You to all Parents, Carers and Grandparents. Thank you for all of your support once again this year, for me and for the school. Whether it is a friendly smile in the morning, a word of positivity or praise, your generous support with fundraising, or with your presence on a school trip. Thank you for enriching the school community. Thank you for being a part of the St John's family.

I'd like to take a moment to thank our wonderful staff. The Lunchtime supervisors, Catering team, Site supervisor, SENCO, School counsellor, Teaching assistants and School Bursar, they are a wonderful team and work tirelessly to maintain the smooth running of the school, to provide a safe premises and to support the educational experience we offer.

A huge thank you to our volunteers, those people who freely give up their time to support the learning in school: In class 3 Mrs McClod has supported the children consistently with their reading and in Class 4, Mrs Walker and Mrs Kaye have supported the Year 6 children in revising key areas of Grammar and Maths for their SATs exams.

Thank you to our School Governors who have continued to support and guide me in my Headship and are committed to driving standards forward, supporting and upholding the ethos and mission of the school.

Most importantly, I must thank the pride of our school – our wonderful pupils that make St John's such a wonderful place in which to be, the classrooms are bright, engaging and alive with activity, the children are enthusiastic and happy, they approach every lesson with joy and determination and it really is a wonderful place to work.

We sadly must say farewell to some staff:

- Miss Cheetham will be leaving us as we prepare for Mrs Porter to return from maternity leave, and,
- Miss Cunningham – we have been fortunate to be able to provide consistency this year for Class 2 despite Mrs Taylor's absence through ill health, and now Miss Cunningham is starting a new teaching position in another school

We return in September with some new staff members:

- In Class 2 I am delighted to announce that the new teacher is Miss Buckmaster. Miss Buckmaster recently completed her final teaching placement in our Reception class and already knows the incoming Year 1 children. She has now graduated from University and we welcome her as the new teacher for Year 1 and 2 in September.
- In Nursery, we welcome Miss Alyssa Jackson who joins us as an apprentice to work with Miss Riley
- In Reception class, we welcome Mr Nathan Johnson who will also join us as an apprentice
- We are also welcoming two new teaching assistants for next year: Mrs Jones and Mrs Edwardson

Our class structure for next year is as follows:

Nursery	Class 1 Reception	Class 2 Year 1 and 2	Class 3 Year 3 and 4	Class 4 Year 5 and 6
<i>Manager</i> Miss Riley	<i>Class Teacher</i> Mrs Porter Miss Hesketh	<i>Class Teacher</i> Miss Buckmaster	<i>Class Teacher</i> Mrs Williams Mrs Merrill	<i>Class Teacher</i> Mrs Quirk Miss Smith
<i>Support staff</i> Miss Jackson	<i>Support staff</i> Mrs Edwardson Mr Johnson	<i>Support staff</i> Mrs Suggitt Mrs Merrill	<i>Support staff</i> Mrs Weir Mrs Jones	<i>Support staff</i> Mrs Oakes Mrs Weir

I hope you all have a peaceful and relaxing Summer and look forward to welcoming you back in September – we reopen on Wednesday 2nd September to welcome you all back.



Miss Smith