



*Enquiring Minds & Open Hearts*

# St John's Church of England 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



**An outstanding education within a caring Christian environment**

# Welcome from the Head Teacher



## Our Vision

A warm welcome to St John's.

As a Church school, in the centre of the village, we seek to nurture in the hearts and minds of our children a love of learning.

We provide our children with opportunities to participate in spiritual, moral, social and cultural educational experiences.

We wish every child to develop skills that will allow them to be lifelong learners. St John's is where every child grows in faith, hope and love.

*Marion Stevens*

**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 can both find peace and become peacemakers in the knowledge that we are all treasured and loved as precious children of God.**

## The School

St John's is an OFSTED 'Outstanding' popular Church of England Infant school. It is a thriving school of approximately 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, from Forest School, yoga and mindfulness, to an extensive choice of after school clubs and activities, including sport, choir, languages, cookery 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.

Its facilities include a new 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 recognised as one of the leading schools in the area.



## About us

Located in the heart of the village of Churt, the school has three classrooms, an extra learning and teaching room, purpose built library, large hall, and kitchen. We also have very well-used outside areas adjoining all classrooms, plus a field and playground.

We welcome all families, with different faiths, the same faith and no faith.

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.

## Facilities



Library



Forest school  
&  
outside learning



After school clubs  
&  
extended day



Technology for  
tomorrows world

## School Organisation

Children who will become five during the academic year will be admitted in the Autumn term. The school has three classes: one each for the Reception year (Rabbit Class) and academic years One and Two, (Fox and Badger Classes).

## Parent Partnership

Parents are invited to many activities held in the school. There are Parents' Evenings every term when children's work can be seen and progress discussed with their teacher. There are also 'Meet the Teacher' meetings and class assemblies, as well as the Christmas productions, Sports Day, and regular PTA events.



# History of the School

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

## Ethos and Values

Promoting positive values to help children develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

## A school in the community

**Churt is a small 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 local vicar comes and works in school, taking regular fun-filled assemblies.**



## Aims and Objectives

To provide a school day that excites, challenges and motivates each child in a safe and inspiring environment.

## Curriculum

Cultures, values and beliefs are respected and reflected in the curriculum and in the daily life of the school.



# Curriculum

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

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.



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.

## 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.

# 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' scheme. In a structured approach, books are chosen to be read with both teachers and parents. We use 'Read Write Inc Phonics' to teach systematic phonics which are the foundation of spelling and writing as well as reading. We provide engaging opportunities across the school to enable the children to articulate their ideas in speech and in both structured and creative writing.

## 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.

## Mathematics

Through carefully planned steps and sequences, children gain knowledge of concepts and a deep understanding of number calculations, shape, space and measure. Children are challenged to explain their mathematical thinking from the earliest ages, allowing them to truly demonstrate their understanding.

## 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.

## Technology & Innovation

We have a longstanding history of innovation at St John's. To support and nurture our children's enquiring minds, each classroom is equipped with interactive whiteboards, PC's and tablets.

## Arts, Drama, Music & DT

Children are encouraged to express themselves in a variety of forms and media.

## Sport

From football, tennis and cricket, we currently use outside sports coaches to deliver well planned skills lessons and team games.

## 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  
Reflecting  
Noticing  
Listening  
Making links  
Working together



# 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 core values, and Year 1 and 2 children are given the responsibility of buddying with new children, and helping them feel at home within the school.

## Welcome pack

Upon confirmation of a place, you will receive a welcome pack that includes the parent handbook, and important dates for your diary such as 'meet the teacher' and settling in dates.

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
- Gymnastics
- Multi sports
- Cookery
- 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.



## 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.



***I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.***

**John 8:12**

These words of Jesus are at the heart of our school's vision. They inspire and motivate our whole school community. Jesus also reminded us in Matthew's gospel that we are lights for the world. As we seek to follow him, we can share his light with others and change the world!

***In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.***

**Matthew 5:16**





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