



where we all flourish

Welcome to Saint John's!

As the head teacher at Saint John's (Church of England) Primary School, may I extend a warm welcome to you and your family.

Our aim at Saint John's is to provide a secure, happy environment where we all flourish. Working in partnership with parents/carers is fundamental to our children's development and there is no doubt in my mind that we are a caring community. This ethos is central to the school's Christian values.

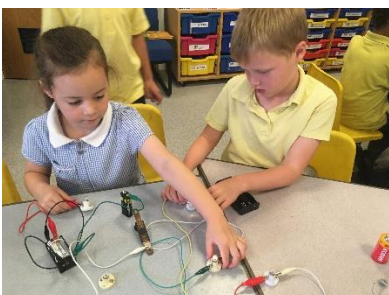


We have a dedicated team of staff whose highest priority is to ensure your children are safe and happy and are able to flourish in their learning at Saint John's. Pastoral care is paramount to your children's development and all members of staff engage in supporting children's mental health and well-being, with the head, deputy, inclusion lead and pastoral support team working with individual children and groups alongside the daily classroom and playground activities.

Our recent visit from Ofsted validated what we think of our school. Comments included: "leaders encourage all to flourish" and have "high ambition". Pupils are "happy, safe, well looked after" and they "find lessons exciting". Staff are "caring and nurturing" and parents are "pleased that staff encourage pupils to blossom at this school". Do read the full report!

We hope that this booklet gives you a small taster of our school life but please be in touch if you would like to ask any questions. Most of all, we would love you to visit the school and see the children and staff working and flourishing together!

Mrs Victoria Beevers
Head Teacher





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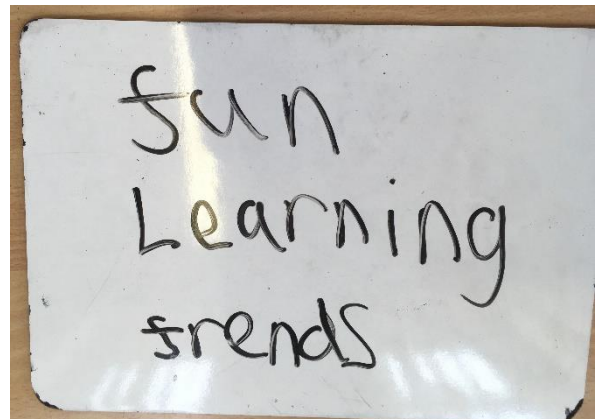
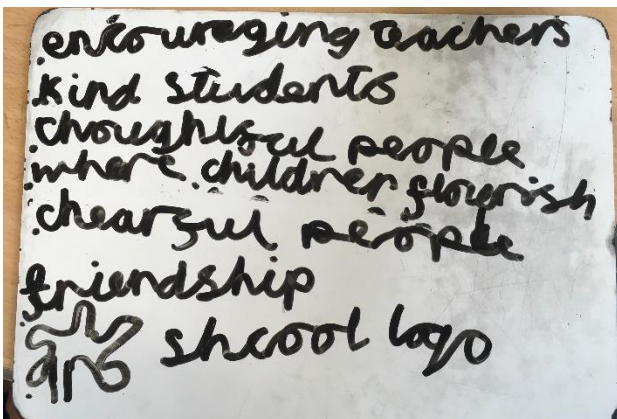
Ten things you might not know about Saint John's:

- 1) We are a one-form entry school of about 200 children, 30 staff and 10 governors.
- 2) There are 29 children in each class, with a teacher and teaching assistant(s).
- 3) We have four outside areas: the front garden, a Reception/Year 1 play area, an infant playground and a junior playground. We are developing our outside areas and we have employed additional PE specialists to ensure there is lots of opportunity for physical activity.
- 4) We have a partnership link with Cheltenham College, giving us opportunities to use their facilities, such as their swimming pool, Forest School, Science laboratories and Design Technology classrooms and to visit for sports, music and drama events and activities.
- 5) We have connections with other schools around Cheltenham: staff visit local primaries to share good practice and many volunteers, including sixth form students, come to Saint John's to engage with our children in sports, reading and language activities.
- 6) We have a music teacher who leads our choir, preparing for performances, and there are many school clubs such as judo, drama, art, chess, science and football.
- 7) We are in the middle of the town and so visits to local businesses – e.g. the library, Waterstones, different places of worship, the Wilson - are a regular feature of school life.
- 8) We join in the Cheltenham Festivals each year: Literature, Music and Science – these are all within walking distance from Saint John's.
- 9) We enjoy many educational visits each year, such as going on a World War II train or spending time at the Holst Museum - just around the corner from the school!
- 10) We have strong links with two local churches, St Luke's and Highbury, as well as engaging with many other faiths through our parental body and local places of worship. We encourage our children to think deeply, to reflect upon themselves and on those around them and to learn tolerance and understanding; this helps our community to grow together and flourish. Our collective worship each day focuses on: learn, reflect on and live it!

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We are very excited about the vision of Saint John's Church of England (VA) Primary School: pupils, parents and governors engaged in the process of agreeing the ideas around what we offer children and their families when they join our school community. The children enjoyed discussing what was important and you can see some examples of the activities we have done with them. Hearing the different voices of our community is really important to us: children, staff, parents/carers and the wider community!



(Please note that these words are directly from the children – we do work hard to improve spellings! 😊)

Saint John's is a very happy school with a wonderful sense of community and we value working together. In light of EYFS and National Curriculum requirements, our curriculum has been written to ensure that our "golden threads" impact the learning throughout the school. Our curriculum can be viewed on our website in the different subjects: do have a look at the learning for each year group. There are many things that make this primary school special but we think that one of the most important elements is how those who join the community are valued and made to feel precious from the very moment they arrive.

Please come and see the school. Check out the website – but seeing us "in action" will be the best way for you to enjoy our wonderful school!







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We are 'like a tree, flourishing in God's unfailing love' Psalm 52:8

From diverse beginnings and building on our Christian values, we grow together to reach up and reach out.



Our **vision** is that Saint John's Church of England Primary School is a place **where we all flourish** and grow.

Our logo of a tree reminds us that we are '**like a tree, flourishing in God's unfailing love**' (Psalm 52:8). Our tree logo is drawn with one line, showing that fundamentally we flourish as one, together, helping each other as we develop and prepare for our next steps, reaching up and out towards others.

Our school is rooted in **Christian values**. We learn about these values both formally and informally and we provide ways for our children and adults to cultivate those values. These values give a firm foundation to all that we do at Saint John's. Each half-term, we focus on one value using our times of Collective Worship to hear relevant teaching and to provide times of spiritual reflection on how best to apply the value to our lives. We **learn, reflect** and try to **live** these values: staff and pupils use lesson time to consider how a value has been or could have been applied to a certain situation. The focus is not on simply knowing what the value means but on living that value within and beyond our school community. Saint John's **celebrates diversity**, relishing the different backgrounds that we come from and making the most of our varied experiences, understanding that each person is unique and brings diverse ideas and understanding to our school. These strong roots coming from different directions towards the trunk means that our tree is healthy as it grows and flourishes.



Our sense of **family** is the strong trunk which holds everything together and it is how we **grow together**. As a Church of England primary school, we understand the importance of family; our children, parents, staff, governors and the wider community are the central part of who we are as a school. Saint John's is a place where we all belong and are valued. We **care** for each other. We recognise that families have different members who bring something precious to the whole family. It is due to the steadfast roots and trunk that we are able to **reach up** and **reach out**.

Our **aims** are Curriculum, Caring, Challenge, Community, Citizenship. We are a school with clear aims which impact our decision-making and planning for our children's education. These five aims provide clarity, as we focus on our children's needs and provide them with opportunities to develop and grow individually and independently – like the leaves on a tree we are all different and unique.

These aims come from the comments that we most want the children to say when they talk about their time at school.



"We learn new and amazing things!"

"We care for and value each other and ourselves."

"We are challenged and supported to achieve success."

"We work together to build respectful relationships in all communities."

"We learn how to stand firm as citizens of the world around us and beyond."



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Curriculum - *We learn new and amazing things!*

At Saint John's, we inspire our pupils with a wide range of ambitious learning. Our curriculum is both planned and dynamic recognising that, to ensure breadth and depth, we need to be strategic in our curriculum design whilst also being responsive to our children's needs and interests. It is also important that we are constantly reviewing and adapting our curriculum so that we equip our children for living in our ever-changing world, both now and in the future. We provide opportunities to celebrate diversity, to be inclusive and to encourage pupils to be creative. Like the leaves on a tree, we want our pupils to reach up and out.



Caring - *We care for and value each other and ourselves.*

Our Saint John's family cares for each other. We want to make sure that every child and adult knows that they are loved and valued, by God and by our school community. We recognise that, in order to flourish, each individual needs to be shown dignity and to feel cared for by others; friendship brings hope into our lives. Within this context, we are able to grow individually and grow together. We also know the importance of caring for ourselves and living healthy lives. Good mental health and well-being are paramount in ensuring our children are ready to learn and develop; our Christian roots remind us to value every person equally.

Challenge - *We are challenged and supported to achieve success.*

Life is an exciting adventure and we need to rise to the challenges it brings! We want our children and adults to be comfortable with but wise about taking risks, reaching up ambitiously and attempting tasks that might seem beyond us. We encourage everyone to persevere when facing challenging or tricky activities; we ensure that everyone feels supported both inside the classroom and in every part of our learning environment.



Community - *We work together to build respectful relationships in all communities.*

A tree flourishes when every part of it is healthy and works together. The sense of family at Saint John's is strong and we strive to be a part of our local community, as well as aiming to learn about communities further afield. We have children from diverse backgrounds and this serves to remind us that our community includes people with different beliefs, views and experiences. We celebrate being in the heart of Cheltenham, making the most of all that the town centre can provide. Our links with churches nearby, particularly St Luke's Church and Highbury Church currently, help us to understand that, as well as learning to love God, we need to learn to love our neighbour. We want to reach out to others both locally and globally.

Citizenship - *We learn how to stand firm as citizens of the world around us and beyond.*

Our children come from diverse backgrounds with different experiences and we know that they will be moving into diverse communities in the future; we want to ensure they have all the skills to engage responsibly and with confidence in different circumstances. Personal qualities are considered hugely important at Saint John's and we work hard to help children develop their character, with our Christian values at the root; we are proud of what good citizens our children are when they leave our school. Our Christian values encourage us to build a moral compass, to understand what is right and what is wrong, to stand firm when under pressure and to deal well with the consequences of our attitudes, decisions and actions. We want to be secure in who we are, for our character to stand out because it is outstanding!



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