

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to St. John's Infant and Nursery School. We are part of the Poppy Academy Trust, in South Hertfordshire. We are a small, friendly school where young children are enabled to develop and discover their potential in their own unique way. We have created a dynamic, exciting, hands-on curriculum, which stimulates our children's minds and provides the foundations for a lifelong thirst for learning

Our school motto is 'HAPPY – Healthy, Achieving, Positive Pupils – Yes to Learning!' We have a strong focus on developing and growing the 'whole child' at St. John's to enable them to have not only developing well academically but also socially, physically and positively. The children have many enrichment opportunities which contribute to their positive attitudes to learning.

St. John's is a Church of England school at the heart of the local community. We have strong links with our local Churches, local Nurseries, our junior school (Fair Field) and the local community. We are a values led school where children are taught to be young citizens of our community from a young age. We engage in local, national and international events throughout the school calendar.

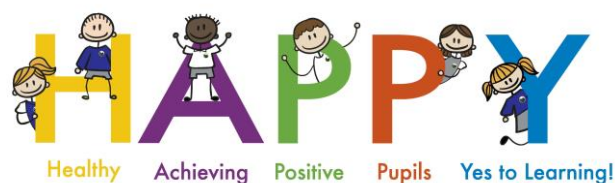
Our team of dedicated and enthusiastic staff and governors are committed to ensuring all our children achieve well to maximise their capabilities. Staff pride themselves on adapting their teaching to each child's individual learning style enabling children to access the curriculum through a wide variety of methods. We use our outside space to enhance learning by means of the mini nature reserve, the adventure playground and the outside classroom. The children regularly take school trips locally and further afield and we welcome many visitors into the school to bring learning to life for the children.

I hope you find this brochure useful and if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask. I look forward to meeting you.

Davinia Leggett
Acting Headteacher

"My child has a love of learning that I know will stay with her forever."

Reception Parent



Central to our Christian ethos and values is development of the children's spiritual awareness, their knowledge of Christianity and other faiths, and their respect for others. Links with the local, national and global community will enable children to become active, well-informed citizens.

We encourage all children to lead an active and healthy lifestyle through a range of experiences and activities that will enhance their learning.

"Alice has been inspired at St. John's to try new things, motivated to do her best and encouraged to have fun! Because it is a relatively small school, there is a sense that every child is known and understood, and valued as an individual, rather than just one kid in a sea of other kids."

Year 2 Parent

Values

Teaching the children values is at the heart of the education at St John's. In order to create a safe, caring environment and an ethos of mutual trust and respect, we believe it is important to foster a climate of understanding, acceptance and encouragement within the school. Our Values Education encompasses all interactions in school between and amongst staff and pupils. The half termly value is explored in lessons, circle time and in collective worship.

"The school's ethics enable the children to feel secure, confident and relaxed."

Year 1 Parent

"Scarlett regularly talks to me about the schools values which was one of the main reasons that I applied to St Johns."

Year 2 Parent

Curriculum

We have designed a bespoke, skills based curriculum which motivates children to be enthusiastic learners. We aim for high standards through excellence and enjoyment. Our goal is to 'thrill, will, skill'.

Our school curriculum follows the Early Years Foundation Stage and in Key Stage One uses the National Curriculum. We believe that all children should leave Key Stage One as confident readers, writers and mathematicians. They develop a love of books from an early age and our dynamic phonics teaching programme enables them to be competent and confident readers. Children from Reception upwards receive teaching from our specialist teachers for Physical Education. All children use iPads, laptops and beetbots, in a variety of lessons. This enables children to prepare for the future in an ever changing and developing world.

Each year group is taught through our thematic curriculum. Every theme starts with a launch day, which may involve school trips, visitors to the school or special

activities. This provides the “WOW” factor and captivates the children’s interest in discovering more about the subject and enlivens their learning. Each term teachers focus on specific skills to enable them to become accomplished learners.

“I like the role play area. It is a bakery.”
Pupil in Reception

“Toby is thriving at school. The staff have got to know him well and clearly use this to help him progress. He enjoys all the fantastic equipment and activities that are set up by the staff. He particularly enjoys the mud kitchen, construction and searching for snails and flowers for the discovery table.”
Reception Parent

Beyond the Curriculum

The school has an excellent range of extra-curricular activities including French, drama, ballet, football, cheerleading and street dance. We also have a breakfast club and there is an after-school club on site. We are a very busy school with much to offer.

Music has become an important part of our curriculum with an enthusiastic choir, specialist music lessons and opportunities to learn musical instruments. Our choir sings at many events including our annual Christmas service and the school summer fair.

We have an active School Council whose members are elected by their peers to serve for one term. The Council is encouraged to make decisions about the school and represents the voice of their classmates. Children have been involved in recruitment of new staff, the design of the playground and delivering Harvest gifts.

“I like my music lessons as we use lots of different instruments.”
Pupil in Year 1

“The extra-curricular activities such as after school clubs and social events further add to the fun!”
Year 2 Parent

Our Children

The 'Happy' ethos at St John's is central to our philosophy in developing the 'whole child'. We value the uniqueness of all our children and celebrate this throughout our curriculum. The children are encouraged to take risks within safe boundaries and to become inquisitive learners who question and explore their learning. Children challenge themselves at St John's and they investigate new concepts to develop a greater depth of understanding.

"I have lots of kind friends at St. John's"
Pupil in Year 2

"We nurture, we care, we encourage, we achieve."
Staff

Meeting the needs of all

Our philosophy at St John's Infant and Nursey School is that every child should achieve their full potential no matter what their starting point. All children are individual and we make sure their experiences here are underpinned by exceptional care, guidance and support. We pride ourselves on having a nurturing approach. Whether your child has a Special Educational Need, a disability or a talent we have an inclusive approach and provide quality first teaching in the classroom. Where appropriate, children may have an individual plan to enable parents and carers to play an active role in their child's education.

Progress and achievement of all children are monitored carefully and parents and carers are kept regularly informed. Our open-door policy encourages parents and carers to be actively involved in their child's education.

"I chose this school for my daughter many years ago. I loved its' warmth and care so much when my daughter left I remained!"

Learning Support Assistant

Christian Distinctiveness

In the spirit of the Christian ethos of the school, we respect and value every person and encourage everyone to give their best at all times and to contribute all that they can to our life together in school. We are a Church of England school however our school reflects the wide range of faiths in our local community. Our strong links with the parish of Aldenham and the St. Albans Diocese make a special contribution to our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and learning. We have regular collective worship where children have the opportunity to develop their understanding about our values, time for reflection and opportunity for prayer.

"School assemblies are so enjoyable and I always look forward to visiting the school."
School Vicar

"Our Christian values programme means that children learn how to be good citizens from an early age"
School Governor

Healthy School

We are proud to be an accredited healthy school. We teach children about eating and cooking healthily. Children learn about keeping fit and the importance of exercise. Parents are encouraged to support the children in their healthy start to their lives. All our lunches are freshly prepared on site and we are able to provide for all dietary requirements. Children who choose to have packed lunches also follow our healthy eating guidance. Children are provided with fruit daily and have the option to have milk or water throughout the day.

Attendance

We have high expectations for children's attendance and punctuality and expect them to achieve a level of at least 95%. Attendance figures are monitored carefully and addressed rigorously when necessary.

"I love coming to school. I love the playground and the bars you spin on are my favourite."
Pupil in Year 1

The Community

St John's Infant and Nursery School is at the heart of the local community in Radlett.

We have a very active PFA (Parents and Friends Association) which fundraises throughout the year to buy additional equipment and provide enrichment opportunities for the school. The events include our annual Christmas and Summer Fairs, the Sponsored Bounce, quiz nights and many more.

"The school has a very strong sense of belonging; a nurturing and caring staff, we have supportive and involved parents, an energetic PFA, and links to the whole community through the church and our charity projects."

Parent Governor