



St. John's Church of England Primary School

# School Prospectus



**Working together to build a firm foundation  
for Learning and Caring**

*'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them  
into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock'*

*Matthew 7:24-25*

## Welcome to our School

I am delighted to share with you our happy and supportive learning community, where we recognise and develop the unique gifts and personal qualities of all.

Our mission is a simple one: to provide an outstanding education which equips our children with the confidence to love learning, as well as the care and respect for others which will ensure their lifelong success.

Our Christian values support all of our work, and our committed team of staff and governors make sure that every child feels nurtured, respected and proud to belong to the St. John's family. We wish every child to live life to the fullest and to fulfil our mission to provide 'a firm foundation for learning and caring'.

We know that choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you make as parents; we hope this prospectus and a visit to our school will give you a flavour of who we are.



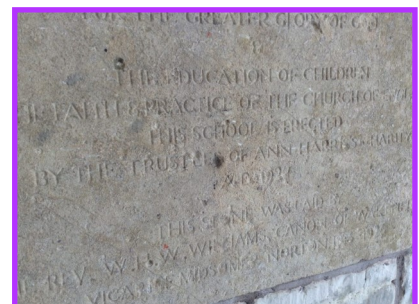
Danielle West-Gaul,  
Head teacher

## Our School's History

The school was founded in 1721 after money was left in the will of Ann Harris to educate the poorest 40 pupils in the Parish of Midsomer Norton. Our school site dates back to the 1800's and our Year 5 and 6 classrooms are located in part of the original building.

Today the school is attended by over 400 pupils who are enormously proud of the school's long history. We pay tribute to our original benefactors who are the names of our house group; Harris, Sperring, Mayne and Kelston.

In June 2021 we celebrated our 300th birthday with whole school events to mark the occasion.









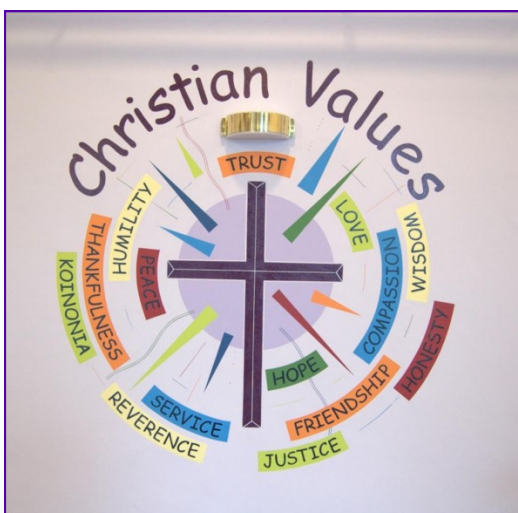
## Larger School, Small Feel

With over 400 pupils on roll and 60 pupils in our nursery, it might seem like St John's is a larger environment for a young child. However, we are very proud of the exemplary relationships between pupils and staff and individual attention that children receive. All who visit our school note how at ease and confident our pupils are. In the Early Years, high levels of staffing ensures that children have the support that they need to get off to a flying start.

Our Ofsted inspection of 2023 stated that *'Pupils behave well in school.... Classrooms are calm and pupils work hard. In the playground, pupils socialise happily together.'* *'Pupils are taught a well considered curriculum to support their broader development. This is a particular strength of the school.'*

Christian values are at the heart of all we do and each term we focus on one of our six Christian values. Children take part in daily collective worship, and visit St John's Church regularly. Our church school inspection in 2022 judged the school's effectiveness to be 'Excellent' in all areas.

					
LOVE	PEACE	WISDOM	HOPE	FRIENDSHIP	HONESTY



Our Koinonia Bowl is another important part of our whole school community. Each member of our school, staff and children, put a pebble into the bowl when they join the school to symbolise our belonging and our fellowship together. Like the pebbles, each one of us is unique, bringing our gifts and talents to contribute to the whole.

When the present Year 6 move on, they will take with them a pebble from the bowl to symbolise that, though they may leave St John's Primary School, the joy of learning and memories of the life that we have shared together goes with them.



## Class Structure

Our school is two form entry per year group from Year 1 to 6. Our on site nursery has provision for 60 pupils as does our Reception classroom which provides a free flowing provision allowing children to play and explore whilst they learn. We have a front and middle playground as well as a large field and forest school area, which are all utilised by pupils at break and lunch times and also allow for outdoor learning opportunities.

Our classes are all named after different trees and represent our pupils growth throughout their time at St John's Primary School.

Nursery - Seedlings  
Reception - Acorns  
Year 1 - Ash and Birch  
Year 2 - Chestnut and Elm  
Year 3 - Hazel and Holly  
Year 4 - Maple and Oak  
Year 5 - Pine and Rowan  
Year 6 - Sycamore and Willow



## The Curriculum

We offer an exciting, stimulating and challenging curriculum at St John's tailored to pupils individual needs. Our knowledge organisers cover all the Early Years Foundation Stage areas and National Curriculum subjects and we aim to teach these in a way that is both clear and relevant to the children. The teaching methods we employ vary from whole class teaching to smaller group and individual work. We make full use of our onsite facilities which include a cookery room, ICT suite, music room, outdoor classroom, forest school, pottery room, school hall, studio and library.

### English

At St John's it is our intention to ensure that by the end of their primary education all pupils are able to read fluently and with confidence, in any subject in their forthcoming secondary education and for lifelong learning.

We follow the Little Wandle Programme of teaching which is split into 6 phases that systematically build on skills and knowledge of previous learning. Children throughout Reception and Key stage 1 take part in daily phonics sessions. These sessions focus on key reading skills such as decoding to read words and segmenting the sounds in a given word to spell. During Phonics lessons we also teach children to read and write 'Tricky Words' also known as 'Common Exception Words.' These are words that have a 'tricky part' and are not fully decodable.

Writing at St John's is taught through The Write Stuff approach which allows pupils to improve their oracy and widen their vocabulary in every lesson, whilst deepening their understanding of writer's choices.

## Maths

Our curriculum for mathematics reflects the purpose and aims of the national curriculum by helping our pupils to become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics, including through varied and frequent practice with increasingly complex problems over time. We help pupils to create an understanding of the mathematical world in which they live and encourage an ability to think clearly, logically and confidently. Each year we take part in NSPCC Numbers Day to encourage pupils to have fun with numbers.



## Science

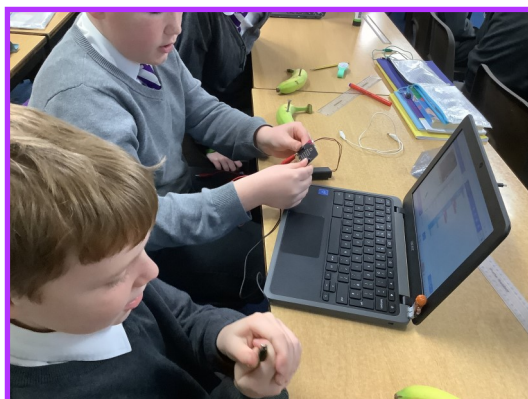
Science is taught as a discrete subject - covering various aspects of biology, chemistry and physics. As a school we use 'White Rose Science' as a scheme to support our science teaching. We encourage pupils to explore science by way of STEM fairs and taking part in National Science Week.

We are thrilled to have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark which celebrates the school's commitment to excellence in science teaching and learning.



## Computing

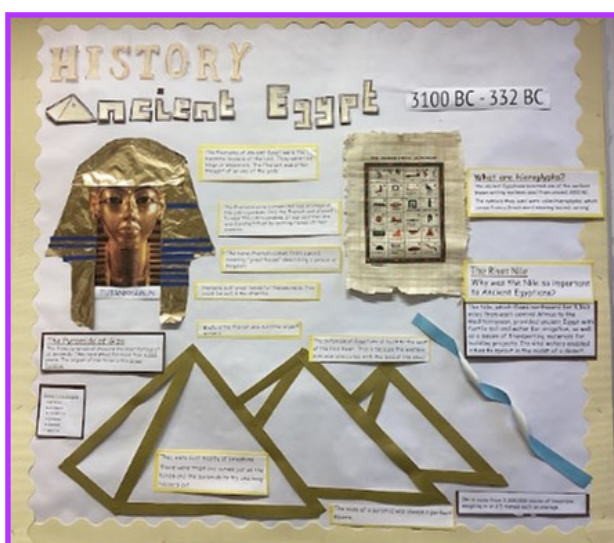
We have a fantastic dedicated ICT suite where classes can learn specific IT skills or use the computers to link with other subjects. We also have a number of laptops, chrome books and iPads which can be used in class.



## Religious Education

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the syllabus agreed by the Diocese of Bath and Wells. As a church school we value our links with our local church.

We also seek to give the children an understanding of our Christian traditions but also educate them to cultures and faiths that exist within our local community. To do this we invite visitors into school to talk to the children and pupils also visit other places of worship as part of their learning.



## History

We teach History to enable our pupils to develop a sense of identity and learn about the development of Britain, Europe and the world. We focus on local history in Reception and then deepen their understanding by delving further into history as pupils move through the school.

Recently pupils have learned about the lives and legacies of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale on International Nurses Day.

## Geography

We help children to develop their geographical skills through fieldwork and classroom based activities, through projects in which they are given opportunities to study places and geographical themes.

For many children the area in which they are brought up will be the most significant to them for the rest of their lives, therefore its study is one of our key starting points.

Our school council have recently looked at way that our school can be more sustainable, a theme that we have also explored as part of Earth Day.



## Forest School

The Forest School ethos is an approach to learning which maximises the emotional, social and developmental benefits of learning outside.

We are fortunate to have our own woodland area which is dedicated, in part, to Forest School activities. We have staff who have been trained as Forest School Leaders which enables all classes to enjoy forest school as part of their curriculum offer.



On special occasions we can use our outdoor pizza oven and enjoy hot chocolate around the camp fire.



## Physical Education

Physical education is hugely important to each and every child at our school. All pupils are encouraged to be active every day whether that be in PE, running the golden mile or using our sports equipment at break and lunch time.

Children in Year 3 take part in swimming lessons, with top-up lessons available for any child who is unable to swim 25 metres by the end of Year 6. We enter a wide range of local sporting tournaments and festivals and our annual sports day is a highlight of the school calendar.

## Personal, Social & Health Education

Here at St John's we use the Jigsaw scheme to support our PSHE curriculum. The scheme takes a whole school approach to themes which help children to value themselves and respect others, and to keep themselves safe and healthy. The scheme incorporates health education including healthy relationships, mental wellbeing and helps children to become our partners in tackling bullying and discrimination. We have promoted these themes through 'Dress to Express' during Wellbeing Week and Internet Safety Day.



## Design and Technology

Design and Technology is a subject area which can incorporate many other national curriculum subjects. Pupils are encouraged to develop their skills and understanding in a variety of hands on activities using a variety of media from building blocks, sewing, clay and cooking.

Classes are each timetabled to use our cookery room once a term and also explore the subject during weekly forest school sessions.



## Music

Each class has a music lesson timetabled weekly, where they listen, perform and compose. Various musical events are held throughout the year including at church concerts, Year 6 end of year production and participating in Young Voices at Wembley arena in London.

In addition to class music lessons, extra-curricular music lessons including piano, woodwind and guitar are provided by BANES music service.

## Art

We encourage pupils to explore and learn about art, craft and design and stimulate their imagination and inventiveness through a range of activities. They develop ideas from a variety of starting points, working with a wide range of materials. Each year we hold an Arts Week where each class is given the opportunity to display their art work in our art exhibition for pupils and parents to enjoy.



## Modern Foreign Languages

At St John's we teach French in KS2 as part of the national curriculum. Pupils are taught to read, speak and write confidently and to deepen their understanding of the French culture.



# Life at St Johns

## School Hours

Our school day starts at 8.20am and ends at 3.00pm. Teachers welcome pupils in either the front or middle playground and children enter and exit via their designated Year Group entrance.

## Play Time

Recognising the importance of play in children's lives, we have worked hard to promote positive and quality play opportunities.

All pupils have a 15 minute morning break when they have a healthy snack and have time to play outdoors. At lunchtime pupils eat lunch in the school hall and then have a choice of 6 zones where they can play with friends and make use of our play equipment.



**Zone 1:** The front playground provides creative play opportunities linked to role play, imaginative story-telling, music and performance.

**Zone 2:** The field provides the open space necessary for children to let off steam, develop physical skills and refine sporting techniques. This is a zone where future sports people develop their craft!

**Zone 3:** Our newly installed wooden play equipment gives pupils the chance to climb and swing on the apparatus.

**Zone 4:** The middle playground promotes the development of large motor skills with the use of balls, racquets, hoops, skipping ropes and various other items of equipment.

**Zone 5:** In the forest school area loose parts, supplied by the scrap store, can be used to develop imaginative play.

**Zone 6:** The sensory garden is smaller zone catering for quieter activities such as drawing, model making, garden games and small world play.



## School Dinner

Children have the choice of being able to bring a packed lunch or purchase a healthy and nutritious school dinner. School dinners are cooked on-site in our school kitchen and follow a 3 week rotating menu. Meals choices can be booked in advance and paid for online via ParentPay. For children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 the Government provides universal free school meals. Pupils in KS2 who are in receipt of certain benefits may also be eligible for Free School Meals.

## Breakfast Club

We run a breakfast club from 7:30am which provides a safe and nurturing environment for your child. A healthy breakfast choice is available including cereals, toast, fruit juice and milk. The club runs Monday to Friday during term time and we are able to take children from Nursery to Year 6. Sessions can be booked and paid for online via ParentPay.

## After School Club

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are able to attend our after school club held in our Nursery Seedlings class from 3.00-5.00pm Monday to Thursday. Sessions cost £12.00 and can be booked via ParentPay.

We are also linked with the afterschool club run by Midsomer Norton Primary School and we run a walking bus to the school at 3pm. Details regarding the cost and availability can be made directly from Midsomer Norton Primary School.

## Extra Curricular Clubs

We offer a variety of extra curricular after school clubs on set days each term. Clubs are run by teachers and cater for a variety of year groups. Recent clubs include cross country, cookery, art and crafts, school newspaper and Young Voices.

## School Uniform

### Winter uniform

White collared shirt  
St. John's tie  
Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore  
Grey socks or grey tights  
Grey V-neck jumper  
Black shoes

### Summer uniform

White collared shirt  
St. John's tie  
Grey shorts  
Purple & white checked dress  
Grey or white socks  
Black shoes

### PE Kit

Purple St John's T-shirt  
Purple St John's hoodie  
Black shorts / leggings  
Black daps (indoors)  
Black trainers (outdoors)

Hair accessories must be appropriate for school - no oversized bows or novelty hair bands. All earrings must be studs.

Norton Sports and Camping supply our uniform and are located on the High Street, Midsomer Norton. [www.nortonsportsandcamping.co.uk](http://www.nortonsportsandcamping.co.uk)

## Special Educational Needs

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. Special educational provision means educational provision which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for children of their age at our school. This can range from extra support with an adult, or small group interventions, to specialised equipment and personalised targets.

The class teacher is responsible for working with the child on a daily basis and for planning and delivering an individualised programme where appropriate. Whilst the first point of contact for any query concerning a pupil will always be their class teacher, our SENDCo, Mrs Monks, and Assistant SENDCo, Miss Drew, is always available to help and support pupils and their families in any way they can.

At St John's we have a number of facilities which can be used to support pupils who need additional support outside of the classroom. The Sunshine Room in KS1 and the Blossom Room in KS2 offer a quiet and relaxing space for pupils to work with an adult on a 1 to 1 basis or in small groups. The Nest is our Play Therapy Room where our visiting Play Therapist works with a small number of children who have been identified as needing additional emotional support.

## Equal Opportunities

As a Christian learning community, St John's Primary School is committed to upholding the biblical principle that all human beings are made in the image of God and, as such, should be welcomed, accepted and valued as unique individuals of equal value and dignity.

We endeavour:

- to ensure that every adult and child is treated fairly and has equality of opportunity to participate fully in the life of the school;
- to ensure that our school is a safe and secure place for everyone;
- to recognise that people have different needs and understand that treating people equally does not always involve treating them all the same;
- to make sure that people from different groups are consulted and involved in our decisions, for example, through talking to pupils and parents/carers, and through our School Council.

As well as these beliefs we teach all our children about our 3 core behavioural values:

**Ready** to learn and listen

**Respectful** of each other, our teachers and ourselves

**Caring** of our fellow pupils

## Admissions

The majority of children start primary school in the September after their fourth birthday. Admissions are undertaken through Bath and North East Somerset council, although in-year transfers are dealt with directly by the school as part of the Academy Trust. To ensure a smooth transition from home to school we arrange a series of visits for our new Reception children and their parents in the summer term prior to entry. In September, children begin school on a part time basis for the first few weeks.



There are often spaces in other year groups for children who move to the area or who wish to change school. An appointment should be made to visit the school in the first instance and then an application can be made as above.

## Safeguarding

The Children Act 1989 provided a new framework for the care and protection of children where all children have the right to grow up unharmed, to have the opportunity to develop fully and to have their basic needs met. Whilst members of school staff are not an investigation agency, they do have the day-to-day contact and knowledge of children in their care and therefore have an important role to play in recognising and taking the appropriate action in cases of suspected child abuse.

All are aware of our Child Protection procedures which have been developed and agreed by all local agencies. Child abuse is a particularly sensitive issue for everyone involved and draws on strong feelings and emotions. However, members of school staff are required to report, in line with procedure, any situation where abuse is suspected. It is hoped that by including Child Protection in our curriculum we will be able to develop in children the confidence to voice their feelings or fears and the ability to deal with a range of situations. Parents may seek advice and guidance from the Trust Education Welfare Officer, or contact the Social Services Department directly if they feel it necessary.

## Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

On 1st December 2018 we joined the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership. As such we work together with the other schools within the partnership to improve the outcomes for our children and to exchange expertise with professionals in both the primary and secondary sector. Whilst being an integral part of the partnership, we also pride our self on the unique child centred nature of our small school.



Midsomer Norton  
Schools Partnership

## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact us on the details below:

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