



"Welcoming All, Learning Together"
They will soar on wings like eagles (Isaiah 40:31)

Headteacher's Welcome

The warmest of welcomes to St John's CE Primary Academy.

At St John's, we pride ourselves on being a relentlessly inclusive and ambitious school community where every child is known, valued and supported to flourish. Our vision, *"Welcoming All, Learning Together,"* reflects our commitment to ensuring that every child and family feels part of our school family. We believe that every child is unique, full of potential and deserving of the very best opportunities. Through strong relationships, high-quality teaching and exceptional pastoral care, we aim to ensure that all children flourish holistically - academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually - within a caring and supportive environment where they feel safe, confident and inspired to learn.

Our Christian ethos and values are at the heart of everything we do. They shape our school culture, guide our relationships and underpin the decisions we make as a school community. Central to school life are our five core values: **Respect, Aspiration, Resilience, Kindness** and **Inclusion**. These values are not simply words displayed around our school; they are lived and celebrated every day through our actions, learning and the way we care for one another. We encourage our children to show respect for themselves and others, aspire to achieve their very best, demonstrate resilience when faced with challenge, show kindness in all that they do and ensure that everyone feels welcomed, included and valued within our school community.

At St John's, we have a strong culture of high expectations for all members of our school community - pupils, staff and families alike. We believe that when we work together with ambition, positivity and shared purpose, children thrive and achieve their full potential. Our dedicated staff are committed to providing the highest standards of education and care, ensuring that every child is both supported and challenged to succeed. We want our pupils to leave St John's not only with excellent knowledge and skills, but also with the confidence, character and compassion needed to thrive in the next stage of their education and in the wider world.

We are proud to be a school that is 'Rooted in Reading.' Reading sits at the very heart of our curriculum and culture because we know that reading opens the door to all future learning. From the earliest stages of school life, we place a relentless focus on developing confident, fluent and enthusiastic readers through rich texts and daily opportunities to read for pleasure. Books are at the centre of our English curriculum, inspiring imagination, curiosity, creativity and discussion across all areas of learning. We firmly believe that "first we learn to read, then we read to learn," and our aim is not only to teach children to read well, but also to nurture a lifelong love of reading that will remain with them long after they leave our school.

Our ambitious and carefully designed curriculum provides pupils with rich opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and experiences across all subjects. Beyond the classroom, we are proud to offer an extensive range of enriching extra-curricular opportunities that enhance our pupils' personal development and broaden their horizons. Children can participate in a huge variety of morning and after-school sports clubs, represent the school in fixtures and competitions against other schools, and develop their talents through our thriving choir and peripatetic music tuition. As pupils progress

through the school, they also enjoy memorable outdoor and adventurous residential visits from Years 3 to 6, alongside exciting opportunities such as our international visit to France for pupils in Upper Key Stage 2. These experiences help to build confidence, independence, resilience and lasting memories.

As a school deeply rooted within our local community, we greatly value the strong partnerships we build with parents and carers. We believe that children achieve the greatest success when school and home work closely together, and we are committed to developing positive, open and supportive relationships with all families. Your involvement, encouragement and partnership play a vital role in your child's happiness and success throughout their time with us, and we look forward to working alongside you every step of the way.

Inspired by our Christian vision and the words from Isaiah, *"They will soar on wings like eagles,"* we strive to ensure that every child leaves St John's as a confident, compassionate and aspirational young person, fully prepared for the next stage of their journey.

I hope this prospectus gives you a helpful insight into life at St John's CE Primary Academy. We would be delighted to welcome you to our school and look forward to working in partnership with you and your family as part of our caring school community.

Warm regards,

Mr Slater
Headteacher

St John's Local Academy Committee (LAC)

The Governance of St John's Primary Academy is paramount and that is achieved by:

- i) **The Headteacher** who is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing board.
- ii) **The LAC**, comprising of a set of Governors.

The role of the school governor is defined by the National Association of Governors as:

A strategic role, whose key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher (a critical friend)

The LAC at St John's is made up of elected parents, a staff representative, the Headteacher, people from the community and at least one member of St. John's church. Our aim is to provide the best education for our pupils.

At present we meet every half term and at these meetings we look at the school budget, school policies, pupil progress and anything else which affects the long-term vision for the school.

If you would like more information on the LAC or you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the school office for details.

SAFEGUARDING

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Mr Slater (Headteacher)

Designated Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Miss Adamson (Family Liaison Officer)

Mrs Carnell (Assistant Headteacher and Teacher)

Mrs Trubshaw (Assistant Headteacher, SENCO and Teacher)

At St John's CE Primary Academy, the safeguarding and wellbeing of our pupils is our number one priority. We are fully committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and protected whilst in our care, enabling them to learn, grow and thrive within a secure and nurturing environment.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of staff who works at St John's CE Primary Academy, and all staff receive regular safeguarding training to ensure they are fully equipped to support and protect our children. Safeguarding across the academy is led by a vastly experienced safeguarding team, consisting of four fully trained Designated Safeguarding Leaders. Our safeguarding team is headed by Mr Slater, who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), alongside Mrs Carnell, Mrs Trubshaw and Miss Adamson, who are all Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs).

St John's CE Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our children and young people. We maintain an attitude of "It could happen here" where safeguarding is concerned and take all concerns seriously, no matter how small they may appear. We expect all staff, Local Academy Committee members, parents and carers, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment in helping to keep our children safe.

By working together as a school community, we strive to ensure that every child feels valued, listened to and protected throughout their time at St John's.

KEY INFORMATION

Our School Day

The school day begins at **8.50am** for all the children. The school building is opened to the children at **8.40am** so that they can go to their classrooms ready to start on time.

Our school hours are:

Foundation to Year 2 8.50am to 3.20pm

Year 3 to Year 6 8.50am to 3.25pm

The children all have a lunch break and appropriate breaks are taken at other points during the school day.

Attending School

We want all the children to get the best they can from school. Being in school every day and on time is a great way to start. We ask you to help them to do this by making sure they are always punctual on arrival to school and that they attend regularly.

School operates a first day contact system and so you need to call or email school by 9.30am if your child is absent for any reason. If we have been unable to make contact with you, we may complete a home visit if your child is not in school and we have received not communication.

School Dinners

Tasty cooked meals are prepared by our own catering team each day. Menu sheets are sent home so parents know what is being offered. Snacks are also available for children in Years 3 to 6 to purchase at morning break. The children can bring in their own healthy snack from home – but please no crisps, chocolate bars, biscuits or nuts.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch each day. In addition a free piece of fruit is available at morning break time for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Parent Pay

We have an e-payment method to pay for **dinner money, trips, music lessons, etc.** On enrolment at the school you will be issued with a username and password to activate your account. The only time you will be asked to make a payment in cash/cheque will be for any PTA events.

Communication

A weekly newsletter is emailed to parents. We also send generic text messages reminding parents of upcoming events/important information. The website address for the school is www.st-johns-stafford.staffs.sch.uk where you will find lots more information about the school along with a photo gallery and a list of key dates.

With this in mind it is important to keep the school updated with any changes in contact details, especially mobile telephone numbers and email addresses.

We also have a Facebook page – just search for St. Johns CE Primary Academy.

Water Bottles

All the children are encouraged to bring a named 500ml sports bottle of water each day to drink in class. We have facilities for the pupils to refill their bottle if needed during the day.

Medicines in School

Occasionally your child may need to have prescribed medicine administered in school. It is always preferable if parents can administer this at home, but if there is a need, it can be administered by school staff. You will need to complete an authorisation form at the office and hand in the medicine in its original packaging with the dispensing label. If your child is administered an inhaler you will be asked to complete an Asthma Healthcare Plan. Again, the inhaler must be in its original packaging with the dispensing label. All inhalers must be taken home at the end of each term for cleaning and for you to check it is still in date and in working order. Please return the inhaler to the office at the beginning of each term (not the class teacher).

Reading at St John's

At St. John's CE Primary Academy, we are proud to be a school 'Rooted in Reading'. Reading lies at the very heart of our academy and forms the foundation of our curriculum and school life. We believe that learning to read is one of the most important skills a child will ever develop, opening the door to lifelong learning, imagination, creativity and future success.

Research consistently shows a strong link between reading proficiency and academic achievement. Children who develop strong reading skills are more confident learners, develop a richer vocabulary, communicate more effectively and are better able to access the wider curriculum. At St John's, we place an extremely high value on reading because we know the profound impact it has on children's confidence, wellbeing and future opportunities.

Alongside our teaching of reading in school, we believe that reading at home is equally important. We ask that all children read at home at least 4 to 5 times each week. Regular reading practice, even for short periods of time, makes a significant difference to children's progress and confidence. Sharing books together also provides wonderful opportunities for children and families to enjoy stories, develop language and foster a lifelong love of reading.

To support this partnership between home and school, every child receives a reading record. This travels between school and home each day and allows both school staff and parents/carers to record reading opportunities, celebrate achievements and communicate about your child's progress as a reader. We strongly encourage families to use the reading record daily so that together we can support every child on their reading journey.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Beyond the classroom, we offer a **wide range of enriching extra-curricular opportunities** that enhance our pupils' learning and personal development. Pupils at St John's benefit from a varied programme of both morning and after-school clubs, including a wide range of sports and creative activities. Our children regularly take part in fixtures and competitions against other local schools, fostering teamwork, resilience and school pride. We are proud of our thriving school choir, opportunities for peripatetic music tuition, and the many ways pupils can explore their talents and interests. As pupils move through the school, they also enjoy memorable experiences beyond the classroom, including outdoor and adventurous residential visits in Years 3 to 6, and for our older pupils in Upper Key Stage 2, the exciting opportunity to participate in an international visit to France, broadening their cultural understanding and independence.

Peripatetic Music Lessons

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are given the opportunity to learn to play the flute, clarinet or violin. Peripatetic teachers, employed by Entrust, come into school on a weekly basis to provide a 20-minute lesson. Hire of the instruments is free but there is a charge for the tuition cost.

Wraparound Care

We provide wraparound care from 6.45am until 6pm in our Windsor building located on the playground. We also provide childcare during the holidays. Bookings are made and paid for via ParentPay and we require a notice period of 48 hours for any bookings or cancellations. Childcare vouchers can also be used to make payment.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

St. John's Primary Academy believes that wearing a uniform is an important part of school life. It gives the pupils a sense of belonging and pride for their school.

Grey/Black skirt/pinafore / shorts or trousers

White shirt/polo shirt / blouse

Plain red jumper/red sweatshirt / cardigan with or without school logo

Summer dress (red and white gingham)

Footwear

Shoes should be black.

INDOOR PE

Plain red or black shorts

Plain white t-shirt

Black pumps

OUTDOOR PE

Plain black jogging bottoms

Plain black sweatshirt jumper

Trainers

Please make sure all items of uniform are clearly named. Jewellery, other than watches, is not encouraged in school. Only studs are to be worn in pierced ears. For safety reasons, earrings must be removed for PE - please note members of staff are **not** permitted to remove them.

We have 2 suppliers providing our school uniform:

- **Crested School Wear** – there is a store in the town centre: 35-36 Gaolgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2NT (Tel. 01785 748481). Alternatively, you can order online at www.crestedschoolwear.co.uk.
When purchasing from the website:
 - 1) Select SHOP tab from the top of the main page
 - 2) Select schools S-U
 - 3) Click on School Logo, where you will find all products relating to the school.
- **Brigade Clothing** - has an online ordering system. The website address is www.brigade.uk.com – please ensure you select the correct school. Our school is listed as **St Johns C E Primary (ST16 3RZ)**.

Hello and a Warm Welcome to St John's PTA!



We are all either teachers or parents of children at St. John's. We have one thing in common – our interest in trying to improve what the school provides for our children. To achieve this, and with your input, our school's PTA objective is to raise money to help contribute to enhance and enrich your child's school experience.

Recently PTA funding has provided:

- Reading books for both Key Stages
- Playgrounds & outside play equipment
- Stage sound system for hall performances
- Laptops
- I-pads
- Subsidised school trips
- Leaving activity for Year 6 pupils



And what do we hope to achieve in the future:

- Continue and maintain our ongoing schemes
- Support our school's Eco projects
- Support our school's ongoing requests for improved learning!
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THIS IS AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT!

What we do ...

Our Events

Throughout the year, the PTA committee organises various social, formal and informal events. Our events are fun and entertaining, family friendly and, of course, are all fund raisers! To name just a few

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- Discos
- Frozen Fridays
- Secret Festive Room

How we do it ...

Our Meetings

The PTA Committee meets approximately once a term, after school, for around 30 minutes in school. These meetings are essential for us to get together and discuss current and forthcoming events. We monitor how much money has been raised and how that money is to be spent. Once a year, in the

autumn term, we hold our AGM. We encourage new parents who are interested to come along. We elect and nominate new members. Details of PTA meetings can be found on the school newsletter dates for your diary section.

WE NEED NEW SUPPORTERS NOW!

Our Input

The PTA committee is a dedicated team. Our input is as much, or as little, as we can each give. The committee will always be there 'on the night'. However, we can't do ALL the work.

WE NEED ...

- Volunteers to help set-up, serve and clear away after an event.
- Volunteers to help with washing-up and cooking.
- Ideas and skills towards organising new projects.
- Families to come along and enjoy our events.

WE NEED YOUR DEDICATED SUPPORT TOO!

Your Input

Our thanks go to everyone who has contributed to our events in the past - we know how precious your time is. We thank all those families who have come and supported our fund raising events – without your generous support the school's extra needs wouldn't be achieved.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ...

- know more about your PTA
- come to the meetings occasionally
- come to the meetings regularly
- put forward new ideas
- participate in organising an event
- help at an event – run a stall
- contribute your time
- help in any way you can

PLEASE contact one of our committee members or leave a message at the school office.

**THANK YOU FROM THE COMMITTEE OF ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY ACADEMY
PTA**

St John's Links with the Military

Here at St. John's we are lucky to have a large group of children from military families, coming from different parts of the United Kingdom and abroad. Around 17% of our school population are from military families and this provides a diverse mix of pupils. For many of these children, St. John's will be among many schools they attend throughout their years in education. We recognise that at times, just like any child, these children may need extra support. We try to meet these needs by having close links and regular meetings with the Army Welfare Team and providing a 'Forces Club' where the children take part in a variety of enrichment activities. This gives those children, who may have concerns about parents away on deployment, an opportunity to support one another. In addition, we have a nurture room where experienced and well-trained staff can work with pupils who may need additional support emotionally.

We are aware that frequent changes to a child's education can disrupt their learning and have a negative impact on progress. At St John's, we recognise this and offer support educationally and emotionally to ensure that our pupils make the best progress they can. Staff quickly assess pupils as they enter our school and appropriate interventions are put in place where necessary. Support is provided throughout this process by our SENCO (special needs) team and our Family Liaison Officer.

Our military families bring a wealth of diversity to St. John's, and we hope that despite moving around the country, the friends the children and parents make during their time here are friends for life.