

St. John's CE Primary School

**Crescent Road
Friern Barnet. London
N11 3LB**

'Welcome to our School'

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about St. John's C.E. Primary School. We hope that the information which follows will answer some of the important questions you may have about our school.

Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you take as a parent. We therefore hope that you will find time to visit us during the school day and meet with representatives of the governing body, the Rector Father Paul Walmsley-McLeod and myself, Macci Dobie, to find out more about the school.

As a school, we look forward to sharing this important period of your child's life with you as education is a partnership between home and school and children are happiest and learn best when we work together for their benefit. We place a great deal of importance on our partnership with parents and there will be many opportunities for you to make a significant contribution to the life of our school.

We make every effort to offer rich and rewarding learning experiences and to ensure that your child develops many of the vital skills and attitudes for future success and a happy and fulfilling life.

I look forward to welcoming you to St. John's School.

Yours sincerely

Macci Dobie

Headteacher

St. John's CE Primary School

We aim to:

- help children make moral choices based on Christian values, whilst promoting understanding and awareness towards those of a different culture and religion;
- develop the highest possible standards of behaviour, teaching and learning to support all pupils in achieving their full potential;
- provide pupils with a secure and friendly environment where everyone strives to work in partnership with the home and the church.



'Faith, Excellence and Enjoyment' Our Mission Statement.

About St. John's

St. John's is a Church of England primary school in the north London suburb of Friern Barnet. We are a one-form entry school with approximately 262 children on roll. We have a nursery for pupils aged 3-4 years. Pupils joining the Reception Class remain in the school until 11 years of age. The school enjoys an excellent reputation within the community and is always heavily over subscribed.

The school is a one-storey complex built in 1968 in the Parish of St. James and St. John. We have excellent facilities which include a fantastic indoor swimming pool, a well-stocked library, a music room, cookery suite and art room. The most recent addition to our great facilities is an all-weather Multi Use Games Area (a MUGA), providing the opportunity for our children to enjoy outdoor sport the whole year long. Additionally the school is well resourced and staffed. We also enjoy the support of parents and a very hard working and committed Parent Teacher and Friends Association; they raise thousands of pounds every year for the benefit of the children and their support is invaluable.

St. John's takes a holistic approach to education and aims to help children grow in all areas. The social, physical, emotional, spiritual and moral development of our pupils are all of equal importance and we are always proud of our pupils' achievements in all of these key areas. To make this development easier, St. John's works hard to maintain an effective learning environment. The strong Christian ethos is important to staff and pupils and creating a calm, caring and stimulating environment – this is further supported by close links with the Rector, a frequent visitor to the school, and wider parish community.

Our school is committed to inclusive education and our aim is for the needs of every child to be recognised, understood and catered for. Parents, staff and governors work together to ensure that every child is supported and able to receive an appropriate and rewarding education.

We aim to ensure equal opportunity for all regardless of gender, race, religion or special need. The school recognises that children living in Barnet are part of a wider multicultural society and our educational objectives reflect this, preparing children to live and work together in harmony.

A Church of England School

As a church school St. John's is centred within the worshipping community of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Friern Barnet. The children are introduced to faith not only as a subject but, more significantly, as an experience and an intricate part of the human search for meaning and personal development. Prayer and public worship are an integral part of the school day.

As well as daily assemblies, the school worships in Church at the beginning and end of term, at significant moments of festival and at times when thanksgiving is to be given or comfort sought. The children are taught to embrace the value of 'community' and to recognise both the responsibilities and the blessings of belonging to the body of the faithful; how to contribute and how to welcome friendship and the gift of empathy, experiences that enrich the quality of life.

The school curriculum is taught from a Christian perspective and the children are encouraged to live by Gospel values: love for God and neighbour and respect for self and for all people. In a changing world the 'secular' and faith beliefs other than Christianity naturally form part of education at St. John's and co-exist within the school family. Acceptance of difference and the search for loving compromise are central to the Christian Gospel and to the learning experience and life of St John's.

The school amply provides for the means to success and academic excellence, but it also nurtures children in the exciting journey of discovery to find the purpose and potential of humanity.

Rev. Dagmar Wilkinson

Rector



Noah's Ark by Reception Class

Curriculum

In Nursery and Reception the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Key Stage 1 (Years 1&2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) follow a curriculum based on the English National Curriculum.

The core subjects are English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education and computing (Information and Communication Technology). The foundation subjects are History, Geography, Design and Technology, Art, Music, a modern foreign language (Italian, Y2Y6), Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education, (PSHCE) and Physical Education (which includes a weekly swimming lesson).



'We love our school journeys to Cornwall and Norfolk'

We try to develop children as active, resourceful and flexible learners. People learn by doing and experimenting as well as listening and watching. Our teaching and learning approach emphasises the importance of a varied and stimulating diet of learning activities. It also stresses the importance of developing children's creativity. Our creative approach to the curriculum enables pupils to make connections between subjects and provides opportunities for creative thinking, problem solving and collaborative working.

We are especially keen to promote learning outside of the classroom and all of our children enjoy the opportunity to visit many places of educational interest throughout the year. We are very fortunate to own two minibuses which enable us to travel within and beyond the M25 to an unimaginable and seemingly unlimited variety of places to stimulate and foster a love of learning. This programme is further enriched by a wide range of workshops and theatre presentations run by local organisations and subject specialists ('I enjoy trips, shows and workshops and they help me to learn and have fun' – 97% of pupils 'Agree' in our Pupil Satisfaction Survey). In this way we seek to nurture children's natural curiosity and creativity while developing the individual gifts, talents and aptitudes that all children possess. The PTFA subsidise these trips by offering the school £3500 pa. Costs are further alleviated by an annual and very generous donation of £5000 from the Friern Barnet Educational Trust!

Sport is important too and we encourage our pupils to develop positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles ('I enjoy sport at school' – 95% of pupils 'Agree' in our Pupil Satisfaction Survey). As well as offering a full P.E. syllabus, we offer a unique 'sport enrichment programme' whereby every class in the main school has the chance to try something

different for a half-term each year. Sports we have offered during school hours have included: yoga, gymnastics, taekwondo, trampolining, handball, tennis, rock climbing, fencing, street dance, keep fit and kayaking. Each activity lasts six weeks and is run by a professional coach here at school or off-site. The PTFA subsidise these activities by donating £2000 pa.

Community Cohesion and Citizenship are incredibly important to us at St. John's as well; in addition to fantastic international links, we encourage our children to become active participants in the local community. In EYFS and KS1, pupils adopt a charity and run exciting fund raising events to raise money for their chosen worthy cause. In KS2 pupils cook meals for Shelter during the winter months, help run mother and toddler groups at church, undertake weekly visits to Oakleigh Special School, serve lunch to the elderly at the Parish Centre and help out at the Age UK Barnet Day Centre in East Finchley. We are proud of our children and their caring attitudes.

We are also committed to the arts and as well as attending the theatre regularly we also invite travelling theatre groups into school to perform for the children and run drama workshops. In addition we present our own shows at Christmas and towards the end of the school year. These experiences develop children's confidence and self esteem and over the years these shows have become a strength of the school.



'We love singing and dancing, learning outside of the classroom and getting our hands dirty!'

Admissions

The Admissions sub-committee of the Governing Body meets in the spring term to consider applications for places in the Nursery and Reception classes.

If you wish your child to be considered for a place at the school, application forms must be received by the school no later than the end of the second week of January preceding the relevant academic year that the child should start school.

The Governors adhere strictly to their Admission Criteria, a copy of which can be found on the school website or available from the school office.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

St. John's is committed to inclusive education and aims to provide a broad, well balanced curriculum that is accessible to all pupils regardless of race, gender, age or special need. Early identification and the provision of appropriate intervention is therefore a whole school responsibility. The school aims to offer a continuum of SEND provision to raise standards of achievement, give all pupils a sense of success, involve them in planning for their own learning and to enable pupils to achieve according to their potential. The school aims to work in partnership with parents and carers who have a vital role to play in supporting their child's education.

The SEND Co-ordinator (SENCO) is responsible for the day to day operation of the school's SEND policy and the management of the support team. The Wellbeing sub-committee of the Governing Body meets regularly to discuss provision within the school. The school policy for 'Inclusion' is reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with national regulations. The school seeks to comply with regulations regarding disability and accessibility and further information regarding this can be found in the relevant policies held by the school.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are committed to fulfilling the highest standards in safeguarding. The school has a designated member of staff for safeguarding and child protection and a governor who carries out the same role. Staff receive regular training and we work closely with other agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our children.

School Information

Gates to the playground open each morning at 8.40 am. They close at 9 am and thereafter they are operated by a timer to maintain site security.

Session Times:

Nursery Morning: 8.50am – 11.50 am Nursery

Afternoon: 12.20pm – 3.20 pm

Reception/KS1: 8.50am – 3.20 pm. KS2:

8.50am – 3.25 pm.

Lunch break for Y@: 11.40 am – 1 pm, KS1: 12 noon – 1 pm

Lunch break for KS2: 12.30 – 1.30 pm

Term Dates:

Please visit the school website for term and holiday dates for the current academic year.

We want children to enjoy school and experience success; our curriculum is therefore carefully designed to achieve both these things. Please see the 'Year Groups' section of the school website for detailed information about teaching and learning.



'We learn when we are having fun and being imaginative and creative'

Starting in Nursery and Reception Classes

Once Nursery places have been allocated, parents are invited to a meeting which is held in June. At these meetings parents and carers will receive information about the Nursery and our starting procedure and, a few weeks before starting school, home visits are made by staff to gather important information in preparation for your child's first days at school. All parents have to apply separately for a place in the Reception class. **Please note that applications have to be made to both the local authority and to the school.**

Staff at St. John's

Please visit the school website for a list of current staff.

Special Assemblies

Friday is 'Brilliant Book' Assembly day at St. John's. This is an opportunity for the whole school to recognise and celebrate children's achievements. Being in the 'Brilliant Book' is recognised as a special part of life at St. John's and children receive a special sticker and a certificate to take home as well as recognition of their achievements on our school website.



'We are all very proud of our children's achievements'

School Governors

School Governors are like a Board of Directors as they make decisions about how the school is run. They usually meet as a full Governing Body twice a term, with additional meetings and working parties.

Governors represent the church, the staff and parents at the school, the LDBS (London Diocesan Board for Schools) and the LA (Local Authority).

Please see the school website for details of governing body membership.



'...and we are proud of our friendships at school and with friends from other countries'

Uniform

Children are expected to wear school uniform throughout the school.

School uniform can play a valuable role by: setting an appropriate tone, instilling pride, supporting positive behaviour and discipline, encouraging identity with and support for the school ethos, ensuring pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protecting children

from social pressures to dress in a particular way and nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between different groups of pupils. We believe that school uniform also supports effective teaching and learning.

Details of the uniform policy can be found on the school website or obtained from the school office. Our uniform is provided by Bragg's of North Finchley.



Our parent community support the school in so many ways and we run many events for the whole family to enjoy together. We like to think that this partnership is a strength of the school.

Home School Partnership

St. John's considers a strong partnership between the home and school to be a real priority and we are always looking to develop this relationship. Class teachers meet with parents twice a year to review progress and have an 'open door' policy to maintain communication. Informal get-togethers such as coffee mornings or breakfasts help encourage good relationships and a sense of 'togetherness.'

Parents are encouraged to be active participants in the general life of the school and parents do often help out in a wide variety of ways (hearing children read, cooking, supporting sports events and sports practices, attending school outings, etc.). Many more are part of the very successful PTFA.

Parent Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

St. John's is very fortunate to have such a committed PTFA which co-ordinates social events and fund-raising activities. Please visit the PTFA page on the school website to learn more about the wonderful support and the fantastic events the PTFA offer.

Extra Curricular Activities

Here at St. John's we look to provide a variety of interesting and stimulating activities within the curriculum and also outside of normal school hours. Children are fortunate enough to experience many activities not routinely offered in primary schools. Year 5 enjoy surfing, canoeing, abseiling, team-building and caving on their residential school journey while Y6 enjoy an annual school trip to West Runton, Norfolk for an outdoor pursuits and environmental based learning experience. We also offer a wide range of exciting out of hours school clubs which include: football, netball, rugby, cricket, athletics, tennis, table tennis, chess, Mathletics, dance and drama. The clubs are all well attended. We love competitive sport too and we are always very proud of the children's incredible achievements in local borough competitions.

Breakfast and After School Clubs (Wrap around Provision)

We offer before and after school care for a maximum of 25 children at each session. Breakfast club begins at 7.45 am and after school club runs until 6 pm Monday to Friday. These clubs are run by an outside firm, Club St. John's. They are currently staffed by school staff. All enquiries about the club should be directed towards Club St. John's; contact details are available from the school office and on the school website.



We hope you have enjoyed finding out about our school. If you would like to visit us, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment. Parent Tours take place on the first Friday of every month. Admission Criteria and application forms are available from the office and the school website.