

Newsletter

4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Welcome from Mrs Browne:

As I begin my first term as Headteacher at St John's, I want to say how grateful I am for the warm welcome I have received from pupils, staff and families. My leadership is rooted in inclusion, relationships and high expectations, and I believe children thrive when they feel known, noticed and valued. Over these first couple of weeks, my priority is to complete a listening tour—spending time with pupils, hearing their views and getting to know them as individuals. I have already begun meeting small groups and individual children in Year 6 and Year 1, and I look forward to getting to know every class.



Outside school, I love spending time with my family. We live locally, and both of my daughters are beginning exciting new chapters this September: Sally is starting Year 7 at St Bede's, and Rachel is joining Reigate College to study performing arts. As a family, we are keen campers and enjoy exploring new places together—usually with a campfire, plenty of fresh air and a competitive round of card games (Uno is a firm favourite). We are also closely connected to St John's Church, where we enjoy making music together as members of the choir and band. I am delighted to be part of the St John's community and look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure every child feels safe, inspired and able to shine.

We have had a wonderfully calm and settled start to the new school year, with a real sense of anticipation and excitement for all that lies ahead. Children have quickly embraced routines and shown great enthusiasm for the many opportunities available to them. We have welcomed our new appointed school Well-Being Ambassadors in assembly and over the coming week, we will be appointing other pupil leaders, including School Council representatives and House Captains. We very much look forward to seeing them take on these important responsibilities across the school.

So I'm very much looking forward to the next couple of weeks and our next Newsletter, in a fortnight's time, will hopefully be able to give feedback to you all and celebrate how it's gone.

Parent Meetings:

We apologise that we have needed to change the date of the Rabbits Class EYFS Curriculum Evening due to unforeseen circumstances. This will now take place on **Thursday 24th September at 7pm**. All other Meet the Teacher briefings remain as previously publicised: Years 3–6 on Tuesday 8th September (Year 3 Owls and Year 4 Deer at 3.25pm; a short Headteacher presentation at 4–4.10pm; Year 5 Falcons and Year 6 Otters at 4.15pm) and Years 1 and 2 on Wednesday 9th September at 9am.

Mobile Phones and SMART Devices – Important Information for All Parents:

Our Year 6 pupils have received updated guidance this week regarding the use of mobile phones and SMART devices in school, and we are sharing a summary with all families so everyone is informed and prepared.

Children in **Year 6** (and **Year 5 during the summer term**) may bring a mobile phone to school **only with parental agreement** and **only where it provides a clear benefit**, such as supporting independent travel. Parents must complete a permission form before a phone can be brought onto site.

SMART devices—including SMART watches and fitness trackers with messaging or data-storage capability—**must not be used during the school day**. These may be brought to school with parental agreement **but must be handed in to the class teacher on arrival** and collected at the end of the day. All devices must remain switched off while on school premises.

This approach reflects national guidance and mirrors the direction taken by many secondary schools, where SMART devices are not permitted to be seen or used during the school day. It supports safeguarding, reduces distraction, and ensures a consistent, fair approach for all pupils. Please note that even if a SMART watch is set to “watch-only” mode, it must still be handed in. All devices remain the responsibility of the child, and misuse will result in confiscation in line with the school behaviour policy.

If parents need to contact their child urgently during the school day, please phone the school office on **01737 763804**.

Upcoming Events

September	
8 th	3.25pm Meet the teachers for Years 3 – 4
8 th	4.15pm Meet the teachers for Years 5 – 6
9 th	9am Meet the teachers for Year 1 – 2
11 th	9am parent volunteer meeting
15 th	2.40pm parent volunteer meeting
24 th	New reception parent's curriculum evening 7pm – new date
October	
13 th	Individual Photos
14 th	9.10am Harvest Festival at the Church, parents welcome
19 th – 30 th	Half term
November	
3rd	Parent consultation evening – in school appointments 3.30-6.00pm
4th	Open session for Reception starters 2027
5th	Parent consultation evening – in school appointments 3.30-6.00pm
10th	Open session for Reception starters 2027
9 -13th	National Anti-Bullying Week
13th	Children in Need Day
December	
16th	2pm Carol Service at St. John's Church, parents welcome