

Newsletter

18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Rabbits Class!

It has been wonderful to welcome our new Reception children in Rabbits Class to school over the last couple of weeks. It feels like the children are quickly becoming fully immersed in school life.

We are incredibly proud of how well they have settled into their new routines. They have shown great enthusiasm, confidence and curiosity as they are exploring their learning environment, making new friends and taking part in the wide range of activities on offer each day.

A huge thank you goes to our families for their support during this important transition. Starting school is a significant step, and the partnership between home and school plays a vital role in ensuring children feel happy, secure and ready to learn.

We look forward to watching our Rabbits Class continue to flourish throughout the year and are delighted to have them as part of the St John's family.



Pupil Leadership

House Team Captains

Year 6 met with their houses during the first full week of term and held elections to choose their House Team Captains for this half term.

Congratulations to our newly elected captains:

Abinger Red - Nathan P and Biba;

Pendleton Blue - Archie B and Evie;

Fairlawn Yellow - Jack and Freya;

Somerset White - Macey and Prithvi.

Our new captains were excited to begin their roles and proudly announced the house points so far during assembly last Friday as well as being awarded their badges and celebrated on achieving their new roles.

We are looking forward to a fantastic half term ahead and are confident that our new captains will do an excellent job leading their houses.

We are delighted to introduce our new School Council representatives for this academic year.

Year 1: Samuel and Oliver;

Year 2: Sophia and Margot

Year 3: Ella and Lucas;

Year 4: Fergus and Rafael

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Year 5: Niroshith and Hazel

Year 6: Calum and Yaseen

The children met for their first School Council meeting on Monday and made an excellent start.

During the meeting, council members discussed why we have a School Council and the important role it plays in ensuring that pupil voice is heard throughout the school. The children shared lots of thoughtful ideas about how they can help make our school even better and how they can represent the views of their classmates.

As next steps, our School Council members will begin collecting suggestions and feedback from their classes, particularly around playground resources and ways to further improve breaktimes. Our y5 representatives are going to meet Mrs Beardwell to discuss Nurture and Calm Table resources. We are excited to work with this enthusiastic group of pupils throughout the year and look forward to seeing the positive impact their ideas will have on our school community.

We would like to congratulate all of our representatives and thank them for taking on this important responsibility. We can't wait to see what we achieve together this year!

Active School Travel Survey - Share Your Views

We are delighted to share that our school has been selected to take part in an important national evaluation led by Active Travel England, which aims to make walking, wheeling and cycling to school easier, safer and more attractive for children.

As part of this project, we are inviting parents and carers of children in **Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6** to complete a short online survey about their child's journey to school and their views on active travel.

Why is this important?

As a school community, we are very aware of some of the challenges surrounding travel to and from school, particularly the difficulties we experience with limited parking and ensuring considerate, safe use of our local roads while respecting our neighbours and residents.

This survey provides an excellent opportunity for families to share their experiences and perspectives. The findings can help contribute to wider conversations about how we can work together to improve safety, encourage healthy and active travel habits, and support our school and local community.

We hope this can be the beginning of an ongoing dialogue that brings together pupils, parents, staff, governors, local residents and potentially representatives from the local council. We hope to establish a travel working party that can explore ideas, gather views and identify practical actions that are within our collective circle of control to help make journeys to school safer, more sustainable and more enjoyable for everyone.

Who can take part?

- Parents and carers of children in **Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6**
- Your child does *not* need to regularly walk, wheel or cycle to school for you to complete the survey
- Parents and carers with more than one eligible child can complete the survey for each child

What will the survey ask?

The survey takes approximately *10 minutes* to complete and includes questions about:

- How your child travels to school
- What encourages or prevents walking, wheeling or cycling
- Your views on potential improvements to support active school travel

Complete the survey by 14 October 2026

Survey link:

https://survey.natcen.ac.uk/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll?I.Project=P2042601_MAI_V1&i.user1=158795

The survey is being conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) on behalf of Active Travel England.

As a thank you for taking part, the school will receive a *£30 Love2Shop voucher* when the survey closes. If *50 or more parents/carers* participate, the school will receive a *£75 Love2Shop voucher* instead.

We would be incredibly grateful for your support. Your views will not only contribute to national research but may also help shape future discussions and initiatives within our own school community.

For more information, visit <https://natcen.ac.uk/ActiveSchoolTravel> or contact the research team at ASTSurvey@natcen.ac.uk.

Thank you for helping us explore ways to make school travel safer, healthier and more sustainable for everyone.

A message from Chloe Beardwell, our Home School Link Worker



Hello, as part of my role at St John's I am here to support children and families by helping to build positive links between home and school. I can offer advice, guidance and practical support around a range of issues including emotional wellbeing, friendships, behaviour, family relationships, attendance, anxiety, sleep routines and supporting children through challenges at home or school. My role also includes signposting families to additional services and support where needed. A full information letter explaining my role and the support available has been sent home to all families. Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more or discuss how I may be able to help at hslw@stjohns-redhill.surrey.sch.uk.

Parent Survey 2026 Feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed last term's Parent Survey. Following the Trust-wide feedback already shared, I wanted to provide a more personalised update for St John's.

We received 26 responses from families across the school. Although the survey was completed before I joined as Headteacher this September, I have read the results carefully. They provide an important opportunity to celebrate our strengths while identifying areas where we can continue to improve.

What You Told Us

The feedback highlighted many strengths of St John's. Parents spoke positively about the welcoming community, supportive staff, strong relationships and the care shown towards children and families.

Particular strengths included:

- **96%** of parents said it is easy to contact the school when needed.
- **90%** were confident that staff keep their children safe.
- **86%** reported that their child is happy at school.
- Many parents described St John's as caring, welcoming and community-focused.

I was especially pleased to read comments about the strong sense of community that makes St John's feel like a family.

Our Priorities

Alongside the positives, parents identified several areas that will help shape our work moving forward:

- Providing clearer information about children's progress and attainment.
- Creating more opportunities for meaningful conversations about learning.
- Improving the timeliness and accessibility of communication.
- Demonstrating more clearly how parent feedback influences decisions.
- Helping parents better understand the curriculum and how they can support learning at home.

You Said... We Will...

You said: "We would like a clearer understanding of our child's progress."

We will: Review how we communicate learning, achievement and next steps so that parents feel better informed and able to support learning at home.

You said: "We would like more opportunities for meaningful conversations."

We will: Continue to promote an open-door culture and create further opportunities for constructive dialogue between families and staff.

You said: "Communication could be clearer and earlier."

We will: Review our communication systems to ensure messages are timely, accessible and consistent, while avoiding information overload.

You said: "We want to know that our feedback makes a difference."

We will: Strengthen our "You Said, We Did" approach so that families can clearly see how feedback informs school improvement.

Looking Ahead

Having joined St John's this September, I have already been struck by the warmth, pride and sense of community that exists across the school.

Over the coming year, we will focus on strengthening communication, increasing opportunities for parental engagement, celebrating success and ensuring that learning remains at the heart of everything we do. Most importantly, we will continue to listen carefully to the views of our families and use your feedback to help shape our priorities.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that every child thrives academically, socially and emotionally at St John's.

Hello Yellow Day – Wear It Loud and Proud on **Friday 9th October**



On **Friday 9th October**, we will be joining thousands of schools across the country in supporting YoungMinds' Hello Yellow Day for World Mental Health Day.

This special day helps raise awareness of the importance of children's and young people's mental health and reminds everyone that no one has to face mental health challenges alone.

Children are invited to **wear an item of yellow with their school uniform** to show their support. This could be a yellow T-shirt, jumper, socks, hair accessories, ribbons, badges or any other yellow item. We encourage everyone to **wear it loud and proud!** We will also be taking part in activities throughout the day to help promote positive mental health and wellbeing and to encourage important conversations about mental health.

If you would like to support **YoungMinds** with a donation, you can do so using the following fundraising link:

<https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/fundraisers/chloebeardwell/hello-yellow?enref=25efba849ecea58271afd741c3a0bf54>



Thank you for helping us support this important cause and show young people that, together, we stand brighter.

Toy Donations Needed

Miss Beardwell and the groups she works with in school would be very grateful for donations of any of the following items in good condition:

- Barbies and dolls
- Toy cars and trains
- Building blocks and construction toys
- Small world play resources
- Farm animals
- Small soft toys

These resources are used to support children in a variety of nurture, social and emotional development groups, helping them build confidence, communication skills, creativity and positive relationships through play.

If you are able to donate any of these items, please check with the school office or the HSLW team beforehand, as we may already have sufficient supplies of certain resources.

Thank you for your support and generosity. Every donation helps us provide valuable opportunities for children to learn, develop and thrive.



Community Notice: People's Emergency Briefing

We have been asked to share details of a local community event taking place at St John the Evangelist Church, Redhill, on **27 September 2026 at 2.30pm**. The event will include a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing, a film exploring the impacts of climate change and environmental change on everyday life in Britain, followed by a community discussion.

The organisers describe the briefing as a non-partisan initiative designed to encourage informed discussion about climate and nature-related challenges and responses. A flyer and invitation letter are attached for any families who may be interested in finding out more. Please be aware this event is for 16+yrs.

Upcoming Events

September	
24th	New reception parent's curriculum evening 7pm – new date
October	
9th	Hello Yellow Day – World Mental Health Day
13th	Individual Photos
14th	9.10am Harvest Festival at the Church, parents welcome
19th – 30th	Half term
November	
3rd	Parent consultation evening – in school appointments 3.30-6.00pm
4th	Open session for Reception starters 2027
4th	Parent consultation evening (Only Year 1) – in school appointments 3.30-6.00pm
5th	Parent consultation evening (Not Year 1) – 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

School Governor's Meetings

The meetings for this academic year will take place on the following dates;

30th September 2026
25th November 2026
3rd February 2027
10th March 2027
12th May 2027
23rd June 2027

If you would like any further information, please contact the Clerk on clerk@stjohn-redhill.surrey.sch.uk