

Newsletter

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that October has arrived already and that we are halfway through our first half term together. There continues to be a real buzz of learning across the school, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled into their new classes and routines. Their enthusiasm, confidence and positive attitudes are helping to create a purposeful and happy learning environment for all.

Today is World Smile Day so I thought it appropriate to share our lovely Reception smiling faces.



Pupil Voice

One of the greatest pleasures of my first few weeks at St John's has been spending time meeting with children from across the school. I now have just a few Year 2 pupils left to meet as part of these conversations, where we have explored questions such as: *What helps you learn? What makes you happy at school? When is your learning at its best? How could we help you even further?* The children have shared their thoughts openly and honestly, providing plenty of food for thought and some valuable ideas for future development. What has shone through overwhelmingly, however, is just how happy the children are at St John's and how valued, listened to and cared for they feel. It has been a privilege to hear their perspectives and celebrate the many strengths of our school through their eyes.

This week, it was also fantastic to work alongside two of our Year 6 School Councillors and staff as we surveyed pupils across the school about how they currently travel to school and how they might like to travel in the future. This forms part of our application to join a programme working with the Local Authority to develop a School Travel Plan. The children approached this responsibility with great confidence and enthusiasm, and their views will



play an important role in shaping our next steps. You can read more about this in the travel section later in the newsletter.

We have also been impressed by the maturity and thoughtfulness shown by two of our Year 5 School Councillors, Hazel and Niroshith, during a meeting with Mrs Beardwell and me to discuss our ELSA and regulation/calming tables. Together, we explored how these spaces are currently used, how they are resourced and how communication around their purpose and use could be improved. The children shared some excellent ideas and valuable feedback, and both Mrs Beardwell and I came away with a clear list of next steps. Hazel and Niroshith will report back to the School Council on 5th October, and we look forward to continuing this important work together.

Parent Consultation Evenings

You will have received an email today with information about our upcoming Parent Consultation Evenings. Booking will open via Arbor from Monday, giving families the opportunity to select a convenient appointment time with their child's teacher.

Consultations will take place on **Tuesday 3rd November and Thursday 5th November**, with **Mrs Sweeney's Year 1 appointments taking place on Tuesday 3rd November and Wednesday 4th November**. These meetings are an important opportunity to celebrate your child's successes, discuss their progress and next steps, and strengthen the partnership between home and school. We know that children achieve their very best when parents and school work closely together, and we look forward to meeting with you.

Travel to and from School

Over the past few weeks, I have been working with staff, pupils, governors, local residents and Surrey County Council as part of our application to join the Modeshift STARS School Travel Plan programme.

Our aim is to promote safer, healthier and more sustainable journeys to and from school, please see our updated [School Travel Policy](#). We actively encourage families to consider walking, scooting, cycling, public transport or 'park and stride' options where possible. For those who need to drive, we kindly ask for support with our voluntary traffic flow route via Fairlawn Drive and King's Avenue, and for consideration towards our neighbours by avoiding parking across driveways or blocking access to parked vehicles, including around Carter's Cottages and surrounding roads.

Could you help shape the future of travel at St John's? I am keen for this work to be a genuine partnership between school, families and the wider community. I have invited local residents and councillors for the Meadvale and St John's ward to join a School Travel Plan Working Party, alongside enthusiastic pupil and staff representatives. This week, our Year 6 School Councillors also surveyed pupils about how they currently travel to school and how they would like to travel in the future, providing valuable information to shape our next steps.

We are now looking for two parent representatives to join the working party and would love to hear from you if you have an interest in road safety, active travel, sustainability or supporting our local community. The group will meet monthly on Tuesday mornings at 9.00am, with the first meeting taking place on Tuesday 3rd November. If you would like to be considered, please email office@stjohns-redhill.surrey.sch.uk by Friday 23rd October.

What we ask of parents

- Please encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school whenever possible
- Ensure your child(ren) walk or ride sensibly and safely on the way to and from school, and to push bikes and scooters on school grounds
- Ensure that bicycles and scooters are roadworthy and properly maintained. If in doubt consult a qualified mechanic
- Ensure your children are safe e.g. providing your child(ren) with a cycle helmet
- Ensure your child(ren) can be seen by fitting lights to their bike by supplying them with highvisibility clothing
- We encourage parents and carers to follow the school's recommended drop-off and pick-up route by entering via Fairlawn Drive and continuing around King's Avenue where possible. This is a voluntary route, not a formal one-way traffic system, and is intended to help reduce congestion, improve safety for all road users and minimise disruption to our local residents. We ask families to be mindful that King's Avenue remains a residential road and that local residents may need to travel in either direction and that access to homes and parked vehicles should be maintained at all times.



Together, we can create a travel plan that benefits our children, families, neighbours and wider community.

School Dinners

Since September, all Greensand schools have been working with our new catering provider and settling into the new three-week menu cycle. As with any change, there has been a period of adjustment, but it has been lovely to see children becoming increasingly familiar with the range of options available each day. Over the coming weeks, the office team will be reviewing the popularity of different menu choices to help us understand which meals children are enjoying most so they can feedback and collaborate with the caterers about what is working well and what perhaps could be improved.

It has been wonderful to see so many children trying new foods and flavours. We are particularly proud of our youngest children in Rabbits, who are embracing new choices and enthusiastically talking to their families about what they have eaten at school. We would encourage parents and carers to take a look at the menu with their child and chat about the options available each day, as this can help children feel confident and excited about what to expect. I have enjoyed hearing children's views too, with one Year 6 pupil recently telling me, *"The salad bar was amazing today!"* Whilst there will always be small adjustments with any new system, we have been pleased with how smoothly the transition has gone so far and how quick to respond to feedback the kitchen have been. Thank you for your continued support as we continue to work together to provide a positive lunchtime experience for all children and do let us know how you as a family are finding it.

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.

Crazy Hair Day

We are looking forward to our annual **Crazy Hair Day** on **Thursday 15th October**, when children are invited to come to school with their wildest, wackiest and most creative hairstyles! This fun event helps to raise funds for our wonderful **Friends of St John's**, whose hard work and generosity support a wide range of opportunities and experiences for our children throughout the year.

There will be more information to follow, but for now we hope you can start planning those fabulous hairstyles and join us in supporting this much-loved St John's tradition.

Harvest Festival and Loveworks Collection

On **Wednesday 14th October**, we will be celebrating our annual **Harvest Festival** at **St John's Church**. As part of our celebrations and focus on helping those in need, we will once again be supporting **Loveworks** and their local food bank collection.

If you are able to donate, please send items into school with your child on the morning of the festival. Children should bring donations to their classroom when they arrive and register as normal. The children will then take the donations with their classes as they walk to church for the celebration.



**HARVEST
COLLECTION**

With the winter months approaching, more people will be turning to food banks for support.

No-one should go hungry.
Please help us support local people by donating if you can.

HELP FILL A FOOD BANK PARCEL

- Tinned soup
- Tinned meals (casserole, chilli, macaroni cheese)
- Jars of cooking sauce (pasta or curry)
- Tinned meat (chicken, ham, corned beef, hot dogs)
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned potatoes
- Rice pudding
- Tinned custard
- Biscuits

*No pasta.
Thank you!*

Loveworks 
Improving lives through food
FOOD BANK CHARITY

Loveworks.org Ltd is a registered charity number 113681
Registered address 3a-7a Bell Street, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7BH2


www.loveworks.org.uk
info@loveworks.org.uk

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for the Harvest Festival. You should drop your child at school as usual and then make your way to **St John's Church** to celebrate with us at 9.10am. We look forward to coming together as a school community to give thanks for all we have and to support local families through the important work of Loveworks.

Lost property

Next week we will be putting lost property out on a table in the playground, please take anything that belongs to you. Please do remember to name all pieces of uniform.

Greensand vacancies

[Vacancies](#) available at Greensand Multi Academy Trust.

Upcoming Events

October	
9 th	Hello Yellow Day – World Mental Health Day
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
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	Flu immunisation (all school) and Height & Weight (R & Y6)
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;

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



Bookings are open for October half term activities!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's October half term activities are live for booking. Take a look and book at www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/school-holidays

Back by popular demand there is Film School, trampolining, gymnastics, circus skills, block printing, LEGO and SEND craft and multi-sports.

New for this half term we have mainstream multi-sports, African mask making and family pickleball.

Remember if you are in receipt of a means-tested benefit, have a looked after child or a young carer you can receive a 50% discount, please email leisure.services@reigate-banstead.gov.uk with proof of benefit/address.

Kind regards,

The Leisure Team
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
01737 276322