

Newsletter

16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebrating a Strong Start to the Year

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a tremendously positive start to the academic year at St John's.

Schools are incredibly busy places, and while this newsletter captures many of the wonderful events and opportunities our children have enjoyed over the recent two weeks, what makes me most proud are the daily moments that often go unseen. Every day, our children demonstrate kindness, curiosity, perseverance and respect, helping to create the warm, inclusive and ambitious learning community that we strive to be.

This term has seen us begin our work on the priorities identified within our School Development Plan for the year. Across the school, we are strengthening further the quality of teaching and learning for all of our pupils, further developing our curriculum, championing reading and phonics and active and healthy lifestyles. We are ensuring that every child feels a strong sense of belonging and inclusion. We remain committed to helping every child achieve their very best, while also supporting their wellbeing and personal development.

Alongside this, we have enjoyed opportunities that enrich school life and bring our community together. From Hello Yellow Day and Harvest Festival to choir performances, sporting activities, pupil leadership opportunities and our new Travel Working Party and WOW Travel Tracker initiative that will start after half term, there is much to celebrate. These experiences help our children grow in confidence, discover new talents and develop the skills and character they will carry with them throughout their lives.

One theme that has woven its way through so many of our activities this half term has been the importance of community. Whether through supporting local charities, working alongside our church, collaborating with schools across Greensand, or simply showing kindness to one another each day, our pupils continue to demonstrate what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Thank you to our families, staff, governors on our local school committee, Friends of St John's and the wider community for your ongoing support. Strong partnerships make a significant difference to children's experiences and outcomes, and we are grateful for the role you play in helping our school flourish.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you are able to enjoy some valuable time together as a family. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term, continuing our journey of learning, growth and achievement together.

With best wishes,

Cathy Browne

Hello Yellow

What a wonderful day we enjoyed celebrating Hello Yellow Day in school! Thank you to everyone who wore yellow and helped us raise awareness of the importance of children's mental health and wellbeing.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a range of thoughtful activities focused on belonging, identity and positive mental health. Classes spent time reflecting on what makes each of us unique, the importance of feeling connected to others, and how we can support one another through both happy and challenging times.

The children showed great maturity and kindness as they shared their thoughts and feelings, reminding us all that looking after our mental health is just as important as looking after our physical health. It was a fantastic opportunity to encourage open conversations about emotions, celebrate individuality, and reinforce the message that everyone belongs and everyone matters. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and understanding shown by our pupils throughout the day. Together, we helped make Hello Yellow Day a positive celebration of wellbeing, kindness and inclusion across our school community. 💛

YOUNGMINDS

Hello Yellow



Greensand Let's Sing Concert

On Friday 9th October in the evening, 21 of our wonderful Junior Choir members proudly represented the school at the Greensand Let's Sing Concert. Joining children from Dovers Green Infant School, Milton Mount Primary School, Horley Infant School and Reigate School, our pupils took part in a fantastic celebration of music, reading and community.



This year's theme was 'Books', linking beautifully with the DfE's National Year of Reading. The audience was treated to a wonderful selection of songs inspired by favourite stories and characters, with *The Explorer*, *The Bear* from *Paddington* and *When I Grow Up* from *Matilda* proving particular highlights of the evening.

A special moment for our school was hearing our two Y6 pupils perform the poem *Adventures with Books* by Velda Blumhagen. The children read with real confidence, clarity and expression, bringing the words to life and showcasing their excellent speaking skills. It was also a pleasure to hear the choir from St John's and Milton Mount come together to sing: *When you Open a Book and Something Just Like This*.



We were incredibly proud of not only the children's musical talents but also their impeccable behaviour throughout the event. They were superb ambassadors for our school, demonstrating kindness, enthusiasm and respect, and earning praise from staff and visitors alike.



Events such as this highlight the many opportunities that come from being part of a nurturing local family of schools within Greensand Multi Academy Trust. Bringing children together to learn, perform and celebrate alongside their peers helps to build confidence, create lasting memories and strengthen the sense of community across our Trust.

Well done to all of our choir members for their hard work and commitment. They truly did themselves, their families and our school proud.



WOW Travel Tracker

We are excited to be launching the **WOW Travel Tracker** after half term, encouraging more children and families to enjoy the benefits of travelling actively to school.

The pupil-led initiative allows children to record how they travel to school each day, whether that is walking, cycling, scooting, wheeling or using a **Park and Stride** approach. By travelling actively at least once a week across a month, pupils can earn one of the special WOW badges, with a new design available each month throughout the school year.



As a school, we are keen to promote healthy lifestyles and sustainable travel. Walking or wheeling to school helps children arrive refreshed, energised and ready to learn, while also supporting their physical health, wellbeing and independence. It can also help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality around our school gates.

We recognise that not every family is able to walk the entire journey to school. For those who travel by car, a simple way to get involved is to **Park and Stride** by parking a short distance away and walking the final part of the journey. Families using public transport can also take part by getting off a little earlier and walking the remaining section of their journey.

The WOW badges themselves are something to look forward to, with this year's theme, "**Walk the Senses**", encouraging children to notice and appreciate the world around them. Designed by pupils from across the UK and made from recycled materials, the badges are a fun and rewarding way to celebrate active travel.

We look forward to seeing as many children as possible taking part and to celebrating their achievements throughout the year. Together, let's make the journey to school a healthy, enjoyable and positive start to every day.



Crazy Hair Day

A huge thank you to all our families for supporting this year's Crazy Hair Day, and to our wonderful Friends of St John's for organising. The creativity on display was incredible, with children arriving sporting an amazing array of colourful, imaginative and wonderfully wacky hairstyles!

In assembly, we reflected on how each of us is unique and special, and how we all belong as valued members of our St John's community. The children embraced the spirit of the day brilliantly, celebrating individuality while enjoying being part of something special together.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support. The money raised will help the Friends of St John's continue to provide enriching opportunities and experiences for our children throughout the year.

Harvest Festival and Loveworks Collection

Our **Harvest Festival** at **St John's Church** on Wednesday was a truly special occasion and a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in gratitude, reflection and generosity.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who donated so generously to our Loveworks collection. The incredible number of contributions demonstrated the kindness and compassion that are such important values within our school community. We know these donations will make a real difference to local families and individuals who need support.

The service itself was a joy to be part of. Our whole school singing filled the church beautifully, while the Year 5 narrators led us through the celebration with confidence and poise. The prayers, class songs and choral poems were shared thoughtfully and enthusiastically, creating a service that was both meaningful and uplifting.



We know that events which involve changes to usual routines can sometimes feel a little different for some children. We were incredibly proud of how well all of our pupils embraced the occasion, supporting one another and contributing in their own way. The children represented the school wonderfully throughout and were a credit to themselves and their families.

One parent summed the morning up perfectly, describing the service as **"a triumph!"** We could not agree more. It was a wonderful celebration of harvest, community and thankfulness, and a reminder of the strength of the partnership between our school, local church, local community and families.



Thank you to everyone who helped make the morning such a memorable occasion.

Greensand vacancies

Vacancies available at Greensand Multi Academy Trust.

Upcoming Events

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