

GOVERNOR newsletter

Issue 10 August 2020



Chair's word – Clare Farrow

As we reach the end of another academic year we reflect on the journey our staff and pupils have been on since March 2020. Home and school life changed and our school community adapted to the 'new normal' of providing home learning alongside working with the children of key workers. Since June we have welcomed back more pupils. We have also had the opportunity to say goodbye to our year six pupils before they move on to Secondary school in September. Our dedicated staff have worked tirelessly and adapted to ever changing guidance from the Department of Education and we are thankful for their hard work and dedication



Governors Update

The governors have been working closely with the school during lockdown. We have continued to hold Governors meetings but adapted to a virtual environment and have all been getting used to using Microsoft Teams. We have also been reviewing and checking the school's risk assessment which was a huge undertaking and had to be completed and tested before the school re-opened to an increased number of pupils.

The guidance for primary schools from the Local Authority, The DFE & the Public Health Authority has been changing constantly as more and more information was released about the impact of the Coronavirus. We have been working with the school to ensure that all of the guidelines are being followed and to ensure the

safety of all of our pupils and staff at all times.

We will continue to work with the school over the summer months to ensure that the risk assessment is up to date to consider the additional risks and control measures to enable the school to return to full opening in September.

The Chair of Governors has also been providing 1-2-1 support to Mrs Sessions as she made critical decisions on the running of the school during this very difficult time.

St John's Catholic Primary School
Wingfield Road, Trowbridge
Wiltshire BA14 9EA

Tel: 01225 752006

Email me at:
chair@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

www.st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

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Thank You

We have always been very lucky at St John's to have such a supportive community and this has been needed more than ever during the last few months. The governors would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to support the school during this time.

Thank you to all of the staff who have adapted to a new way of teaching, learning new skills and adapting to the home learning platforms that have been put in place. They have continued to work and support keyworker children since March whilst managing home learning, whilst having to deal with the challenges we have all faced during lockdown.

Thank you to all of the parents who have worked with the school and have become teachers themselves. We know it has been tough for so many of you who have had to carry on working whilst home-schooling and for many there has been uncertainty over jobs or being furloughed, all while having to help and support your children's learning at home.

And thank you to all the children who have worked so hard during all of this. For sharing your learning with your teachers, for adapting to the new way of life and using the platforms that were

new to you. We know it has been hard to be away from your friends and extended family and we are so glad to be welcoming you all back into school in September.

Farewells....

Mrs Little who will be leaving to take up a post as EYFS Lead at Rivermead School. We wish her every happiness and success in her new role.

Mrs Uncles who is leaving the school after nine years as a TA & the school chaplain. Julie Uncles has been instrumental in supporting the teaching and learning at St. John's over the last nine years and we wish her every success in her new role at St Augustine's.

Miss Jones is leaving to join the teaching profession and embark on a degree course in Education. We wish her every success in her new venture.

Play your part over the summer.....

Over the summer holiday we would really appreciate your support in continuing your good work of adhering to the COVID-19 measures that are in place, to not only protect you and your family, but any other people you are in regular contact with.

Please be assured that the current infection rates of COVID-19 in Wiltshire remains low, and if we continue to work together there's no reason it shouldn't remain that way.

Therefore, over the summer, can you and your family please:

- Wash hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Use hand sanitiser wherever you can.
- Closely observe social distancing guidelines
- Self-isolate and get tested if you or your family have COVID-19 symptoms such as a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss/change to your sense of smell or test. More information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Follow government guidance around wearing face coverings – please note that children under the age of 11 are exempt from wearing them
- Follow advice and guidance if you are contacted as part of the test and trace system more information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works#how-nhs-test-and-trace-service-works>

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Lockdown Diaries

There have been lots of positive changes during lockdown – one of which has been learning new skills or taking up a new hobby. We thought we'd share with you some of our Governors lockdown diaries with you.

Claire Doogue

My husband and I have re-discovered our board games, my favourite is snakes & ladders. The husband always manages to beat me even when I suggested a change of going up the snake and down the ladder.

We have also been out on a lot of walks and have particularly enjoyed Biss Meadow in Trowbridge and a lovely walk along the canal from Semington. We saw plenty of bird life and chatted with some of the barge owners who were moored up. On a more serious note we have also along with other Churches/organisations in the town and beyond been going out to do the Trowbridge Soup Run every night during this pandemic. When some have not been able to do their turn others have stepped in and done extra and I think only 1 night, so far, has not manned. Clients have told us that they would go hungry if it was not for

the soup-run. It is a great example of all Churches, Faiths and Organisations in the town working together to help those less fortunate.

Mike Simmons

I have never ventured into the art world but decided to try and revitalise the garden ornaments - I think I might need the input of EYFS on how to select colours. I have been growing sunflowers - anyone up for a height competition?

Apart from that I think my French tutor may have to go into rehab!



Clare Farrow

I have been learning to crochet during lockdown and attempting to learn Spanish through Duolingo!

Governor Profile



Nicola Hughes

As a new Parent Governor I am pleased to be able to support the school. I must admit it has been a strange time to start as a Governor but I am looking forward to the new school year with lots of hope. I have 2 children at St Johns and have a longstanding & very fond relationship with the school as I attended it myself many years ago.

Professionally I work in marketing for an E-commerce business and have run my own digital agency. I have been an active member of the school community & parish and have just completed 2 years as Co-Chair of The Friends. I care passionately about the school and the provision of high standards of education and care for every child in the school. I am looking forward to working with the governing body.