



Our mission statement:

***“Through Jesus Christ,
all our children learn to
love and love to learn.***

***The family of St. John’s
love learning and are
life-long learners.***

***Through Jesus Christ
everyone knows how to
show love to others and
God, remembering
kindness comes first.***

Dear parent/carers,

Can I start by saying just how proud we are of all our children whether they are in school or working remotely at home. They are working so hard and producing lovely work. Thank you for sending in the photos of all their creations!

Thank you to all parents and carers too for the amazing job you are doing with your children. It is such a juggling act at the moment and we are grateful for the support you are providing your children in such challenging times.

It has been lovely to hear and see what each class has been doing this week

EYFS- have been looking at what sort of clothes you might need if you were lucky enough to go to Hawaii and Alaska. They had to think about what the weather would be like in each country and decide what to wear!

Year 1- have been focusing on the world and being able to label the continents and the oceans on our planet.

Year 2- have continued to learn about the Great Fire of London and what jobs were available at that time.

Year 3- have been discussing healthy foods, what foods are good for us to eat and how would we create a healthy picnic

Year 4- have been learning about the Escape from Pompeii as part of their Romans topic

Year 5 and 6- have been investigating what the differences were between the rich and poor in Tudor times as well as looking at Elizabeth I.

Please continue to engage, where possible, with all the extra activities being provided on the Lockdown club, Wellbeing, PE, International relations and RE tiles. There are lots of fantastic websites, learning resources and fun tasks provided on these tiles as well as the children’s daily learning.

You will see from Monday 1st February, at the top of every year group tile each day, there will be a different form of collective worship for the children to engage with. All children in school will be shown these in class.

As we all now know, schools will not be reopening after the half term break. I can appreciate that, for many families, the thought of another extended period of home schooling is not ideal. Can I just remind you that the current provision we are offering, in school, is for those children who are deemed vulnerable as well as those from key worker families.

I do understand that many of you may now want your children to be back in school but must remind you that we can only offer places to those families who do not have an adult at home during the working week to support their children. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

You will see that our new Chair of Governors, Lorraine Vinall, has written to you all introducing herself. She has already been part of zoom meetings with myself, SLT and governors this term and it is lovely to be able to welcome her to our school community.

Wishing you all some much needed rest and relaxation this weekend,

Take care and please continue to stay safe,

Many thanks to all of you for your support and kind words as we continue through this term. Mrs Clough - Acting Headteacher



Dear St John's School Community,

As you are aware, Claire Franke resigned from her role as Chair of the Governing Body at the end of last year and I was appointed to the role as from the beginning of 2021. Therefore, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all and tell you something about myself.

My name is Lorraine Vinall and I became a Foundation Governor at St John's School at the beginning of 2020 although the process began in September 2019. I am a member of the parish of St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Horsham and have been since my husband and I moved to area in the summer of 1983. Within the parish I have had many different roles over the years including being a catechist for younger children, teenagers and adults and before lockdown I was a Reader at Mass as well as a Eucharistic Minister. I am also a member of the Society of St Vincent de Paul and when I am able to, I like to support the work of the Parish's Justice and Peace group. Girlguiding is another one of my interests and again I have had different leadership roles (and continue to do so) in that worthwhile organisation. Between 1995 and 2007 I studied part time for qualifications in RE, a Teaching Assistants' Award and lastly a degree in Theology. As I used to tell friends and acquaintances who asked why I put myself through all that extra work, my father drummed it into his children that "you are never too old to learn or study" and I think this love of learning is so important in life.

I have two grown up children who have now moved away from the area but who both went to St John's Primary School as did one of my three grandchildren. My connection to school covers some 32 years during which time I have been a member of the Friends of St John's and as a member of staff. As staff I completed 25 years as a Learning Assistant (having worked in every year group) before I decided to retire a few years ago, so to some of you I may be a familiar face. During my time as a member of staff I served as a Staff Governor for about 6 years.

To some of the children I may be remembered as the lady who came into school to say the Rosary with them at lunchtimes during the months of May and October (before lockdown), which always filled me with joy or as a member of the parish who came into class to be interviewed as part of RE lessons. These visits have been interesting experiences and I was always struck by the variety and complexity of the children's questions as they learned about the roles and responsibilities of being a member of the Church. As much as in an adult role you try to impart knowledge to the young, it is amazing how much you learn in response.

I feel that my past life will help me to work with Mrs Clough and her excellent staff, the wonderful children of the school and their families, to continue to move the school forward in its role as an educator of young people. I am excited to be a part of this welcoming and friendly community once more and look forward to that time when we can meet again face to face.

With my best wishes and prayers for you all.

Lorraine Vinall



Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 31st January 2021 (Mark 1:21-28):

Jesus Teaches with Authority Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God." But Jesus said sharply, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. "Here is a teaching that is new," they said, "and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him." And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.