

Welcome to St John's School

We strive to provide a caring, happy and safe environment in which every child may reach their full potential, gain self-confidence and respect for the people and the environment around them as well as preparing each child for an exciting journey of new experiences and lifelong learning. We are incredibly proud of our school and its nursery which has a strong ethos of development through nurture. My team and I passionately feel that the following values are the foundations to having a happy and successful school. We believe our school should be a place:

- Where learning is a shared experience
- Where everyone who is part of our community is respected and valued.
- Where we become aware of, explore and enjoy the diversity, complexity and connections between people, things and ideas that are in the world.
- Where it is safe to express worries about things we can't yet do or don't understand.
- Which has high expectations and high standards of achievement.
- Where there is joy, laughter, excitement and personal and shared success.

Underpinning our curriculum are three drivers which we feel are key to fostering and developing children's potential prospects in life. They are: **creativity, independence** and **aspiration**. Everything we do at St. John's aims to enhance their skills, both academic and social, in these areas in readiness for the rest of their education and lives. We are committed to the ideal of partnership in education between home and school and hope that you will work with us to provide for your child's needs. In the following pages you will get a glimpse of the special qualities which make St. John's such a wonderful school. Visits to see the school in action, to observe the children enjoying their learning and to meet the friendly staff are always welcome.

Mrs Kerry Devane

Acting Head Teacher



Parents, children and the school

How many children are there at St John's Infant School?

St John's Infants' School is a Voluntary Controlled Infant school primary, for children between the ages of 2 and 7. We take up to 200 children in the main school. The nursery runs two sessions a day with places for 34 children in each session.

What time does school start?

The school day starts at 8:40am and finishes at 3:10pm. All school gates are open from 8:30am. The school year is based on a total of 38 weeks that are divided into three terms.

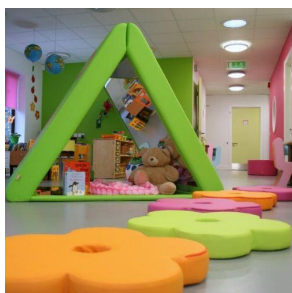
It is of great importance that your child arrives on time each morning.

How big are the classes?

We have a standard number of 34 children (26 three to four year olds and 8 two year olds) for each session in our nursery and 30 in each of our classes in the main school.

What facilities does the school have?

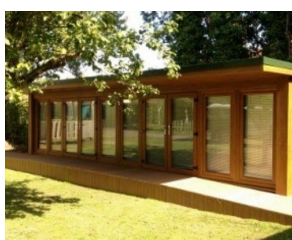
We are very fortunate in having a beautiful, safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. We have spacious classrooms, a hall and a library. All classrooms are light and airy with access to the outdoor environment. Such facilities enhance our teaching and enable our children to flourish in their learning and development.



We have a very spacious nursery with a large multi activity classroom, one smaller classroom, toilet facilities and a kitchen. There is a covered outdoor play area and a fenced secure paddock with grass and hard surface areas.



The school also has a swimming pool which is used in the warmer months of the year.



The garden room in the paddock provides us with an outdoor classroom.



The Curriculum

What will my child be taught?

Our children follow a nationally agreed curriculum throughout their time in School. In the nursery and reception classes, children follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum. Throughout the rest of the school, they follow the National Curriculum. Objectives and programmes of study outlined by the Department for Education and Skills are enhanced and developed by highly trained and innovative teachers. Examples of how we plan our curriculum 'Learning Quests' can be found on the school website. www.stjohnsinfantsglastonbury.co.uk

English

We believe the acquisition of the basic skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening underpins all aspects of learning. For this reason these areas are emphasised in our teaching, enabling children to gain confidence as they develop their skills.



Reading

We aim to create a community of enthusiastic and competent readers where children of all ages read for pleasure and to gather information. We actively encourage children to read at home and offer them high quality books to share with their families. A home/school reading diary gives advice to parents and records books that have been read.

Writing

All children's writing efforts are valued, from the earliest mark-making to a polished final piece. Through daily literacy lessons they broaden their vocabulary, improve grammar, punctuation and style. Fiction, non-fiction, poetry are covered regularly.

We foster an interest in spelling and accuracy through the structured teaching of phonics. Children are taught to take pride in the presentation of their work and to form their letters correctly in a cursive handwriting style.

Mathematics

We want all our children to develop a deeper and more meaningful knowledge of mathematics in order to enjoy it and use its rules and logic to solve problems now and in the future. Children have a dedicated maths lesson or maths activity every day where they experience direct teaching and interactive work in small groups. Throughout the school there is an emphasis on mental calculation, with daily 15minutes mental maths sessions. Young children complete most of their work practically; more formal methods of recording are taught as they progress through the school.





Science

Science is an exciting and creative way that children can find out about and make sense of their world and how it works. It stimulates and builds on their natural curiosity and enables them to search for answers to their questions in a practical way. Throughout the school, children engage in scientific activities which enable them to develop skills in questioning, testing, observing, predicting and drawing conclusions. The school's immediate environment is a rich resource where the children are able to make seasonal observations and develop their understanding of plant and animal life.

Computing

Our children are growing up in an increasingly technological age. They approach computing with confidence and curiosity and quickly become adept at operating the systems. We have a range of equipment throughout school, allowing easy access to children, enabling them to develop the skills they need. Computers, interactive whiteboards, iPads, programmable toys, scientific and audio-visual equipment and control devices are available to support teaching and learning. Internet access in all classrooms and a wide range of software enable teachers to use computing across all subjects.

Physical Education

We have been awarded Healthy School Status and the Sports Activemark which demonstrates our commitment to actively promoting fitness, agility and physical coordination through participation and enjoyment in PE. At St John's Infant School children experience games, gymnastics, dance, swimming, athletics and outdoor activities. We aim to develop children's interests in a wide range of sports, hoping they will remain involved in physical activity throughout their lives.

Geography

Children have a natural curiosity about their world. We offer them the opportunity to explore the relationship between the earth and its people and to acquire an understanding of physical, human and environmental geography. Local, regional, national, continental and global studies are pursued through class topics, visits and school journeys.

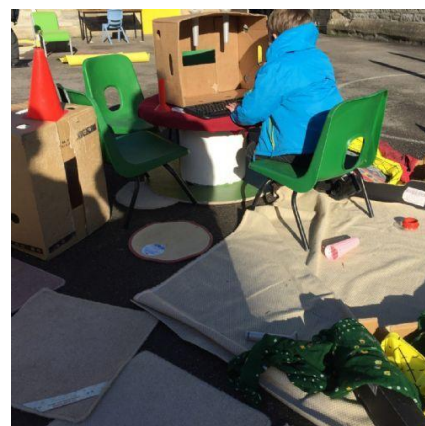
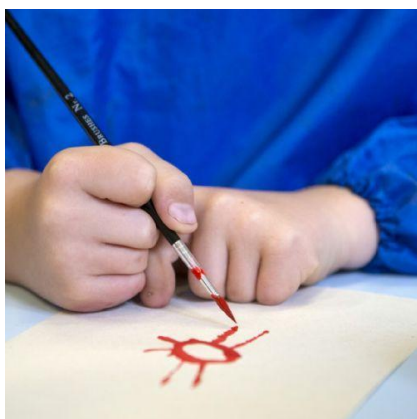
History

History can help children to develop a sense of identity, their relationship with their community and the part they can play in it. We help them develop an awareness and interest in the past by providing opportunities for them to investigate and interpret evidence using historical sources, by talking to others, using photographs and written evidence, researching through the internet and visiting sites and museums.

Art and Design

Children are naturally creative. Art provides a different dimension to their learning and offers an alternative way of looking at things and expressing how they feel about them. It enhances their world and increases their understanding and appreciation of it. Through art, children increase their self-confidence; develop their imagination and learn how to co-operate and communicate more effectively with others.

Our children enjoy a wide range of creative activities enabling them to develop their imagination and skills in observation. They experiment with different materials, tools and techniques, learn about colour and form, about the influences of other cultures and to evaluate their own work.



Music

Music is an essential aspect of all our lives. Children learn to express their ideas and feelings through music and develop singing, composing, listening and performance skills in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere.

We have an extensive range of both tuned and untuned percussion instruments which children use to create their own music.

Design and Technology

Design technology is a very practical area of the curriculum, where children are given the opportunity to develop their ideas and skills in investigating, planning, making and evaluating.

They work with a range of materials, learn to use tools and equipment safely and are taught hygiene procedures when working with food.

We want our children to develop their skills in observing and appreciating design in their environment and transfer their knowledge and understanding to real life situations.

Religious Education

The Children in our school have varied religious backgrounds which we respect and nurture. We encourage understanding of the different faiths throughout the world and learn about each other's customs and festivals. Both in the classroom and in assemblies we take every opportunity to foster the ideas and values which have a place in all major religions.

We recognise various occasions from the Christian calendar including Christmas and Easter as well as important festivals from other faiths.





St John's Questions and Answers

Do you have school assemblies?

Children take part in an assembly every day. This may be a whole school assembly or a key stage assembly. During these times we promote the moral and spiritual welfare of our children and share and celebrate news, achievements, customs and festivals. The development of attitudes of caring for and sharing with others is central to our themes for assemblies.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from assemblies on religious grounds or from participation in any specific festival. The Head teacher can organise an appropriate, alternative activity allowing the child to be withdrawn in a tactful and unobtrusive manner.

How will you measure my child's progress?

All children in the school are assessed on a regular basis, starting with an on-entry assessment within six weeks of them starting school. Methods of assessment vary according to age and are carefully chosen to ensure each child can show us their best. We use observations by members of staff and tests set by the government (SATs). Parents are informed of their child's results and progress through frequent parent/teacher meetings and an end of year report. This close monitoring enables us to track, support, challenge and extend the learning of children as needed.



What if my child has special needs?

We have a highly organised, caring and effective approach to managing the learning of children with special educational needs. Through our assessment procedures and a close working relationship with other professionals, we are able to identify the needs of individual children and provide the support and differentiation they need as quickly as possible. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) may be drawn up and agreed with the parents and child. A teaching assistant or specialist teacher may work with the child if it is deemed necessary and progress is closely monitored.

We are committed to the early identification of special needs and provide a range of intervention programmes to support learning. We aim to remove barriers to learning and raise expectations and achievements by working in partnership with parents.

How do you support children who are more able?

Children who are particularly able are also considered to have special needs. We believe it is important to challenge this group of children in whatever subject they excel. Support is given through differentiated work, offering open ended tasks, using higher level thinking skills and extension programmes.



How will my child learn if they do not speak English?

Some of our children are bilingual. Some may need help to access learning. Support is given in the classroom through carefully planned activities and targeted teacher or teacher assistant support.

How does the school communicate with parents?

We send out a weekly Newsletter as well as regular letters to parents providing information. All letters will be emailed to parents or will be put in the child's book-bag. Teachers have noticeboards outside their classrooms which they may choose to use to communicate with you. All letters are also published on our website.

We use **ParentPay** to send emails to parents and to take any payments due. We also use **ClassDojo** for a teacher-parent communication platform. If you require any further information please contact the school office.

Our school website has a wealth of information about our school which is regularly updated with letters, newsletters, lunch menus and more. These are published under 'Parents' – 'Letters and Forms'. The website can be viewed at www.stjohnsinfantsglastonbury.co.uk The school has a Facebook page, **St John's Infant School and Jumping John's Nursery Glastonbury**, and instagram, **stjohnsglasto** and the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) have their own Facebook page **St John's Infants' PTA**. You can email or telephone the school if you require any further information using:

Email: office@stjohnsglastonbury.school

Tel: 01458 832 085

How do I let you know if my child is going to be absent from school?

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please telephone the school on the first day of their absence. If your child needs to attend a medical appointment then please put this in writing addressed to the class teacher.

Due to statutory government policy children are not permitted to accompany their family on a holiday during term time except for special circumstances which will be treated at the head teacher's discretion. The official form is available at the school office.

If your child is sick during the evening, the school policy is that a child should not return to school within 24 hours of the last episode of sickness. If your child has sickness and diarrhoea or the Norovirus, your child should not return to school within 48 hours following the last episode of illness.



When might the school close for the day?

Although we try to keep the school open wherever possible, very occasionally it may be necessary to close the school without prior notice e.g. after severe snow falls, prolonged power failure etc. Parents wishing to ascertain the position should check the school website, the school social media page(s) or the Somerset Learning Partnership website (<https://slp.somerset.org.uk>) which will list all schools which will be closed. The school's text messaging service may be used to communicate information about unexpected closures where appropriate. Should weather conditions deteriorate while the children are in school, they may be collected early. Children will not, however, be released unaccompanied from school earlier than the normal closing time.



How do I find out how my child is getting on?

We have a number of opportunities for parents to talk to us about their child. Our year starts with a 'Meet the Teacher' evening, where parents are invited to meet the new class teacher and find out more about the year ahead. Every term, parents are offered a consultation time with their child's teacher and in the summer term, appointments can be made to discuss their child's learning and welfare. At the end of the year parents receive a written report outlining their child's achievements and progress. If parents have a concern about their child's learning they are welcome to make an appointment to talk to the class teacher or head teacher.

Do you have a uniform?

We believe that a uniform gives children a sense of belonging and provides the school with a positive image and identity within the local community. School sweatshirts, cardigans, PE kits and bookbags can be purchased from the school office. All other uniform can be purchased from any major high street retailer of children's clothing.

Boys: Grey trousers (shorts during summer)

White shirt / polo shirt

Grey or white socks

Girls: Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers (Blue and white check dress during summer)

White blouse / polo shirt

Grey or white tights / socks

General:

School Sweatshirt or Cardigan

PE T-shirt and shorts

Black PE daps / plimsolls

PE Bag

School Bookbag



Please ensure ALL items of clothing are clearly named.

What happens at lunchtimes?

You will have the choice of providing a packed lunch or having a free school meal which all children that attend an infant school are entitled to. The children eat in the school hall, supervised by a team of midday supervisors. Lunchtime play takes place in the playgrounds with full access to toilet facilities. Senior members of staff are always available within the school and staff trained in first aid are on duty to attend to and care for children if they have an accident or feel unwell.

In addition to their lunch the school also participates in the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Each child aged four to seven in LEA maintained schools are entitled to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day.

How can I help at school?

We recognise that St John's Infant School would not be the school it is without the support we receive from parents. There are a number of ways you can become involved: Joining the PTA (Parent Teacher Association); Helping teachers in class with a range of activities, helping classes on swimming days. All helpers in school must be police checked before beginning volunteer work.

What do I do if I have a complaint?

Complaints or concerns should be in the first instance brought to the attention of the class teacher or, where this is inappropriate, to the attention of the head teacher. If your complaint is not resolved by the class teacher then you need to talk with the head teacher. If the complaint cannot be resolved by the head teacher then the complaint should be submitted in writing to the Chair of Governors through the Clerk to the Governors (who will acknowledge receipt of the written complaint and inform the LEA that a complaint has been received). If the Governors cannot resolve the matter then the complaint should be submitted in writing to the LEA, which will arrange for an investigation to take place.

The vast majority of concerns can be cleared up at school and you are strongly advised to voice your concerns when you have them to avoid them growing into a serious disagreement. You will be assured of a sympathetic and reasonable hearing. More detailed information on the Complaints Procedure is available at school.

Are there any charges for activities or lessons?

Educational visits, visitors to the school and school journeys are an integral and enriching part of the learning experience for our children. We invite parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the costs of these activities. We keep all costs to a minimum. No child is excluded from a school-planned activity if parents are unable to contribute.



How do I get a place for my child at St John's Infant School?

St John's Infant School follows Somerset County Council admissions policy, a copy of which can be found on their website. An application form for the school can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from Somerset County Council's website. If you are interested in a place with us, please contact the office to make an appointment with the head teacher, who will answer any questions you may have and give you a tour of the school.



When will my child start school?

The School year runs from September through to August. Children join the reception class at the start of the school year when they become five. Some children will be nearly five, while some will have just turned four.

What happens when my child is due to leave St John's Infant School?

Our children transfer to Junior School at the end of Year 2, when they are seven years old. Parents need to apply for their place in Junior School through Somerset County Council. We do all we can to make sure every child's transition from St John's to their new school runs as smoothly as possible.



Do you offer any childcare before and after school?

We currently run before and after school care.

Peregrine before school club is run by Mrs Emily Stephens and Mrs Melanie Isaac daily from 8.00am and is based at School. Children are accompanied to their classrooms in time for the start of the school day. Please ask in the school office for further information.

Peregrine after school club is run by Mrs Emily Stephens and Mrs Jo Goode. Peregrine's is based at our school Monday to Friday from 3:10 until 5:00

