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TOGETHER WE WILL GIVE OUR  
CHILDREN THE ROOTS TO GROW,  
AND THE WINGS TO FLY

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## Prospectus 2023

St John's C of E VA First School  
Christchurch Street East  
Frome  
Somerset  
BA11 1QG

Tel: 01373 462251  
Email: [office@stjohnsfrome.co.uk](mailto:office@stjohnsfrome.co.uk)

Website: [www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk)

## Welcome to St John's Church of England Voluntary Aided First School



We hope you enjoy finding out about our school in our prospectus. We want you to see how proud we are of our school, and how much we enjoy all working together as a caring and respectful community of children, parents, teachers and governors.

St John's is a Church of England First School for up to 300 children aged 4 to 9 years in the heart of the busy market town of Frome and we work closely with 17 other schools in the Frome Learning Partnership. We also have strong links with the many nurseries which feed into us, and with the two middle schools to which most of our children transfer at the age of nine.

At St John's, we learn, work and play together in a happy, stimulating and secure environment, where everyone is valued and encouraged to achieve their best. Our motto is 'Together, we will give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly' and our core values are Friendship, Aspiration and Respect, which lie at the heart of everything we do.

We all strive to do our very best in everything we do. We value excellent character (being respectful, friendly and honest) every bit as much as our academic effort (hard work, progress and attainment). Equally important for all of us is a sense of enjoyment: we believe school should be fun!

In September 2012 Ofsted described us as 'a good school', 'a vibrant and a happy place to learn, where individuals are valued and enabled to develop a sense of wonder and curiosity.' In October 2017 Ofsted found that the school 'continues to be good' and that 'Leaders and governors are fully committed to implementing the necessary changes to ensure that the school goes from strength to strength'. In February 2023 Ofsted made no change to their judgement and commented that 'Leaders have created a caring environment that helps pupils feel happy and safe'.

Mrs Teresa Gilbert  
Headteacher

## School Information

Address: St John's C of E VA First School  
Christchurch Street East  
Frome  
Somerset  
BA11 1QG

Tel: 01373462251

Website: [www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk)

Headteacher Mrs Teresa Gilbert

Chair of Governors Mrs Claire Levene Plumb

Pupils on Roll 234 (September 2023)

Type and Age Range First School 4 – 9 years

School Hours 8.45am – 3.15pm

Local Education Authority Somerset County Council  
County Hall  
Taunton  
TA1 4DY  
Telephone 01823 355455

Diocese of Bath and Wells Education Department  
The Old Deanery  
Wells  
Somerset  
BA5 2UG  
Telephone 01749 670777

## Our Vision and Values

### St John's C of E VA First School Mission Statement

**'Together, we give our children the roots to grow and wings to fly.'**

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, here at St John's, we strive to prepare children for life – *'life in all its fullness'* (John 10:10).

As a fully inclusive Church school, we are rooted in hope. We aspire to nurture and help our children to be the best versions of themselves.

*'For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, love and self-discipline.'* (2 Timothy 1:7)

Our school staff, parents and governors work together to help our children flourish as respectful, confident and aspirational citizens who seek to positively contribute to the school community, local community and the world beyond.

Our vision is based around the elements of the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13: 1-23. For seeds to grow, they need firm and strong roots. In this parable, Jesus explains that when seeds are planted in good soil, they grow and thrive. When seeds are planted in bad soil or on unsuitable ground, the roots cannot grow, meaning the plants are weak. Jesus goes on to say, when seeds are planted in good soil they grow and bear fruit.

Like birds who nest in trees, the St John's community aim to nurture their young, who then go on to fly out into the world and flourish.

By sowing the seeds of:

- life to have HOPE
- learning to gain WISDOM
- community to build FRIENDSHIP
- courage to PERSEVERE
- responsibility to gain SELF-CONTROL
- uniqueness to show dignity and RESPECT

together, we will give our children the  
**'ROOTS TO GROW' and the 'WINGS TO FLY.'**

## About Our School

Most of our children live in the immediate locality but some travel across town to be with us. We are a diverse school community, which has been further enriched in the past few years by the arrival of several families from overseas, helping us learn about, and share at first hand others' experiences and cultures.

Our children take a pride in their school and make the most of the opportunities with which it presents us all.



The school was built in the 1930s and has large airy classrooms with high ceilings. Our magnificent hall has a splendid view of our church and of the town.

There are three playgrounds, two for general use and the third a tiger mulch and garden area. There is an additional sheltered quiet area with tables for those who prefer to be less energetic.

We also have a library and various small group work spaces.

Our Reception and Year One classes have their own secure outdoor areas for learning through play.



## School Staff

The **Head Teacher** is responsible to the Governors for the everyday running of the school and for bringing the school's vision to reality. The **Senior Leadership Team** supports the Head Teacher with the overall running of the school. They take charge of the school in the absence of the Head Teacher.

**Class Teachers** are responsible for the everyday teaching and learning of their class and each has responsibility for an area of the curriculum. **Learning Support Assistants** are deployed across the entire school. They have a key role in helping children overcome barriers to learning. They may support in class or deliver specific programmes for small groups or for children who need some extra support, for example with Reading, Spelling, Maths, Co-ordination or Social Skills. **Higher Level Teaching Assistants** carry some additional responsibilities, including some whole class teaching to release teachers for assessment, planning and preparation time and to cover short term absence

*For the safeguarding of the children, all those who work in school either on a paid or voluntary basis are required to go through a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance.*

## Classes

Our classes are all named after trees

Class	Year Group	Age of Children	Key Stage
Oak	Reception	4 - 5	Reception
Ash	Reception and Year 1	4 - 6	Reception / Key Stage 1
Poplar	1	5 - 6	Key Stage 1
Beech	2	6 - 7	Key Stage 1
Fir	2	6 - 7	Key Stage 1
Rowan	3	7 - 8	Key Stage 2
Willow	3	7 - 8	Key Stage 2
Sycamore	4	8 - 9	Key Stage 2
Maple	4	8 - 9	Key Stage 2

The Key Stage 1 classes are all situated on the ground floor, and Key Stage 2 are upstairs.

We have 3 rooms for interventions and small group work, Acorns, The Nest and The Burrow.

Children are also organised into House Teams named after birds – Robins (red), Woodpeckers (green), Goldfinches (yellow) and Kingfishers (blue). Children can earn house points for effort, excellent work and adhering to the school rules.



## The School Day

The timetable below details our normal school day. Exact timings may be subject to change each academic year.

- 08.00 Early Birds (Bookable Wraparound Care provision)
- 08.35 Doors Open – children make their way to class – Early Morning Activity
- 08.45 Doors Close / Registration
- 08.50 Registers close and lesson time begins.

During the morning, each class has a playtime followed by further lesson time.

12.00 – 13.10 Lunch Time

13.00 Afternoon lesson time starts for reception and Key Stage 1

13.10 Afternoon lesson time starts for Key Stage 2

14.45 Collective Worship

15.15 End of School

15.15 – 17.30 After School extra-curricular clubs and childcare

On Mondays, instead of Collective Worship, we have Headteacher's Awards. If your child is receiving an award, you will be invited to watch them collect their award.

The School is open for pupils for 190 days a year. Details of holidays and closures due to In-Service Training are published on our website and given as far in advance as possible.

<https://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk/term-dates>

### Extra-Curricular Activities

We run a programme of extra-curricular activities within our after school wraparound care provision (see p13 or more details). We also have a number of visiting music teachers, choir for Key Stage 2 children and some ad-hoc seasonal clubs (e.g. maypole dancing)



## The Curriculum

The curriculum at St John's C of E VA First School is based on a clear set of aims, which reflect our educational philosophy and address the requirements of the National Curriculum.

You can read more about how we deliver the curriculum within our curriculum statements. You can view the statements on the school website at <https://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk/curriculum> or request paper copies from the school office.

If you have any questions about our curriculum, please contact the school via the school office.



We run a number of cross-school projects, theme days and focus theme weeks, which in recent years have included:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ❖ Anti-bullying week | Author or story days |
| ❖ Faith Week         | Environment week     |
| ❖ World Book Day     | Sports week          |

Visitors to the school and educational visits play an important part in our exciting curriculum. This includes a three day residential trip for children in Year 4.



## Music

Music is very important to our school; we enjoy singing together as a whole school. Children have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, as a class, at no extra cost to parents.

Peripatetic Music Lessons are also available, at an additional cost to parents.



## Acts of Collective Worship and RE

### Collective Worship

Our daily acts of Collective Worship are mainly of a Christian character, although we do also explore stories from other religions, faiths and non-faiths. The majority of our acts of worship are held in the hall, but also sometimes in classrooms. We also have services held in St John's Church for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the year. We believe that this is an important time for our school community to meet together. We sing hymns and songs, and share an opportunity for reflection or prayer each day, reflecting on spiritual and moral issues, promoting a common ethos with shared values, rooted in our church foundation.

Acts of worship are led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, other teachers and classes and members of the church community. Occasionally a visitor may lead our worship.

On Mondays we celebrate individual children's achievements. We invite parents to join us when their children are actively involved.

### Religious Education (RE)

The Somerset Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education provides the basis for our Religious Education teaching.

***Under the provisions of the Education Reform Act 1988 all parents have the right to withdraw their children from the School's daily act of Collective Worship, which has a mainly Christian content. Any parent wishing to withdraw his/her child from Collective Worship or the religious elements of the curriculum should make a written request to the Headteacher. Alternative supervision and work arrangements will be made in these cases.***



## Meeting Individual Needs

It is our aim that every child has the best possible education and the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential. We want all our children to play a full part in the life of the school and community and to enjoy their learning.

### Special Needs Provision

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy at St John's C of E VA First School complies with the requirements of the 2014 Code of Practice.

Children experiencing persistent difficulties or making insufficient progress may need to access additional or different support. This support could take the form of advice from an external professional such as an Educational Psychologist, a Speech & Language Therapist or a School Nurse. It may also include provision of a modified curriculum.

A vital part of our Special Educational Needs provision is support from parents and carers:

- ❖ to help children practise key skills on a regular basis at home
- ❖ to work in partnership with school staff to provide the best learning opportunities for the child
- ❖ to share information about their child, particularly in respect of relative strengths and areas of concern.

The SEND Policy is available on the school website (see link below) along with the school's offer for children with SEND, which details the support the school is able to provide and how parents/carers can find out more about services that might be available to support their child and other close family members.

<https://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk/send>

## Behaviour

As a school we feel it is important to promote a caring and supportive environment to enable all members of the school community to feel secure and respected.

The school community expects everyone to:

- ❖ take care of each other, themselves and the school environment
- ❖ be polite at all times
- ❖ work hard and to the best of their ability
- ❖ be sensible and careful at all times.

Our aim is to ensure that each member of the school community feels valued.

The school rules (The 5 Bs) are:

- ❖ Be respectful
- ❖ Be kind and gentle
- ❖ Be careful
- ❖ Be responsible
- ❖ Be the best you can



## Working in Partnership

### Visiting our School

It is our aim that children feel happy, confident and secure at school and we endeavour to develop a strong supportive partnership with all of our families.

Twice a year, we invite parents and carers to formal parents' evenings when children's work and progress can be discussed in more detail with the class teacher. Parents and carers

In addition to these formal contact points, parents are also invited to special events such as school plays, concerts and some of our Collective Worship that take place in Church.

### Our Parent / School Association – The Friends of St John's

Parents and families are also invited to take part in special events at school, such as art events, cake sales and book fairs. The committee is always keen to hear from new parents who would like to get involved.

### Parent Help at Home

Children achieve best when home and school are working together in close partnership. Each term we issue information about the curriculum the children will be following and we welcome any ways in which parents can support their children's learning at home. We welcome parents and carers to interact with our online learning platform, Seesaw, to let us know about learning at home.

We encourage all children to read regularly at home.

## Payments to School

We are a cashless school. All payments are made via ParentMail online. If you wish to pay for something with cash, you can print a barcode from ParentMail to take to a local Pay Point or we can print one for you at school.

We accept cash for fundraising events including Friends of St John's events and other charity events such as Children in Need, Non-Uniform days and The British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal.

### 'Wrap Around' Childcare Provision

Early Birds: 8.00—8.45am / Twilight: 3.15 —5.30pm

We provide before school childcare at our Early Birds club and a programme of extra-curricular activities in our after-school Twilight club.

Extra-curricular activities offered include multi-sports, cheerleading, art, board games and PlayPod scrapstore.

Spaces can be booked on an ad-hoc or regular basis through our online payment system, ParentMail. Payment is made through ParentMail at the time of booking. We can also accept childcare voucher or tax-free childcare payments. Please contact the Finance Office ([finance@stjohnsfrome.co.uk](mailto:finance@stjohnsfrome.co.uk)) for more information.

Bookings for September 2024 will be published in July 2024. We will send out the timetable and notify all parents when bookings are due to go live a bit nearer the time.

Rates per session for 2023-24 are given below. Rates for September 2024 will be agreed in July 2024.

Early Birds (including breakfast)	£2.80
Twilight (collection by 4pm)	£2.70
Twilight (collection by 4.30pm)	£4.50
Twilight (collection by 5.30pm)	£6.50

## School Uniform



**We do not require children to wear logo items. Parents may purchase items either from our uniform supplier or generic items from local supermarkets and shops. We hold a number of second hand uniform sales each year.**

St John's school colours are red, grey and white. Parents choose from the following items:

- ❖ Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- ❖ A red sweatshirt or cardigan (having the St John's logo on these items is optional)
- ❖ A white polo shirt, blouse or shirt (no logo required)
- ❖ Grey, red or black tights or socks
- ❖ Black or grey flat sensible shoes that are fastened securely on the foot
- ❖ In summer months, a red gingham dress or a gingham skirt with a white polo shirt are acceptable
- ❖ In summer months, sandals are acceptable but must be fastened securely on the foot

The following items are not acceptable items of school uniform

- ❖ Trainers
- ❖ Croc style shoes or flip flops

For PE children will need;

- ❖ Black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- ❖ A red t-shirt or white polo shirt
- ❖ Grey, red or black socks
- ❖ Trainers or plimsolls
- ❖ A red sweatshirt or cardigan

### **Bags and Coats**

Children should bring a weather appropriate coat to school every day. In winter months they should bring a hat and gloves. In summer months they should bring a sun hat.

Children at St John's are provided with a school book bag as a gift from the Friends of St John's. They do not require any other bag for school.

### **Jewellery and Hair Styles**

Children may wear stud or sleeper earrings in ears but we reserve the right to ask that no jewellery is worn on PE days. If children arrive to school with earrings on PE day they will be asked to either remove them or place a plaster over them.

Children may wear a watch, but this will need to be removed for PE.

We do not allow any smart watches in school.

### **Birthdays**

At St John's your child may wear non-uniform for the day on their birthday (or the day closest to their birthday if it falls at a weekend or in the holidays). Clothing still needs to be appropriate for school activities.

### **Uniform Policy and Supplier**

You can view our full uniform policy on the school website here:

<https://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk/key-documents>

Our uniform supplier for logo items is Cosmic Monkey

<https://www.cosmicmonkey.co.uk/category/St-Johns-CE-VA-First-School-Frome>

We recommend using local supermarkets and shops for non-logo items, to achieve best value for money. As logo items are not compulsory, cardigans and sweatshirts could also be purchased from supermarkets or local shops.



## Food and Drink at St John's

### Morning Break

Parents can order milk for Reception children, which is free until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We provide a selection of fresh fruit and raw vegetables free of charge to Reception and Key Stage 1 children. Key Stage 2 children, may also bring in fresh or dried fruit or prepared vegetables for their morning snack.

### Lunches

Children either have a cooked meal, provided by the school, or may bring a packed lunch from home.

Through the national Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) initiative, a hot meal can be provided for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at no cost to parents/carers. However, parents/carers need to register to take up this offer. Forms are available from the school office.

Some pupils in Years 3 and 4 will be entitled to receive a free hot meal at lunchtimes as part of their entitlement to Pupil Premium Grant. Application forms to see if your child is entitled to Pupil Premium, and a free hot meal at lunchtime, are available from the school office.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 who are not entitled to Pupil Premium Grant can pay for meals. Meals need to be ordered by advertised deadlines. Our meals are provided by CleverChefs, from Oakfield Academy kitchens and are of high quality. Children have a choice of main meal, dessert and accompaniments. You can see the current menu on our website

<https://www.stjohnsfrome.co.uk/food-and-drink>

### Water

All children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water, to be kept in their classrooms. This is in addition to their lunchtime drink.

### Nuts!

We are a nut free school. We do have children and staff with nut allergies. We ask parents to support us in keeping everyone safe and well by ensuring that no nuts, or products containing nuts, are brought into school.

## Safeguarding Children

**At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.**

All schools have a legal duty to ensure the safety and well-being of all the children in the school. They are required to appoint a Governor and a member of staff with responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection and to have Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures in place.

We work hard to safeguard and promote our pupils' welfare, safety and health by fostering an honest, open, caring and supportive climate. Pupils' welfare is of paramount importance. We recognise that high self-esteem, supportive friends and clear lines of communication with trusted adults help all pupils and especially those at risk of or suffering from abuse.

St John's C of E VA First School will:

- ❖ Establish and maintain an ethos where pupils feel secure, are encouraged to talk and are listened to.
- ❖ Ensure that pupils know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried or are in difficulty.
- ❖ Include in the curriculum, activities and opportunities for PSHE/Citizenship, which equip pupils with the skills they need to help protect themselves from abuse.
- ❖ Ensure that wherever possible, every effort is made to establish effective working relationships with parents and carers and colleagues from other agencies.

It's fun to learn at St John's...

