



St John's Highbury Vale CE Primary School

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Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Tonnie Read

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Governors' Bulletin: July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am aware that as we come to the end of the academic year, with the usual tiredness and relief at finally reaching the last day as well as the excitement and anticipation of the holidays, there is also a feeling of sadness at St John's. In addition to Mrs Hodgson, Ms Jones, Ms Dalal, Arthur and Yvette going on to new places and jobs, Edita and Jackie will also be leaving us this summer. Many tears were shed at the leavers' assembly, by both staff and pupils, showing how deeply loved and appreciated they all are. On behalf of the governors, I would like to thank each one of them for all their dedication, their willingness to always go the extra mile and for working together as such an amazing team. They will be much missed, and we wish them well in all their future adventures.

It means that initially, both the front and back office will feel very different next year. Whilst, understandably, this can feel unsettling as yet another change takes place, I have been encouraged by something that I was reminded of in my conversations with each of those leaving. When asked what they have most appreciated about St John's, all of them immediately responded with "the community". This nurturing spirit of support and encouragement is a large part of what makes St John's the unique school that it is. It is what strikes people when they visit us and what makes them want to come and work here. As Mrs Hodgson has pointed out on various occasions, she did not create this (though she did enhance and develop it) as it was already in place on her arrival. And it is something that will continue after she leaves. All our staff, whether working in classrooms, the kitchen or the playground uphold it and all children and families who join the school learn to embrace and continue it too. It is a community where the school values are lived out by adults and learnt and shared by children. It is something that attracted Mrs Khan to St John's and I am sure that both she and Mrs Read will be working with the new leadership and office teams to ensure it continues to be at the heart of all St John's does.

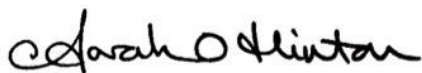
And of course, the parents, carers and families are an essential part of this community too. The leaving staff all told me what a pleasure it has been to work with you, as your readiness to support the children's learning, engage in class and school events, donate your time and money where possible and reinforce the school values have made a real difference to their roles. Thank you. Your involvement is appreciated.

I am also aware that this spirit of dedicated support and encouragement, seeking the best for all at St John's, extends to the governing body. It has been my pleasure to work with the governors this year as we sought to fulfil our responsibilities and examine our own processes and structure. Keeping our budget healthy and sustainable is always going to be a challenge, but we end the year without a deficit and hope the government funding for the teachers pay raise will become a reality, helping our finances next year. The quality of education has remained a strength, with many creative projects and events enriching the curriculum, and the hard work of staff and children reflected in the progress seen in all year groups and the SATS results.

In September we will start the school year by joining the staff for breakfast and updating our safeguarding knowledge together. Over the year we will be working on our newly agreed 3-year strategy and extending the Full Governing Board meetings to six per year. We look forward to working with Mrs Read and Ms Khan to ensure the continuation of our vibrant community and of all the strengths that make St John's the wonderful place that it is for our children to learn and grow.

In the meantime, may I again thank all the staff for their hard work throughout the year, wish all those leaving, both staff and children, success in their future endeavours and hope that you all enjoy a warm, refreshing and relaxing holiday.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Hinton', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Hinton

Chair of Governors