

### Message From Antonia

Dear Families and Friends

Here we are at the end of the Summer Term and I am writing to wish you all well for the Summer Break. 2020 has been unprecedented in the challenges that we have all had to overcome as a school, as families and as individuals. Though we have remained open for some pupils since February half term, we have missed seeing many of our wonderful pupils. Teachers and staff have had contact through email, telephone and Zoom and we hope that you have found the home learning activities useful, but we have all missed being together in the special community that is the St John's "family".



We welcome some new arrivals to St John's in September and say good bye to others. The Leaver's celebration took place remotely this year which was a change from being able to meet, say goodbye and celebrate our Leavers together. It was a lovely occasion and thank you to our Leavers' families for working with us for so many years and entrusting your children to our care. It has been a privilege and we are so proud of all our Leavers and everything they have achieved.

We welcome Matt Ricketts to our Teaching staff in September. Please see the introduction he has written in the Newsletter. Matt is an experienced teacher who has worked across the Primary, Secondary and FE sector. Abi Rayner has returned from maternity leave and we will also welcome Andreia Lourenco back in September. We congratulate Joe Gibson and Hayley Partridge who welcomed new babies into their families. We also say goodbye to Jo Taylor who left in April but then continued to support S5 during the COVID-19 crisis and we are very grateful to her for this.

In September we are looking forward to welcoming all pupils back into school, all being well. We will follow Government advice at the time. Each family knows what the arrangements are for their pupils. Plans and Risk Assessments are in place to make this as safe as possible. Copies of the Risk Assessment will be published on our website.

We will be working in Bubbles again so that we can reduce the risk of infection. If a member of a Bubble – staff or pupil – becomes unwell, then we have processes in place within school and will take advice from the local NHS team and DfE advice about our next steps regarding a class, or the whole Bubble, remaining open. St John's has a higher number of adults than most schools due to the complex needs of some of our pupils and we need to safeguard adults and children.

**If your child shows symptoms, then you should try to ensure that they are tested, though we realise that this may not be possible for some pupils. Please do not send your child to school if they are at all unwell as this could mean that we have to close a class or Bubble, and all the staff and pupils will have to self-isolate for 14 days, particularly if the child cannot be tested for any reason.**

Thank you for the many messages of support and thanks that we have received – they are greatly appreciated by the team. The St John's team of families, friends, staff and children is truly remarkable. I hope that you all have a good Summer Break and remain safe and well. We will look forward to seeing you in September.

Best wishes

Antonia

### Holiday Requests

In the event you wish to request permission for your child to take holiday during term time, please obtain a form from the school office, which should be completed and returned at least 4 weeks prior to the intended holiday date.



### Pupil Absences

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please ensure you contact the school by 8:30 am EVERY DAY that your child is unwell by calling **01234 345565 and selecting option 1** for the pupil absence line. Please leave brief message including your child's name, class and reason for absence.

**Please also remember to advise Transport.**



### Free School Meals

If you are eligible for FSM Vouchers, the Covid Summer Food Fund will apply. A single FSM voucher for £90 has been sent directly to you by your chosen method. Please refer to the DfE FSM Parent & Carer User Guide on our website should you encounter any problems with voucher codes or redeeming.

# Welcome



Hello to all the young people, parents and extended St Johns family.

I'm excited and pleased to introduce myself to you all. My name is Matt Ricketts and I'm very lucky to be joining the school in September and working with the incredible young people at this school and the fantastic staff.

I have been very fortunate to work closely with several families and young people from the school in my previous role and know that I am becoming a part of a wonderful school and cannot wait to start.

I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some of my favourite things. My first favourite thing is my family, I'm married and have four children, Milly 16, Maisey 11, Oliver 7 and Ben 3. I have two kittens named Bella and Luna, I love Harry Potter and we chose these names from the books. I love sport especially rugby and American football. My favourite snack is a party ring or 10. I love listening and playing music, I play the guitar and drums. I'm the only parent I know that gets told to stop making so much noise by my children!

Over the last week I've been talking to the teachers of the children that will be with me in September and I've loved getting to learn about you and can't wait to meet you in September in person.

Until then have a lovely summer and I will see you soon.

## Speech and Language Update

We're pleased to share news there is now a fully staffed Speech and Language Therapy special schools team working across the 3 special schools in Kempston. Nicky Ash, Claudine Sharples and Jess Price (Speech and Language Therapists) and Wendy Hodgson (Support Therapy Practitioner) have been making contact with several families and have been in touch with teachers for information. Please see the Family Information section of our website for a letter from the team. For more information or support please contact:

General enquiries: [ccs.beds.childrens.sl.admin@nhs.net](mailto:ccs.beds.childrens.sl.admin@nhs.net)

Nicky Ash: [Nicola.ash4@nhs.net](mailto:Nicola.ash4@nhs.net)

Claudine Sharples: [\\_claudine.sharples@nhs.net](mailto:_claudine.sharples@nhs.net)

Jess Price: [\\_Jessica.Price14@nhs.net](mailto:_Jessica.Price14@nhs.net)

## 2020 Achievement Awards

Well done to all of the winners of our achievement awards, they were as follows;

### Primary Swimming Award 2020

Duygu Ceylan

### Primary Achievement Award 2020

Jason Masih

### Primary Kindness Award 2020

Rueben Stewart-Barron



### Secondary Swimming Award 2020

Joshua Olutimayin

### Secondary Achievement Award 2020

Marcus Carter

### Philip Hendry Award 2020

Callum Fletcher

### Secondary Kindness Award 2020

David Gadsby

## Nurses Update

*The nursing team have really missed seeing all of the children in school over the last term. However, we have continued to work with school staff, the children and their families offering our usual advice and support from remote settings. When needed, we have visited some of you at home and seen children in our new monitoring clinics which we have set up and hope to continue with. We hope that you have felt that you are able to get hold of us, either through your conversations with the teaching staff in school or by calling/emailing us directly, and that you have continued to feel supported. We welcome any feedback you have to offer! We plan to continue working in a similar way over the summer period (although we have a little holiday to take during this time), and into the autumn term. This means that as the children start to come back into school in increasing numbers there may not always be a nurse in*

## Dates for the Diary

Thursday 3rd September—Teachers Training Day

Friday 4th September—Teachers Training Day

Monday 7th September —Pupils Phased Return to School

Friday 23rd October —Last Day of Term

