



The Mid-Wyedean Churches

serving Coleford, Broadwell, Clearwell, Newland,
Redbrook, Staunton and surrounding areas.



To all parents and carers of new pupils of St John's School

From Rev. Sarah Bick, Vicar of Coleford

I would like to add my welcome to those you've received from the school, to wish you well at this time in your family's life, and to offer you my personal support and the support of the church if that is something you would like or need.



The school's connection with the church is long-standing. St John's is a C of E School, which means that as the vicar I have a role as a school governor, so I serve on the governing body, and on the Ethos and Education Committee. But as well as that I will be around the school at various times to help with parts of the curriculum, and to lead school worship. As a C of E School, worship is an important part of the life of the school, which has always happened regularly in the school hall. At the moment, I am around the school particularly on a Thursday, both leading school worship in the morning, and sometimes around the end of the school day.

Some of you may already have children at school, for others of you this might be the first time, and my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of change in your family lives. I hope to see you all from time to time at school, at the beginning or end of the day, or at worship times. As well as that, if there is ever a time you want to be in touch with me, please do feel welcome to do so. I'm always happy to have a chat, or to listen to your worries and to help if I can. Or if you want to ask about Christenings or weddings, then please do, and we can talk about your requests. Catch me on a Thursday morning, phone or email (my contact details are at the bottom of this letter), call round to the vicarage, or mention at school that you would like to see me.

It is a great sadness that St John's Church building is no longer available for the school to use as it once did. It is our hope to be able to have a new church building in Coleford in the coming years, at which point the school will be able to reconnect with that new sacred space which we trust will come to be used by all ages of people in the town. But a church is more than just a building - it is a community of people, and the special relationship between the church community and the school is alive and well. In the meantime, we are grateful for the help we have received in hosting special school services from our friends at Coleford Baptist Church.

As the people of St John's Church, we currently use the Roman Catholic Church building, St Margaret Mary Church on High Nash, for our C of E services, which are at 9:30 a.m. almost every Sunday. You may be particularly interested in our monthly family event here at school called 'The Mustard Tree' - please see our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/mustardtreecoleford/> or speak to me for more information.

I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming months and years.

With best wishes, and every blessing,

Sarah Bick

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