



St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Headteacher Mr Simon Billings
Deputy Headteacher Mrs Tina Bourne
Assistant Headteacher Mrs Fiona Bullivant
Assistant Headteacher Mrs Clare Skinner

We 
Maths



We are all
writers ... 

We are growing
our learning 

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Chair of Governors Annual Report to Parents 2017-2018 Summary

September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start a new academic year I would like to welcome all new members to our St John's Green community; children, parents and staff, and say welcome back to everyone else. As Chair of Governors I am responsible for keeping you all informed about what is going on with the school, and so I am writing you this letter to summarise the previous year and let you know some of the things that are coming in the year ahead. Last year was a very busy and successful year for St. John's Green School. We started the academic year anticipating a visit from OFSTED and towards the end of the Autumn term we had our inspection. They were impressed with our school; rating us as good overall, with outstanding elements, particularly in our EYFS provision and in the way the school promotes the pupils' personal development and welfare. I hope, like me, you feel very proud that the Inspectors recognised that our children have exceptional attitudes towards learning and that the school and staff strive towards being an inclusive community, helping children do their best, develop resilience, and confidence.

Throughout the year the school continued to build upon its strengths and work towards improving other areas. An important part of this is ensuring everyone knows what we need to focus on. Schools need a clear sense of strategic direction, therefore in accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, our Governing Body have come up with this Mission Statement; The three core strategic functions of the St John's Green Primary School Governing Body are:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;

With St John's Green expanding by a further two classes this September, we are pleased to announce that we have taken the decision to expand the school management team. Claire Skinner was officially appointed to Assistant Headteacher last academic year and this September Jennifer Gammons, Samantha Smith and Charlotte Witzenfeld have taken on leadership roles alongside their class teaching responsibilities, with other members of the teaching staff also taking on lead roles within the various year groups. The Governors would like to congratulate them all on their new responsibilities; we are glad the school is in a position to reward the dedication of the staff we have. We see this new staff structure as an important step in giving the children the best educational opportunities, ensuring they have a consistent experience across all classes and maintaining the strong strategic direction of the school.

The school has a strong ethos; encouraging the children, staff and governors to continue 'growing our learning' and with this in mind we are continuing with our program of Visible Learning; Visible Learning is a professional development program that explores how evidence can be used to create innovation in the learning environment. It provides a coherent framework to up-skill a whole school, by using the largest ever evidence based research involving millions of students, focusing upon what actually works best in schools to improve learning. From this, among other innovations, we have developed the Learning Pit and are now ensuring our parents evenings are much more child centric. We are also developing and building upon our core values with our new innovation of Learning Dispositions, which you will be learning more about this academic year. We continue to see school residentials and Forest Schools as key to developing the confidence and resilience of our children and we are looking to expand on both of these this year as well.

Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

I am very fortunate to have a strong team of Governors around me, who freely give up their time to the school, using their wide ranging knowledge and expertise to help the school in all its functions. As well as meeting regularly, the Governors come

St John's Green Abbey Fields Site (Years F, I, 5, 6)
5 Circular Road East
Colchester
CO2 7SZ



St John's Green Town Site (Years 2, 3, 4)
St John's Green
Colchester
CO2 7HE

in and visit the school and observe classes, assemblies and school life in general. We discuss performance data at Full Governing Body Meetings after each assessment period and we also meet with class teachers to discuss class performance data; we look at different groups of children and discuss all the strategies being utilised to help groups who may not be at Age Related Expectations, as well as checking all children are challenged at a level suitable to their own ability. The Government uses SATs and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) assessments to measure how well a school is doing, and I am pleased and proud to say that the children at our school did really well in these again last year. All results can be found on the school's website.

Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

As many of you are aware schools are coming under increasing financial pressures, as in real terms the amount of funding available to us has decreased over the last few years. As an expanding school, we have been in the fortunate position of not having to lose any members of staff, but we have still had to make many strategic decisions about how best to allocate resources, and unfortunately as time goes on we will have to make some even tougher decisions. Our priority has been to do what is best for the children in the school and we keep quality and value for money at the front of our mind when we make any decisions on our spending. We have recently secured a deal with a new IT provider, future proofing the school's IT provision with a new server and back up. The Governors have also made the decision to commit to Clever Touch boards in every classroom. County completed the extension to the Abbey Site just before Christmas and we now have enough classrooms at both sites for all classes even when we reach capacity in 2020. The school have also carried out a number of developments at Town Site to keep the facilities at both sites in line with each other. We have put artificial grass in the playground to enlarge the play area available to the children and we have built a new visitors toilet in the foyer area, new blinds have also been added to the top hall and all classes at the Town site and all damage that was caused by the flood has been effectively dealt with by the insurers.

Thank You

Before I bring this letter to a close I have a few thank yous to make. Firstly, I'd like to thank our PTA; for those of you who don't know, Claire Bate, Naife Hart and the whole team are a lovely friendly group of volunteers, always on the look out for new helpers. They have had a very successful year bringing with them lots of energy and new ideas. Alongside the regular fund raisers of the Christmas and Summer Fair their activities have included a quiz night, car boot sale, art week for the children and the Foundation Easter Egg Hunt, to name but a few. I would also like to thank all members of staff for their hard work this year, I am always impressed by everyone's professionalism, dedication and commitment to the school and our children. On behalf of the Governors I'd particularly like to thank the Senior Management Team and Finance Office for their openness with us and willingness to cooperate and meet with us. A special thank you this year also has to go to John Bromley and Steve Skinner for rescuing the Town Site from what could have been a disastrous flood.

Education doesn't only take place in the classroom, family is very important and we are very grateful for your involvement in school life and the children's education; attending plays, fairs and open evenings, reading and practising times tables with your children and all the other things you do behind the scenes. Finally, of course, I must thank the children. Whenever I come in to visit a class or see a play or assembly I am always impressed with their good behaviour, respect and willingness to learn, you are amazing! I am really looking forward to the year ahead and I hope everyone has an enjoyable and successful year.

Further information

More information about the topics in this letter, and further details of the activities of the Board of Governors, including the Minutes of our Meetings, can be viewed on the school's website and look out for the school's new Facebook page coming soon. As ever, we welcome constructive comments. You can contact us by posting a note addressed to me at the reception area of either school site.

Best wishes,

Nicola Roberts

Chair of Governors

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