

**St. John's Upper Holloway C.E. Primary School**

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**Head Teacher: Mr Nick Turpin**

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14.10.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

In July we said goodbye to our head teacher Mr Welsh and to Sue Hallam as chair of governors. Both are much missed and left 'big shoes to fill'. The new school term began with changes - Mr Turpin as head teacher, Miss Ross Goobey as deputy head teacher and myself as chair of governors. We ended last term with a good OFSTED report, which we all celebrated, and which also has given us further guidance as to how we can make St John's an even better school for your children. As a governing body we will strive to support the school staff as much as we possibly can to support these aims. Some of the activities we are involved in include:

School Development Plan – the SDP is as an annual plan relating to overall school improvement and linked to the long-term strategic plan. It covers everything from curriculum matters and learning to wellbeing and behaviour.

Each governor has a link role to a curriculum area which enables us to have more knowledge about the curriculum and learning.

Premises and facilities – against a challenging financial backdrop, the governing body has a key role to play in ensuring the right investments in premises and facilities are made. I am sure you are all delighted with the school house becoming an additional space and resource for the children.

Finance – at the root of much of our discussion is finance, or increasingly the lack thereof. The school's funding is challenged; cost structures increase year on year; but at the heart of every decision is ensuring we make the best choice for the children of St John's.

I hope that gives you a flavour of the breadth and depth of the governing body's involvement behind the scenes. Fundamentally, the role of the governing body is a strategic one linked to helping the school to deliver on its vision and promise to grow our children into happy and resilient, lifelong learners. None of the great learning experiences your children have happen by magic so I am sure you share the governors' gratitude for the hard work of the entire school staff, led by Mr Turpin, who continue to provide the safe, nurturing and rich learning environment for your children.

With Good Wishes

Jane Airey

