



## **St John's CE Primary School**

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Dear Parents/Carers

### **Governor BLOG**

My association with St John's began over 20 years ago as a parent when my two children (now 26 and 23) joined in Nursery. I remember vividly, the 'special feeling' that engulfed me as I visited the school for the very first time all those years ago. It was one of warmth, welcome, belonging and something else which at the time I couldn't quite put my finger on but it felt safe, secure, happy and above all peaceful. I knew instinctively that my children would be in good hands and thrive; and indeed they did. Interestingly, I have heard many visitors make the same comment since then.

For me, St John's is a special place. Its distinctively Christian values shine through and its positive ethos enables all children to develop, achieve, succeed and excel, not only educationally but socially, morally, spiritually and culturally whatever their faith or background.

As one of four Foundation (church) governors and a member of the teaching staff, I was delighted when once again we were awarded 'Outstanding' in our recent SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) report; A Testimony to the dedication of staff and children in their pursuit of excellence. The report commended us by saying 'The school through its distinctive Christian character is outstanding at meeting the needs of all of its learners.' Being a governor allows me to be a critical friend and to support and challenge in order to ensure that the highest standards are met for our children.

I am probably better known as 'Mrs Clarke' and as the SENTA at St John's. This means I am in the privileged position of being able to work across all key stages and so will have met with pretty much all of your children! This might be whilst covering PPA sessions of an afternoon (R.E, Faith in Action, PSHE or Spanish) or working 1-1 to provide extra support through targeted interventions or in a small booster group.

However, I am also an active member of St John's Church and am involved in Messy Church, Alpha and other church activities. I am proud to call myself a Christian and my faith continues to grow.

In all, I feel that my role is to support, encourage and nurture our children and represent a connection between church and school which I consider go hand in hand – one family of St John.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you (and your children) all very soon.

Anita Clarke

