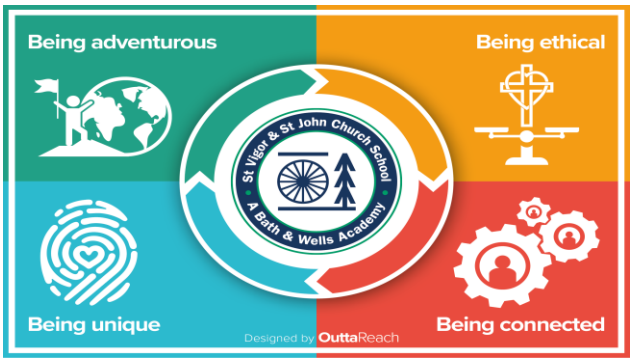




Tel: 01761 233847

School Email:
Enquiries@svsj.bwmat.org

Nursery Email:
nursery@svsj.bwmat.org

Website:
www.stvigorandstjohnschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Chris Chorley
Head Of School: Mrs Leah Sheppard

PARENT TO PARENT

A guide for parents new to St. Vigor and St. John Church School
By parents – for parents!

This short guide is designed to help new parents/carers with common questions about various aspects of life at St. Vigor and St. John. From parking to PTFA, from family learning to fundraising, this pamphlet will provide essential, everyday information to parents/carers as they start their journey through the school with their child.

The School Day

Children are welcome in school from 8:40am onward and expected to be in their class and ready for lessons by 8:50am. The school day ends at 3:15pm, and children are picked up from the turning circle at the front of the school. Please inform teachers or the school office as early as possible if someone else may be collecting your child.

Transport to School

By bus – Somerset County Council provides bus services from Stratton-on-the-Fosse. Please contact Somerset County Council on 0300 123 2224 for more information if you are interested in using this service.

By car - **For Safety reasons, Parents/Carers are not allowed to drive into the school at any time.** Car parking facilities are provided by Chilcompton Village Hall for £10 per school year. Car park permits can be purchased from the village hall.

On foot - This is the preferred option! Please use the zebra crossing on the main road and walk on the pavement once inside the school gate – not across the turning circle/staff car park where vehicles may be reversing.

Useful Day-to-Day Information

Each individual class will have requirements that your child's teacher will communicate to you directly at the beginning of the school year. However, you may want to make sure that your child has a named PE kit and pair of wellies for outdoor activities. Your child will not

need a water bottle in class unless they are having a packed lunch. Water is provided throughout the day.

Pencils are provided and generally used until pen licenses are issued later in KS2.

You will need to make sure all of your child's possessions are labelled – including shoes! There are lost and found bins, located in the corridors near Foxglove and Campion classrooms but some classes have "jumper dumpers" – bins that hold stray jumpers – so check with your individual class.

Communication and School Notices

St. Vigor and St. John communicates the majority of its information via the School App and Parent Pay, that can be accessed via the internet or a smart phone app. After school clubs are also announced termly via the School App and bookable via Parent Pay. Payments for school trips, clubs or other monies owed are made using Parent Pay. Further information about ParentPay will be provided. Sometimes paper notices do make their way home and it is important to check your child's schoolbag regularly!

School closures will be announced on the School App/website/twitter feed.

Parents evenings are held twice a year to discuss your child's progress, and varied times are offered in advance of the day to provide scheduling flexibility. Annual reports for each child are written in the summer term.

If you find that you or your child is having any kind of problem, teachers are there to help and should be your first port of call. Often teachers would prefer for you to speak with them at the end of the day as the mornings are busy, but please consult your individual class teacher.

School Lunches

School lunches are currently provided by 'The fabulous lunch company' and are prepared off site and delivered daily. All Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free school dinner. You can book meals in advance up to the end of term. The latest you can book a meal is the Wednesday of the week before. The menus are set up via ParentPay.

Other Admin

St. Vigor and St. John need accurate contact information for every parent/carer, so please ensure all addresses, telephone numbers and emergency contact information are kept up to date. It is essential that you keep your mobile number up to date, as the school often communicates by text with more urgent messages (eg. cancelled clubs etc.) **It is your responsibility to ensure the school has up to date contact information at all times**.

If your child is ill, please inform the school before 9am.

Absence for any reason other than illness is not permitted other than in exceptional circumstances. Please fill out a Term Time Leave Request form, if necessary, available from the office.

If your child requires regular medication which has been prescribed by a doctor, please ensure you fill out a medical administration form and the school office team will guide you as to where the medicine will be kept and who will administer it.

In and Around the Class

Of course, there is also quite a lot of learning happening at the school! St. Vigor and St. John implement some special initiatives to this end.

There is a FOCUS WEEK each term that is dedicated to the study of a specialised topic and often outside experts are brought in to reinforce learning. For example, science was a focus week topic, and a portable planetarium was brought in for presentations about space. Your child's class teacher will give you information about Focus Week and Family Learning events via ParentPay.

Chrome books and iPads are used for IT lessons and to help facilitate learning. All classes have access to these tablets as necessary.

Helping in the Class

If you would like to help in a classroom, contact your child's teacher. Help is always appreciated! Parents of children in Arum are not encouraged to come into school to help until after Christmas. However, they do require additional adults to help with walking children on visits in the surrounding area, so let the teachers know in advance if you would like to do this. You will need to complete an application form first and be checked by the disclosure service.

Top Tips and Info by Class – from Parents/carers who have been there!

ARUM: put names on EVERYTHING; teach your child to wash their hands thoroughly; purchase several pairs of gloves for the winter months; try and say a "proper" goodbye before you reach the Arum class door.
BRYONY: Winnie the Pooh theme for groups
CAMPION: bring a named bottle of water; send in a healthy snack for break; book bag is needed every day; KS1 SATS
DOGWOOD: Children can take part in more sports events from year 3 onwards
ELDER: first residential overnight trip! National Times-table test.
FOXGLOVE: kids write poetry for Poetry Cafés held in class.
GENTIAN: Open nights for secondary schools are in the Autumn term; SATs are taken in May; Gentian performs the end of the year school play, and they head off to Year 6 camp for 4 nights.

Fundraising

St. Vigor and St. John conduct various fundraisers throughout the year that benefit each individual class and the school as a whole. Fundraising is generally organised by the PTFA, and by individual classes:

The PTFA - The PTFA is the Parent Teacher & Friends Association, and their aim is to raise money for various school projects, such as the purchase of Google Chromebooks and the awning over the infants play area. The PTFA holds several events every year to raise money and are grateful for any time or help you can lend! The PTFA organises two school-wide annual fayres, the Christmas Fayre and the Summer Fayre, which are held in December and July each year. Other fundraisers occur throughout the year - please be on the lookout for

notices asking for help or donations related to these events as they need your support. If you want to get involved with the PTFA, please email svsjptfa@gmail.com.

The PTFA will provide you with your child's book bag, so you don't have to buy one!

The classes also do their own individual fundraising during the year for example selling nativity photos or toy sales. The money raised through these events goes towards reducing the cost of class trips, obtaining special supplies, etc. Parent/carer volunteers may be asked to help. See your child's class teacher if you would like to help!

Who's Who:
St Vigor and St John Teachers, as of May 2024:

Executive Headteacher– Chris Chorley
Head of School – Leah Sheppard
Arum (Reception class) – Suzanne Cox and Jess Angel
Bryony (Year one) – Tina Woods
Campion (Year two) – Karen Rogers and Shona Cross
Dogwood (Year three) – Megan Harris
Elder (Year four) – Leah Sheppard and Vanessa Dutton
Foxglove (Year five) – Chloe Mounter
Gentian (Year six) – Molly Craney

Office Manager – Claire Blewitt
Administrative Assistant – Jessica Robbins
Administrative Assistant – Helen Cowles

St Vigor and St John Board of Governors
Chair – Zak Cambourne
Clerk to Governors – Kate Skivington
Additional Governors – Anne-Claude Mills, Beth Freeman, Rev Esther Smith, Rev Stephen Miles, Sarah Jones, Daniel Owen

See the school website for additional information about staff.

Contact St Vigor and St John - Telephone: 01761 233847
Email: enquiries@svsj.bwmat.org
School Website: www.stvigorandstjohnschool.co.uk