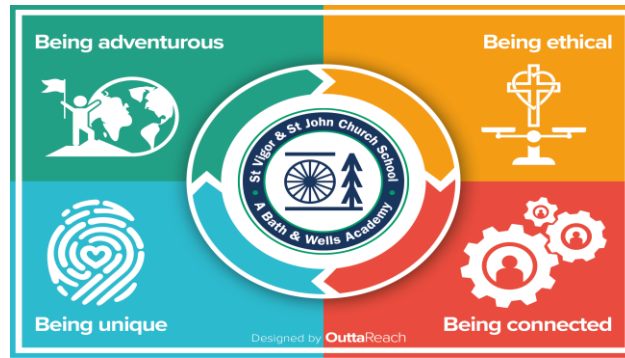




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Executive Headteacher: Mr Chris Chorley

Head Of School: Mrs Leah Sheppard

15 September 2025

Dear Parents/carers

September Update

A somewhat-belated 'Welcome Back' to you all. We hope you all enjoyed our fantastic summer albeit it currently feels like that was months ago!

As always, the children of SVSJ have returned to school brilliantly and term has got off to a great start. Thank you for all *you* do in getting them ready. Arum start full-time this week and we have loved meeting them and watching them excitedly around school.

We welcome Mr Adam Summers, our teacher in Champion Class this year aswell as our returning 'new' staff, Mr Sloggett in Y3 and Mrs Kendrew in Reception. We are excited for the team and the year ahead.

Whilst school was almost permanently open with clubs over the summer, there was not a great deal of work on-site. You will all be aware however of our new mural.



**St Vigor and St John Church School & The Mill Nursery,
Wells Road, Chilcompton, BA3 4EX**



@ChurchSvsj



We have long discussed how to share our Christian motto: ***He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge" Psalm 91*** in a way that is visual and accessible for children and we were delighted when renowned Bristol artist Andy Council agreed to this project. We will soon be putting a link to our website in helping children and parents identify the landmarks within our two birds.

An addition our parents will *not* have seen however is our new outdoor stage.



Another thing we have long-talked about is an area and facility for children to “perform” outdoors. We were therefore exceptionally grateful to Bath Forum who offered to donate their old stage to us completely free of charge! Not only that, but they then came to install it for us. This stage will allow teachers and children further opportunities to express themselves within and beyond the curriculum. Not only that, but children can climb the same steps to the stage that has seen performances from such luminaries as Jools Holland, Manic Street Preachers, Brian May, Jaqueline Wilson and Steve Backshall- what inspiration!

House System

This week we will be launching our house system. Many schools use these as a way of organising and motivating pupils. We have resisted this as we put all our efforts into our cornerstones and love the children’s aspirations for these. However, we feel we are in a position to do both now and this will be launched to children later this week.

One of the hardest processes in creating house systems is deciding names. At the end of last year all staff were involved in contributing ideas to places or people we felt represented our community and our values.



Jane Austen- *English novelist and Bath resident*



Roy Hackett- *Jamaican-born civil rights activist and organiser of the Bristol Bus Boycott*



Ranulph Fiennes- *British explorer and writer, educated in Wiltshire*



Helen Kirkpatrick- *a suffragette who lived in Chilcompton and became a nurse in Bath*

Arbor

Thank you for your patience as we move to our new management system. We are far from alone in experiencing teething problems, many schools are taking time getting to grips with it all. There are still some processes for us all to master but we will get there. Please do just let us know about any problems – everything is solvable.

We attach a few diary dates for your convenience.

Diary Dates

PTFA AGM -Sept 23rd

Open Days - Sept 24th & 29th

X-C Race 1, Millfield – September 30th

Harvest Service -October 8th

Parents Evenings – October 16th & 21st

Wells Literature Festival- October 23rd

INSET Day – October 24th

Please let us know if there is anything further we can help with – looking forward to a fab year.

Yours sincerely

Chris Chorley
Executive Headteacher

Leah Sheppard
Head Of School

