



# St John's C of E Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr R. A. Price, B.Ed.(Hons)

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Dear Parents

## **Please support your parish**

I'm writing to you as Chair of Governors to let you know that the benefits we receive from our link with the local parish are at risk.

I am also a parent with a child at St John's and I think we have a great school. This is not only my opinion, it is backed up by our school improvement partner and the Managing Director of Herts for Learning, who wrote to Mr Price in January to congratulate the school on its outstanding progress in 2015.

As well as academic subjects our children learn about Christian values and a big part of what makes our school special is that it is a Church of England school. This means that the foundation of the school is its Christian character, and that we have a strong link with the three churches in the parish – St John's, Christ the King and Digswell Village Church.

The local parish has supported the school hugely since it was founded in 1816. The more obvious forms of support we receive from our three churches include their hosting of special school services and their ministers visiting the school to participate in assemblies, classes and governor meetings.

Less obvious is the direct financial support that the school receives from our local parish which is an annual donation of £2,500. This has helped us to obtain ten times this amount of funding which has been used for many much needed building improvements over the years.

Our children, and we as parents, all benefit from the support we receive from the local parish and now, in the 200th year of our partnership, the parish needs our help. You may not be aware that the parish has not been financially viable for many years. It has only been able to function, and to help the school in the way that it has, because it has been heavily subsidised by the Diocese of St Albans. The Parochial Church Council has recently been informed by the Diocese that this level of financial support is not sustainable.

Unless the local community shows that it wants to support the parish then the school funding will stop, there will be fewer ministers to work with the school and one or more of our three churches will have to close in the near future.



The governing body agreed that we would write to the parents to make them aware of this situation and I hope you will pass this message on to your friends and family in the community.

The most obvious way that we can support the parish is by going to church services and I hope that we can all aim to go more regularly. However if, like me, you have commitments that might mean you are not able to go to church as often as you would like to, then there are other ways that you can still give support.

If you would like more information about how you might be able to get involved then please look out for details of forthcoming parish events or contact Roger Phillips in the playground or at [Rphillips7@me.com](mailto:Rphillips7@me.com)

The school and our community will suffer if we don't take some sort of action to support our local parish and I hope that you will feel that you want to help.

Best wishes  
Yours faithfully

*Stuart Heaney*

Mr Stuart Heaney  
Chair of the Governing Body

