



## John Hellins Primary School Report to Annual Parish Assembly 2022

### Numbers on roll

There are 208 children in the school and we expect our full allocation of 30 children to be joining the reception class in September 2022. John Hellins continues to have a good reputation and remains popular with both families living in the village and those in the local area.

### Achievements

The staff and children at John Hellins continue to work extremely hard and the standards of academic achievement remain high. At John Hellins reading is our passion and we teach children to read quickly using synthetic phonics, which we teach daily. We also strive to instil a love of reading in every child as we know this will serve them well for their later life. We continue to believe passionately that it is our creative curriculum, consistently great teaching and focus on pupil wellbeing which makes John Hellins special. We have continued to develop and refine our curriculum this year in order that it continues to be highly relevant, motivating and interesting to the pupils. In addition to this it has been a privilege to be able to continue working with other schools and teachers in the county, we continue to open our door virtually and in person to other schools and to lead training courses. Jodie Matthews and Gill Wilcox continue to play a role in raising standard of reading across the midlands area by working on the Department for Education English Hub project. Tim Crouch has had the pleasure of training and supporting all of the teachers embarking on their careers in South Northants and their mentors. We continue to carefully foster relationships with Initial Teacher Training providers and support them wherever we can.

While 2021/22 has been a challenging year for schools, at John Hellins we have taken every precaution possible but tried to keep things as normal as possible for the children. There has been significantly more absence than in previous years but, with the support of their families, children have accessed their learning at home which has been carefully planned and organised each week by the class teachers. This has ensured that children have been able to catch up quickly following any period of absence.

It has been an absolute delight to begin taking our pupils on trips and visits again. We have visited a variety of places including Silverstone Museum, Warwick Castle, The National Space Centre, Woburn Safari Park and Salcey Forest. We have welcomed many visitors in to school who have enriched our learning experiences including Norman James from Northants Fire (along with a fire engine and crew!), Geoff Warren from the Northants Buddhist Group, Harkirat Singh from the Sikh Education Service and the village gardening club.

In sport, John Hellins has entered local and county sporting events including new age kurling, archery, football, cross country and athletics. We enjoy a great relationship with a range of sports coaches from a variety of local companies and sports teams including Northampton Town Football Club, The Saints and continue to employ our own sports coach. The children benefit significantly, particularly in the warmer months, from the all-weather running track around the school field.

Our reading rabbits are still popular members of the John Hellins community and they, alongside our chickens, support the children with a variety of academic and non-academic aspects of learning. They are all very popular





with the children, as you can imagine! Our wellbeing team offer a variety of support to children and their families ranging from art therapy, play therapy and a listening ear, to liaising with the food bank to provide food parcels where needed.

In 2021/22 there has been a great deal of maintenance to the school building, much of which is well over 200 years old now. Some of the heating has been re-piped, there have been roof repairs and many new windows.

## **The future**

We have been saving hard ready to proceed with our new whole school library project. Our children deserve a lovely place where they can be surrounded by the magic of books and we hope to provide this for them. Although the internals will be done over time, we hope all the external work will be completed by Autumn.