

GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS

MICROCHIP AND MOUSE WILL NOT REPLACE PRIMARY TEACHERS

Pictures by Keely-Ann Toovey



Interaction between teacher and children encourages learning

School has changed considerably since the dinosaur years of slide rules, desks with ink wells and dusty chalkboards which reduced the classroom to environmentally hazardous zones every time they were cleaned.

Now with the millennium just around the corner, we are truly living in the computer age - and St John's is no exception.

Last year the school invested around £10,000 to provide a new computer suite, kitted out with the latest personal computers which are hooked up to the internet.

It is an age of discovery for our children, and, as we approach the 21st century it will be interesting to see how this new technology changes the way they are taught.

Headteacher Jane Cambrook believes that while you will never replace the teacher, in 10 years' time information technology will make a huge difference to education.

'For example, there will be more electronic communication,' she explained. 'So if the children have forgotten their homework, maybe in future they will be able

to look it up on the school web site and download it to do at home.

'Perhaps we will be able to communicate directly with parents by computer if a child is not at school in the morning.

'I was at a head teachers' conference this year where they had an electronic screen the size of a whiteboard.

'It was a touch computer screen and what it could mean for the future is that a teacher in the classroom could call up a video clip, a bit of a sound or a picture at the touch of a finger.

'They could get it within the classroom and they could perhaps share lesson notes with teachers from other schools.'

But Jane warned that though new technology might push the bounds of education, one thing it won't do for primary school children is to stop them from coming to school.

She pointed out there had been suggestions how one day secondary school children might not have to go into school so often. They would do their work at home or

Dale Winton takes over at the Queen Vic in Albert Square!

Emmerdale, Eastenders, the governors annual meeting - is it any wonder you're struggling to decide where you should be on Thursday November 4?!

To make your decision easier, the advanced scripts for both soap operas (no not the governors' meeting - although they too are often full of intrigue and suspense!) mysteriously arrived at the school office.

And to be honest with you, you won't be missing a thing.

Percy Sugden's tractor breaks down somewhere between the Rovers Return and the Woolpack, so after a few halves at each Phil Mitchell takes the vehicle back to his garage.

There he finds his new mechanic, a Duckworth having a shouting match with Jo Mangle from Neighbours over an unpaid royalty fee, only for Chloe from Home and Away to storm in telling everyone she's moving to Brookside with her new boyfriend - Angus Deayton.

So is that really worth staying in for? Why not instead make a beeline for the school on Thursday, November 4 and the governors annual meeting for parents.

It's your chance to air your views about the school and to ask questions. During the past year parents have raised a number of issues with governors over subjects such as school admissions, the adventure playground and road safety.

Coffee will be available from 6.45pm and the meeting will start at 7pm - it should last for about an hour.

And if time permits afterwards, you may want a quick glimpse of the Eastenders' script planned for Christmas Day - Frank Butcher dressed up as Santa, Barry and Ricky get into trouble at the Walford Brain's Trust Christmas party, and Dale Winton takes over at the Queen Vic!

Agenda for meeting on Thursday, November 4 at 7pm

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of last year's annual meeting.
3. Matters arising.
4. Review of this year's annual report.
5. Any other business.

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