

Head Teacher: Mr D Barrow

Mortimer Road  
Kenilworth  
Warwickshire  
CV8 1FS

01926 854450

[www.st-johns.warwickshire.sch.uk](http://www.st-johns.warwickshire.sch.uk)

21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

## CHILDREN'S CENTRE CONSULTATION

**Further to Mr Barrow's urgent request in this week's school newsletter, I am also writing to ask for your help to try to keep our Children's Centre open.**

There are 39 Children's Centres in Warwickshire offering services to families with children under six years old. The County Council proposes to close 27 of them in March 2018, including those at Bertie Road and Mortimer Road in Kenilworth. The remaining 12 will be adapted into Family Hubs, offering services to families with children of all ages.

The high-quality support our Children's Centres provide to young children and their families is vital in successfully preparing them for school. In the last 12 months, they have engaged with 72% of families with children under two, compared with the national target of 65%. A wide range of services are delivered at the centres, starting with antenatal services, through cradle club, buggy breakfast, parentcraft, stay and play and many more. In the last 12 months, there were a total of 7,668 attendances at Kenilworth Children's Centres.

We also know that Children's Centres play an important role in preventing families in need from becoming families in crisis.

The proposal is that, in future, Kenilworth would probably get a level of support like that presently offered to outlying villages. However, Kenilworth is not a village; it's one of the three major towns in Warwick district. We have a population of nearly 24,000 and our pre-school population rose by 5% between March 2016 and March 2017. The Local Plan provides for the building of more than 1,200 new homes in Kenilworth, which will mean many more families with young children.

I welcome the proposed development of Children's Centres into Family Hubs and I know that it's unrealistic to expect to retain two centres in Kenilworth. However, I would ask you please to urge Warwickshire County Council to rethink their plans for Kenilworth and to consider converting one of our Children's Centres into a Family Hub.

The County Council has produced a very challenging 22-page consultation questionnaire which can be found at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FamilyHubs](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FamilyHubs).

Alternatively, you can complete my one page questionnaire at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/96C22T2](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/96C22T2).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I do hope you will help.

Yours faithfully,

**Trevor Martin**  
Chair of Governors