



Church of England Junior School

No: 1

12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable summer holiday. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and they have all settled back well to the daily routines and their learning. Afterschool clubs started successfully this week and it has been lovely seeing children trying new things! Our new Year 3 pupils have settled in really well showing great maturity and independence. Thank you all for your support in making their transition from the infant school as smooth as possible for them.

Apologies for all of the information in this week's newsletter, there is always a lot to share at the start of term, please do make a drink and read to the end!

This week we held the Year 3 and Year 5 parent briefing meetings to share information about your child's learning this year, a reminder that other year group meetings will be held next week:

- Monday 15th September 6:00pm - Year 6 Information Meeting (inc. Calshot Information)
- Tuesday 16th September 6:00pm - Year 4 Information Meeting

We operate an 'open door policy'. If you have any concerns, please call or email the school office who will put you in contact with the class teacher, or please email them directly. If it is an urgent matter, please pop into the school office. If you need to see a class teacher, please only come through the main reception door and not through the gates by the playground.

Today, Year 5 have had a lovely day at Old Basing House exploring the ruins and taking part in a number of activities to develop their understanding of what happened there during the Civil War. They enjoyed working with the wonderful English Civil War Society who joined us. The children learned about cannons and artillery fire, pikemen and musketmen, entertainment and life for a gentleman! The ECWS certainly brought the learning to life and we are grateful for the support of all volunteers and staff who helped make the trip go as well as it did.

Thank you for your support in having your child ready to start the new term. Coming back to school can be a really anxious time for some pupils and we are really proud of how well they have all done this week. We are excited to see what this term will bring!

Home learning

Currently we will be continuing to use Google Classroom for weekly home learning. Whilst this system rolls up with new classes, homework this week may be sent out on paper.

Kitchen Garden: Can you help?

We are fortunate to have a lovely kitchen garden where we try to grow a variety of different seasonal things! As you can imagine this takes time and we are very grateful to the staff that have helped look after this area in the past. If you are a keen gardener and have some time to spare, we are looking for a volunteer to come in regularly to tend to this area alongside some pupils. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Attendance Policy

Thank you so much for a fantastic start to the term in terms of attendance. Please can I remind you that holidays in term time will not be authorised and may be subject to a penalty notice. Our attendance policy can be found here and on our website.

Reporting Absence

We would please ask that if your child is ill and cannot attend school that you let the school office know before the start of the school day if possible. Please note you will need to notify the school daily if your child is off for longer than a day.

Individual Photographs

On Friday 3rd October, all pupils will have their individual photographs taken. There will be no PE lessons on this day, therefore all pupils need to be in full, smart school uniform.

St Mary's CE Junior School and Old Basing Infant School, Open Days for prospective parents 2026

Do you, or do you know someone who has a child due to start Year 3 in September 2026? We will be holding two open days this term for prospective new parents. These will give you the opportunity to tour the school and see us in action, as well as an opportunity to find out more about what you and your child can expect from St Mary's from the leadership team.

This year's dates are:

Tuesday 7th October 2025, starting at 1:30pm and finishing around 3:00pm.

Wednesday 19th November 2025, starting at 9.30am and finishing around 11:00am.

If for any reason you are unable to make one of these dates, please contact the school office on 01256 465092 or adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk, and we will try our best to arrange an alternative date.

Please note that applications for places will need to be completed online through the Hampshire admissions website from 1st November and applications will close on 15th January 2026.

Old Basing Infant School are holding open mornings for prospective Year R parents for 2026 on the following dates, please contact them for further information:

Thursday 25th September

Wednesday 15th October

Friday 7th November

Monday 24th November

Applying for a Secondary School place Yr 7

Year 6 parents, applications are now open for applying for Year 7 places. Please remember that you need to get your applications for secondary school in by **31st October 2025**.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

Emergency Contact Details

Please can you ensure that all of your contact details are kept up to date with the office and that we hold at least three contact numbers in case of an emergency. Email the office if you need to make any changes.

Permission slips

When your child started at St Mary's the following permission slips and forms were completed:

- Multimedia consent form
- Group and Individual Photographs (to enable external photographers to take your child's photo)
- Email/text consent form
- Local permission letter
- Hampshire county council medical questionnaire

If you need to make any amendments to the permissions you granted, please contact the school office by phone or email.

Your child would have also received and signed the following:

- Pupil internet agreement (Year 5 pupils will be bringing home, during the next few weeks, a new upper school agreement to sign, please return to class teachers)

Items from home

Please do not allow your child to bring in toys, fidgets, chew toys, soft toys etc. from home, unless it has been agreed with the class teacher for specific individual need.

Please also make sure all belongings, including uniform, is clearly named, we already have a few unnamed new jumpers in lost property!

Voluntary Contribution

Thank you to everyone who has already made this payment. We have planned in a full programme of enrichment opportunities for all year groups to enhance their learning opportunities. These include visitors into school for workshops etc. and trips out throughout the school year. These are only possible through the annual voluntary contribution. If you are yet to make this payment of £35 please do so as soon as possible via SCOPAY.

Medical/Special Dietary needs

Should there be any changes to your child's health/medical needs during the year, please contact the school office so we can update our records.

Free School Meals

A child is eligible for free school meals if their parent or carer receives one or more of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross income, of no more than £16,190 as assessed by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (Parents who are made redundant or start working less than 16 hours per week, may find their children are entitled to free meals for a limited period.)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (before September 2026 provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods, from September 2026 all pupils from families claiming universal credit)

No other benefits qualify for free school meals from Key Stage 2 (years 3, 4, 5, 6) or for the pupil premium for Reception Year and Key Stage 1 (years 1, 2).

Check eligibility for pupil premium and free school meals

To check your child's eligibility for pupil premium or continued free school meals (from Key Stage 2) [Online](#)

[FSM Application](#)

To complete a check, you need the following information for yourself or the person you are checking on behalf of:

- your own name, date of birth, and contact details
- National Insurance number or National Asylum Seekers number
- child's name and date of birth
- school your child is attending or will attend

Parent Helpers

If you would like to come in to help in your child's class in the future, or help on trips, you will need to complete a volunteers' application form (which will include references) and a DBS check. Please contact the school office via email for details. We really appreciate the help we get from volunteers.

News from St Mary's Church

The Welcome Tea Room

19th Sept, 3rd & 17th October from 2pm. Thank you to everyone who joined us at our sessions over the summer. The Tea Room volunteers look forward to guests joining us again on the first and third Fridays of the month from 2pm when our usual delicious selection of cakes will be on offer. A reminder that we do not charge for any drinks or cakes, donations invited if you wish. Dogs on leads welcome! Leading us on to.....

Pet Service & Fayre

🐾 Sunday 5th October.

2:30pm Pet Blessing with Rev Rachel – bring your furry, feathered, or even scaly friends for a joyful celebration of their lives. Come along and see Orinoco, a local Tortoise, be put into hibernation for the winter!

2–4pm Pet-Themed Fayre – browse stalls, crafts, and treats, and meet Helping Dogs & Cats Rescue UK, our Charity of the Month

A message from the Governors - Welcome Back to St Mary's!

On behalf of the Governing Board, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all of our students, families, and staff as we begin the new school year. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break, and are returning refreshed and ready for a year of exciting new opportunities.

The start of a new school year is a wonderful time, and we are thrilled to see our school family reunited. The energy and enthusiasm are already palpable, and we are looking forward to another year of achieving more together.

As Governors, we are committed to working closely with our incredible headteacher and staff to ensure every child at St Mary's continues to thrive. We will be focused on supporting the school's strategic goals and reinforcing our shared values of love, courage, and creativity in everything we do.

Our partnership with you, our parents and carers, is central to our success. Your support is invaluable as we work together to provide a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children.

Here's to a successful and fulfilling year ahead for our entire school community.

Best wishes,

Sefton Lucas, Chair of Governors

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S. We have lots of exciting events coming up, starting with the F.O.O.B.S. Trail and Fun runs on Sunday 12th October. There is still time to sign yourselves and your children up via our website www.foobs.weebly.com

We are also in need of volunteers for the day so if you have any time please email foobsfunrun@gmail.com and, if you are able to donate any cakes, homemade or shop bought, they would be gratefully received for the refreshments stall on the day.

We then have the F.O.O.B.S. AGM on Thursday 16th October at 7:30pm at the Infants school. All friends of the school are welcome with no obligation to join the committee, we would love to see you and share with you what we've been up to this last year!

Disco dates have now been confirmed and will appear in the school calendars!

And finally a date for your diary. We have booked a HappySchoolBag charity clothing collection for Tuesday 18th November. Further details of what is and isn't collected to follow.

Diary Dates

Please see below for key dates for this term. We are a very busy school so new dates are frequently added and things may have to change! Please check on each of our newsletters for any new or amended dates and do keep an eye on your parentmail account for updates, new dates and details of events. We will aim to have all dates up on our website by the end of next week.

For even more news, updates and photos, don't forget to visit our website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/>

Gemma Lillywhite
Headteacher

The following INSET days for this academic year have been agreed with Old Basing Infant School and approved by our governors.

Inset Days for 2025/26

Mon 3rd November 2025

Fri 19th December 2025

Mon 23rd February 2026

Fri 22nd May 2026

Dates for your Diary

15th September Year 6 Parents Briefing Meeting inc Calshot 6pm

16th September Year 4 Parents Briefing Meeting 6pm

22nd September – Y6 QMC Science visit (Davies class am)

23rd September – Y6 QMC Science visit (Nightingale class am, Russell class pm)

29th September – Y4 Oxenwood visit (here)

30th September – Y4 Oxenwood visit (here)

30th September – Y6 Church visit 1:30pm

3rd October – Individual School photos

7th October – Year 2 open day 1:30-3pm

9th October – Davies class sharing assembly 2:45pm

12th October – F.O.O.B.S Fun Run

w/c 13th October – No after school clubs this week

14th October – Year 4 Church visit 1:30pm

14th October – Parents Evening, details to follow

15th October – Parents Evening, details to follow

16th October – F.O.O.B.S AGM, 7:30pm infant school

w/c 20th October – No after school clubs this week

20th-24th October – Year 6 Calshot residential week

23rd October – Wellington Class sharing assembly 2:45pm

27th-31st October – Half term holiday

3rd November – Inset day – school closed to pupils

4th November – First day back

19th November – Year 2 open day 9:30-11:00 am

20th November – Brunel Class sharing assembly 2:45pm

24th-28th November – Year 6 Bikeability

4th December – Russell class sharing assembly 2:45pm

11th December – Dickens class sharing assembly 2:45pm

19th December – Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

22nd December-2nd January – Christmas Holidays

5th January 2026 – First day back

11th-14th May 2026 Year 6 SATs tests

1st-12th June 2026 Year 4 Multiplication Tests