



Church of England Junior School

No: 2
26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first three weeks of term have been busy with lots of fun activities and hard work going on!

Year 3 have started learning about the Stone Age. They enjoyed becoming cave men for the afternoon, collecting firewood and building shelters. They have also enjoyed looking at cave art in their art lessons!

Savage Saxons is this term's topic in Year 4. They have launched their learning by becoming archaeologists and uncovering artefacts! Next week we are looking forward to welcoming back Oxenwood Education Centre to lead a Saxon enrichment day here for them.

Year 5 are into the swing of their topic on Old Basing House and the Civil War, their early visit to Old Basing House kicking off this learning.

This week Year 6 have been very busy! They have loved their outdoor learning sessions led by Mrs May, it has been lovely to see them exploring the outdoors. They also enjoyed a trip out to QMC Primary Science Centre where they learnt more about the human body, there was a lot of excited talk about M&M's when they returned!

If your children are rapidly outgrowing their uniform, F.O.O.B.S will be holding a second hand uniform sale for families from here and Old Basing Infants in the hall after school from 3:30pm-4:00pm!

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

Parents Evening

A reminder following a parent mail last week, bookings for parents evening, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday October 15th, have opened on ScoPay, please make sure you have booked your appointments.

Seasonal Bugs!

As the autumn term progresses, it is common for seasonal bugs like colds, coughs, and stomach bugs to circulate within the school community. We encourage good hygiene in school, please do remind your children to regularly wash their hands! For illnesses involving diarrhoea and vomiting, children must stay home for at least 48 hours after their symptoms have stopped. This is crucial to prevent the spread of contagious stomach bugs.

Talk Homework!

Along with Old Basing Infant school we are working this year to improve our pupils' speaking and listening skills. We are working with staff at OBI to develop a progression of Oracy skills from EYFS through to Year 6 and we are excited how this will grow and develop over the next few years.

In each of our newsletters we will be sending an idea for a family discussion over dinner, in the car or before bed! This week we have a would you rather!

“Would you rather be able to talk to animals or talk ten different languages?”

Year 3 Transition Survey

We have been really impressed with how the year 3 children have settled in to life at St Mary's. They have already contributed much to the whole school with their enthusiasm for learning and in how they have embraced our school values. Thank you to our Year 3 parents - if you are a parent of a child in Year 3 please do complete the transition survey sent out today to help us evaluate our transition program.

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>

Safeguarding update - Staying Safe on Bikes and Scooters

We love seeing children enjoying active travel to and from school, and we want to make sure they stay safe while doing so. Please remind your child to wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter, and to be aware of their surroundings - especially near roads, driveways, and busy paths. Bikes and scooters should be regularly checked to ensure brakes, wheels, and lights (if fitted) are working properly. We do ask children to walk their bikes and scooters once they're on school grounds to help keep everyone safe.

Foodbank Collection

Some advance notice! During the week beginning 6th October we will be thinking about the work of our local food bank and how we can help others in our community during our collective worship. We will be holding our annual collection of items for the Basingstoke Foodbank, further details will be sent out nearer the time. Anyone can reach crisis point and the Basingstoke Foodbank is there to help when that happens.

Please follow this link to find out how you can get help:

[Basingstoke Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

Pick up arrangements

We are seeing an increase in the number of parents calling regularly to ask office staff to remind their children of pick up arrangements. We appreciate that sometimes arrangements need to change due to unexpected circumstances and we will of course in these instances get a message to the children concerned. However, some parents are calling nearly on a daily basis and very close to the end of the day where it may not be possible for the office staff to get the message to your child before they are dismissed from their classes. Please make sure you discuss arrangements with your child in the morning and we will remind children to stay with their teacher, or come back to the office, if they are unsure of pick up arrangements or they cannot find the adult collecting them.

Time to Shine Day – ‘Be Bright To Be Seen’

On Sunday 26th October British Summer times ends and sadly those clocks will go back. On Friday 24th October we are having a ‘Be Bright to Be Seen’ day in school and we would like the children to come to school dressed as brightly as they possibly can – what would you need to wear to be seen safely out walking or cycling during the darker evenings? If year 6 pupils want to take a bright outfit to Calshot to wear on that day that would be great!

In school each class will talk about and complete activities about keeping safe on the streets. Year 6 will cover these important messages with their classes when they return from Calshot.

We look forward to seeing St Mary’s full of colour – the brighter the better!

Governors Corner

At our first Full Governing Body (FGB) meeting of the year, governors discussed the school’s strategic priorities for the year ahead. A key focus for 2025 will be improving outcomes in writing, ensuring all pupils are supported to develop their skills and confidence as writers. This will include reviewing and refining the writing curriculum, as well as creating more opportunities for children to enjoy writing across different subjects and contexts. Governors are excited to see this important work take shape and look forward to hearing about the progress the school is making in detail during Learning and Ethos committee meetings.

Andy Grayson, Local Authority Governor

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! We hope you're all looking forward to the F.O.O.B.S. Trail & Fun runs as much as we are! Entries are still open, head over to our website to bag your place www.foobs.weebly.com. We would be very grateful of donations of cakes, homemade or shop bought, to sell on the refreshments stall on the day. Details of drop off points TBC. Our volunteer rota is almost full so big thank you to everyone who has already volunteered their time. If anyone is able to stick around to help clear up after the fun run, that would be very much appreciated.

Our AGM is being held at 7:30pm on Thursday 16th October at the Infant School. All are welcome, whether you just want to hear what we've been up to, are interested in joining the committee or anywhere in between! On that note, our current Co-Chairs are standing down after several years in the role so if you are interested in taking the role we would be happy to talk to you. Please come along to the meeting or contact us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com.

We will be holding a second hand uniform sale for both schools at the Junior School hall on Monday 13th October after pick up.

And finally, the Year 2 Disco will take place on Friday 3rd October! Tickets will be on sale early next week.

Attendance

Currently the whole school attendance stands at 97.9%. Thank you to the vast majority of you who are managing to get your child to school on time this really supports children to settle in to the day and be ready for both the register and to start learning at 8.50am.

Parent Helpers

If you would like to come in to help in your child’s class in the future, or you maybe want to help on future 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.

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

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

15th October – Parents Evening

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

24th October – Be Bright To Be Seen dress down day

27th-31st October – Half term holiday

3rd November – Inset day – school closed to pupils

4th November – First day back

18th November – Whole school flu vaccinations

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