

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 4
24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I appreciate this is a long newsletter – please do make yourself a drink and sit and read it all, next half term is set to be busy and this newsletter contains information about upcoming events!

It was lovely to see the school and local community come out in force for the annual F.O.O.B.S Trail and Fun Run. Well done to everyone who entered and thank you to all those who helped organise the event and those who volunteered on the day. Without the very hard working committee, these events would not be possible and the schools would not benefit from the donations F.O.O.B.S are able to make.

Last week Mrs Denning (Headteacher Old Basing Infant School) and Mr Gibbs attended the F.O.O.B.S AGM. It was great to reflect on all the events held last year and an opportunity for us to thank the committee for all their hard work and commitment to the organisation. FOOBS is a really important and valued part of the school community and all that they do is appreciated. Last year money raised by F.O.O.B.S supported us in purchasing lots of things for the school which we would not have been able to buy, including new laptops, charging cases, new interactive whiteboards and some new seating. This year we are looking to add to our ICT hardware with the purchase of further laptops and iPads and further new seating.

Teachers enjoyed meeting with you all during parents' evening last week. It was lovely for them to share your child's achievements so far. Please do contact your child's teacher if you ever have any concerns, do not wait until the spring parents' evening.

The Year 6 corridors were full of wonderful smells as they planned and made their own vegetable soups last week. They all enjoyed this unit of work and many tried things that they hadn't eaten before.

This week we enjoyed Wellington class's sharing assembly, it was great! Well done Year 4 for sharing your learning with your friends and family.



This week Year 6 have been in Calshot for their residential trip. I was able to spend the first half of the week with them before swapping with Mr Gibbs on Wednesday. They have had a great time learning new skills and they have made many lasting memories. Many have overcome fears and pushed themselves to try new things – the biggest challenge for most was making their own beds! Thank you parents for supporting your child and sending them on this trip, it really is a great experience for them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff and Mr Jubin, one of our governors, for giving up their time to accompany the children on this trip, without their willingness to be away from their own families for the week, these residential trips would not go ahead.



Be Bright To Be Seen!

Don't forget that the clocks go back on Sunday 26th October. This means that as well as dark mornings we will start to see the evenings getting darker as well. Our 'Be bright to be seen day' today reminded the children about being visible when out and about. As parents, you may want to back this up with some further road safety work with your children over the holidays. Please also keep yourselves safe! Below are some links you may find useful to share with your children:

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Harvest Food Bank Collection

On behalf of the Basingstoke Food Bank we would like to say thank you for all your kind donations to our harvest collection. We were able to donate an amazing 272.06kg of items to support people in our local community. Thank you to one of our ex-parents, Mrs Baldwin, who transported all of our donations to the foodbank for us again this year!

Applying for a Secondary School place Yr 7

A final reminder that you need to get your applications for secondary school in **31st October 2025.**

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



Open Days for prospective parents 2025

Do you, or do you know someone who has a child due to start Year 3 in September 2025? We will be holding one more open day in the autumn term for prospective new parents. This 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.

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

If for any reason you are unable to make this date, 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 November and applications close in January 2025.

Talk Homework!

As you know along with Old Basing Infant school we are working this year to improve our pupils' speaking and listening skills! It would be lovely to hear what your family have discussed this week!

This week what will you come up with for this question?

'If you could swap places with a character from a book or film, who would it be and why?'

Spotlight Christmas Toy Appeal

Once again this year we are supporting Spotlight's Christmas Toy Appeal by being a collection point to help ensure that as far as possible, all children in our local area receive a present this year. Items do need to be new and unwrapped. We are collecting donations up until Monday 1st December.

Please spread the word around different organisations and work places as anyone can use the school as a donation hub.

Remembrance

As usual, we will be supporting the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Children will be able to buy poppies and various other items from after half term, we will send out further details when we have them. We will be arranging for representatives from our school to lay a wreath at St Mary's Church and at the War Memorial in town as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations.

Children in Need 2025

We will once again be supporting the 'Children In Need Appeal' with a non-uniform day on Friday 14th November. We would love to see as many people as possible celebrating the charities spotty theme by being 'SPOTacular'. Can you create your spottiest outfit to support this great charity?

Friendship Week and Odd Socks Day

The week commencing 10th November is our annual Friendship Week which coincides with National Anti-Bullying week. This year we will incorporate Odd Socks day on Monday 10th November to celebrate the fact that we are all unique. You do not need to buy anything special or donate money for this event – just look in your odd socks drawer at home! During the week pupils will take part in a wide range of activities about Friendships and Anti-Bullying. We will also share a break time with Old Basing Infants which was great fun last year!

As a school, we will be marking Remembrance Day on the 11th November with a special assembly and a minute's silence.

Safeguarding update

Please find attached a copy of our October Safeguarding newsletter. We will be sending these out monthly moving forward. Please do take time to read them as they contain some really useful information for you as parents around Safeguarding.

Please take care over the half term holiday, take care if your children are out 'Trick or Treating' over Halloween, or if you are planning a firework display over the final weekend of half term ahead of November 5th!

Junior Road Safety Officers – JRSO's

I am pleased to announce our new Junior Road Safety Officers for this year– Elsie, Elliot, Michael and Evie. Last week, they undertook their on-line training with Hampshire County Council. We will be meeting after half term, to share their ideas for things we can do within our school to support all of our community to be safe out and about on our roads.

Please share this message from our new Junior Road Safety Officers with your children:

'Make sure you wear a seatbelt and try to wear fluorescent or reflective clothes when going out in the dark. Remember, STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK when crossing the road.'

Elliot, Elsie, Evie and Michael

F.O.O.B.S News

Hello from F.O.O.B.S.! After half term we have a busy few weeks! The year 3 disco will be held on Friday 7th November. Tickets go on sale today via our website www.foobs.weebly.com.

We have a HappySchoolBag collection booked for Tuesday 18th November. Half term would be a great opportunity to dig out some things to donate!

Always a firm favourite with the children, the F.O.O.B.S. Christmas Markets will return again this year!

Please bring your donations into school after half term.

Lastly, Letter to Santa kits will also be on sale after half term.

Look out for emails from the school with more details on all of these events

Finally, we hope that everyone has a wonderful half term!

Coffee Mornings

Please see the dates below for our upcoming coffee mornings.

Governors' Corner

My name is Sarah Adams, and I am the newly appointed parent governor. I have lived in Lychpit with my family for over 11 years. I have a passion for the local community and alongside other voluntary roles was an active member of FOOBS; and ran the summer fair for 8 years! I studied Business Studies at University and had a career in Human Resources before taking a career break to spend time with my three girls. In my current role I help to manage a shopping centre and in my spare time I enjoy swimming and going to the theatre.

I'm passionate about the education of our young people and believe that every child deserves the best education to fulfil their potential in life. I am excited to have an input in their journey and support the other governors and teachers in delivering the highest quality education. My youngest daughter is currently in Year 6 at St Mary's and my elder two daughters flourished at St Mary's and are now thriving at Costello. I have attended two governor board meetings and a Resources Committee so far. I have a great deal to learn and I am looking forward to the challenge.

Sarah Adams, Parent Governor

It is almost half term already and the year 6 pupils are off to Calshot. I am sure that they are having a great time enjoying all the indoor and outdoor activities on offer. I really must thank the staff, and one brave

governor, who have given up their time to help make sure that the pupils are safe and have an unforgettable time.

Governors have a responsibility to regularly meet with teachers, to which they are assigned, to review and monitor various aspects of the school curriculum. I was recently in school, for one such meeting with Miss Shore, out PE lead, to discuss and understand the current objectives and primary focus for sport and P/E. Sport and P/E provision has always been a very high priority at St Mary's and will continue to be so. In her role as PE lead Miss Shore helps to ensure that all staff have sufficient knowledge skills and confidence to teach a whole range of sporting activities. She also monitors the teaching of PE and provides feedback and suggestions for improvement to staff.

Sport and PE provision covers a huge range of activities including teaching pupils to swim confidently, inter-school team competitions in a variety of sports, structured playground play, sensory & physical activities for children who need support with gross motor skills and a whole lot more. The primary aim is to ensure that all pupils engage in a range of regular physical and sporting activities. As well as keeping pupils active, and hopefully making it fun, the teaching of sport and PE should help develop a range of life skills and attributes such as resilience, collaboration, creativity, physical skills and competing.

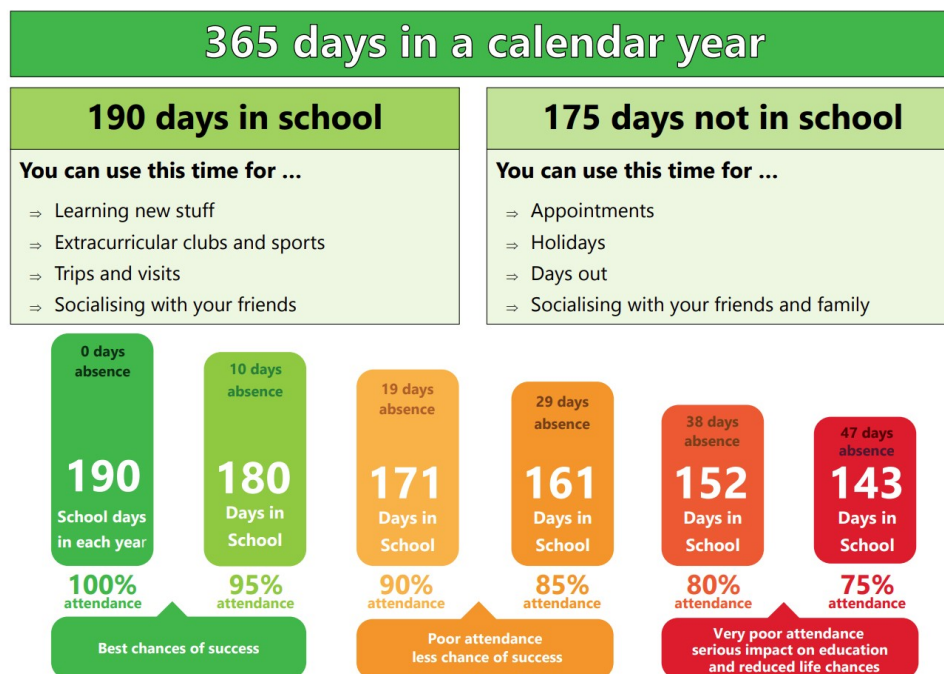
St Mary's has always had a tradition of entering interschool competitions in a wide variety of sports and has an impressive array of trophies to show for it. These competitions require a huge time commitment from teachers and staff, much of it outside of normal school hours. I really do think that all staff who give up their time to support these competitions deserve a massive thank you.

Michael Wright, Vice Chair of Governors

Attendance – it matters!

During parents evening you will have been given your child's latest attendance report. Good school attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment nationally at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.

At the end of September whole school attendance was 97.6%. We continue to be pleased with the attendance of our pupils and we are pleased to see some improvement in pupils who have previously been persistently late to school.



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

27th-31st October – Half term holiday

3rd November – Inset day – school closed to pupils

4th November – First day back

4th November – Y3 Orchestra Unwrapped – Anvil

5th November – Y5 Space Dome

7th November – F.O.O.B.S Year 3 Disco 5:00-6:30pm

w/c 10th November – Friendship week

10th November – Odd Socks day

11th November – Y6 Weighing & Measuring

12th November – Parents Coffee morning 09:00-10:30

14th November – Children in Need non uniform day (wear something spotty)

15th November – Welcome service for the Bishop of Basingstoke – Senior Choir performing (Yr 5/6) St Mary's Church Andover 2pm

18th November – Whole school flu vaccinations

18th November - HappySchoolBag charity clothing collection

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

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

24th November – F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market

24th-28th November – Year 6 Bikeability

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

6th December – Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church Old Basing Junior Choir (Y3/4) & Infant Singing club performing 11:30-12:30

6th December – Milestones Museum Christmas Market, Orchestra (Thursday group) performing 3:00-4:30pm

9th December – School Christmas Concert (school band and various small groups selected by instrumental teachers) School Hall 6-7pm

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

17th December – School Carol Service St Mary's Church 6-7pm Senior Choir performing

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

OBIS AND ST. MARY'S JUNIOR INVITE
YOU TO

OLD BASING SCHOOLS COFFEE MORNINGS

Meet with Mrs Thompson and Mrs
Medlin along with staff from the
Primary Behaviour Service.



**Wednesday 12th
November**

**Wednesday 11th
February**

Wednesday 25th March

Wednesday 20th May

Wednesday 1st July

**St. Mary's
Junior School**

9am - 10.30am

St Mary's
Church of England Junior School

Come and chat, ask
questions and get
support for the
challenges we all face
as parents.

