

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 3

10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all of your kind donations this week to the Basingstoke Foodbank, we will be arranging delivery to the foodbank next week and know our donations will be gratefully received.

Last week Year 4 enjoyed a visit from Oxenwood education centre and a real life Anglo Saxon – thankfully I was assured by the children that he was friendly! They enjoyed cooking bread on an open fire, making a torque and learning how to go into battle as a team!



Year 6 headed to church last Tuesday for their termly year group church visit, thank you to all the parents and relatives who walked down with them for their service. They have also had some outdoor learning opportunities over the last few weeks. Outdoor learning offers significant benefits for children, including improved physical health, with increased activity and motor skill development; enhanced cognitive skills like focus, problem-solving, and creativity; and positive social and emotional growth, fostering confidence, resilience, and teamwork. The focus for the Year 6 sessions has been team work and following instructions. Thank you Mrs May for helping the school develop our use of the outdoors!

It was lovely to welcome Year 2 parents into school on Tuesday to see what life is like at St Mary's. Our Year 6 pupils were perfect tour guides, it is lovely to hear them talking about the school and hear how proud they are of the things they have achieved. Well done and thank you Year 6!

On Wednesday some of our pupils worked with members of Old Basing Women's Institute to help put together a display of over 350 poppies that have been made by the pupils here at St Mary's. These poppies will make up part of a display to commemorate Remembrance around the village. Look out for it going up soon!

We thoroughly enjoyed our first Sharing Assembly of the year yesterday, well done to Davies class who worked really hard to put together their assembly and really entertained us, sharing all their knowledge of earthquakes!

Next week is parents evening, we look forward to seeing you then and sharing your child's achievements so far this year. We are also looking forward to Year 4s AoW in church and Year 6 going off to Calshot at the end of this half term which is fast approaching!

Good luck to everyone who has entered the F.O.O.B.S trail and Fun Run this weekend, we look forward to seeing you there, we have fingers crossed for a dry day!

Talk Homework!

As you know along with Old Basing Infant school we are working this year to improve our pupils' speaking and listening skills!

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

'If you could have any superpower, what would you have and why?'

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>

Sharing Assemblies and Church Visits

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that you are welcome to attend your child's class sharing assembly and year Group Church Act of Worships. Dates for these are advertised in our newsletters and take place throughout the year. Class Sharing Assemblies are held in the school starting at 2:45pm. Year Group Church visits, which you are also welcome to attend, take place at 1:30pm at St Mary's Church.

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.

Flu Vaccination

The immunisation team will be coming in to administer the flu nasal spray on Tuesday 18th November. Please complete the consent form through the QR code on the on the flyer sent out with this newsletter. It is really important that parents complete this form, thank you.

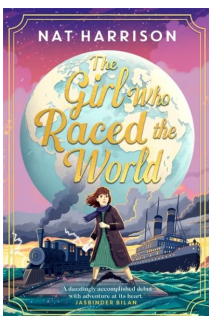
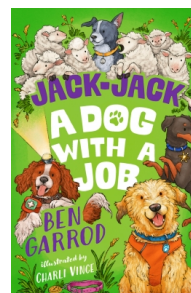
New Book Recommendations

7+ Readers:

'Jack-Jack: A Dog With a Job'

By Ben Garrod (author), Charli Vince (illustrator)

Perfect for young dog lovers, especially those who have a sneaky feeling that their dog understands exactly what they say.



9+ Readers:

'The Girl Who Raced the World'

By Nat Harrison

A page-turning adventure, bringing Jules Verne's classic Around the World in Eighty Days to life for young readers with a thrilling new twist. You must take every day, every hour, every minute one tick at a time.

Coffee Mornings

We are pleased to share dates for this year's parent coffee mornings which we will be running alongside Old Basing Infant School. Please see the flyer at the bottom of this newsletter for dates and further information, we look forward to seeing you there.

Safeguarding updates

Anger Management in Children - NSPCC

Every year many thousands of children are referred to Childline for anger issues. Anger management in children is one of the top mental health concerns in childcare. Anger and the ability to control it are key skills of adulthood. Violent thoughts frequently bubble underneath human interactions. Anger is the quickest way for those thoughts to become reality. For this reason it is tightly regulated in our society. Children must learn to overcome anger so that they do not fall foul of strict controls on violent conduct. However, this is difficult for children to learn to manage since anger is remarkably powerful. Yet as parents and teachers there is no choice but to teach them to reign these emotions in. This can be hard knowledge to impart, but the NSPCC has produced helpful resources to aid you in that vital mission. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/arguments-conflict-family-tension>

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

On Sunday 26th October British Summer time 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!

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! The FOOPS Trail and Fun Runs are almost here! Advanced entries are now closed and the 2k has sold out with a record number of entrants! (Please note no more entries will be released for the 2km run and it’s not possible to transfer the places between people). We are looking forward to seeing everyone who has entered on Sunday! There are still places available for the 6k and 10k so entries will be available on the day for those two distances. We would be very grateful of donations of cakes, homemade or shop bought, to sell on the refreshments stall on the day. Please avoid nuts and nut-based ingredients and if homemade, please include a list of ingredients. As always, a big thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help on the day, we couldn’t run the event without you. 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 Infants 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! We have so far had no interest in taking over the Chair role so if you are thinking about it, please do get in touch via friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com.

We will be holding a second hand uniform sale for both schools at the Junior school on Monday 13th October 3:30-4:15 where uniform for both schools will be available. Please note, we only have the old style logo items for the Infant School.

Attendance

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

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**

9 am - 10.30 am

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

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



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

12th October – F.O.O.B.S Fun Run
13th October – F.O.O.B.S 2nd hand uniform sale in school hall 3:30-4:15pm
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
4th November – Y3 Orchestra Unwrapped - Anvil
7th November – F.O.O.B.S Year 3 Disco 5:00-6:30pm
12th November – Parents Coffee morning 09:00-10:30
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
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