



Church of England Junior School

No: 9
16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A belated Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you all had a good break and enjoyed some time with family and friends over the festive period.

Further to my message last week, thank you again for your support during our Ofsted inspection last Tuesday and Wednesday. It was a pleasure to showcase our children, staff and wider school community and it felt like a very collaborative process - albeit, quite rightly, a very rigorous process that seeks to find extremely high standards under the new framework. Our report card will hopefully be available to share with you all sometime in February. Last term, we shared lots of information about the new framework, how very different it is and how high expectations are now compared to the last Ofsted framework. This video, that we have shared previously, produced by Ofsted is a useful guide for parents explaining the new systems. [New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents](#)

Thank you once again for your ongoing support for all we strive to do for our pupils; our inspectors commented on the extremely high number of responses on the parent view survey and how overwhelmingly positive they were.

Despite the excitement of some snow fall and 3 days of indoor break pupils came back to school last week with a very positive attitude and they have started the term with lots of hard work!

Last week Year 3 enjoyed a visit from 'Iron Age Matt' to further embed and build on the History knowledge they learnt last term. Matt brought history to life by sharing real artefacts and fascinating stories about how people lived thousands of years ago. Through hands-on activities, drama and questions, the children discovered what daily life was like in an Iron Age roundhouse and how communities worked together. The visit helped the children deepen their understanding of history and sparked lots of curiosity, excitement and excellent questions. It was a fantastic day of learning that hopefully Year 3 will remember for a long time. Year 3 are now looking forward to working on their production at the end of this half term!

In Year 4, they have started their new geography led topic 'The Who, the What and the Where of Old Basing'. Ancient Greece is the theme for Year 5, exploring fearsome beasts and heroes and Year 6 are enjoying starting to learn about entertainment throughout the ages in their history; they are looking forward to a trip to Shakespeare's Globe theatre next Monday to launch this topic and I know they are also looking forward to seeing some sights in the capital!

Year 5 have enjoyed their first two swimming lessons over the last two weeks and already we have heard of some who have made great progress. We look forward to seeing what they can achieve at the end of their 6 lessons. All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2.

In particular, pupils should be taught to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Well done to Paulet class who entertained us this week with their sharing assembly. They all worked well together to put on a show for their friends and family.

We are looking forward to the Year 5 disco this evening, Year 6's trip to the Globe Theatre and White Class's Sharing assembly next week.

Looking further ahead Year 5 will be taking part in a workshop with Southampton Art Gallery, our upper school athletes are attending the indoor sports hall athletics competition, Year 4 are off on a field study

walk around the local area and we have Nightingale's sharing assembly. We also have netball and football fixtures coming up, the Year 6 movie night, First Aid Training for Year 5 and trips to QMC science centre – this is set to be a busy half term!

Pupil well-being

Please do let us know if events happen in your child's life that may have an impact on their well-being. This may be a family bereavement, moving house, changes in family circumstances, the loss of a pet or the serious illness of a family member. However much we try to protect our children from adult conversations, they pick up on the emotions and worries of those around them. We are here to support them, as well as yourselves, if needed. Any information shared is always treated in confidence. We are 'One Family' and here for everyone.

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Tuesday 27th January we will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day. We focus on the rights that were taken away from people and the lack of respect that was shown for people's rights. This is centred on the Bible quote from Genesis: 'God created human beings in his own image.'

This year we will again be joining schools across the dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth in marking this important day in a way that is age appropriate. Each year group will also share an age appropriate picture book and encourage pupils to think about the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day – 'Bridging Generations'

Reminders from the JRSO's

Please remember to always wear reflective clothes when going out at night.

Also, please remember to wear a seatbelt. Please wear a helmet on a scooter, bike, skateboard etc.

Please do not look on your phone whilst crossing the road, as it increases the chances of an accident.

Thank you for reading, stay safe!

By Evie, Michael, Elliot and Elsie

Sporting Success

Huge congratulations to Marcus in Year 6, who took part in the county final individual table tennis competition in Southampton this week. After representing the school and coming second in the Basingstoke and Deane area competition in the Autumn term, he travelled to Southampton this week where he faced some strong opponents. We are delighted so share that he came away from that county level competition with a bronze medal. Well done Marcus!

Safeguarding

Please read the attached January parent Safeguarding Newsletter.

This month the focus is on Roblox which we know many of our pupils play and child-to-parent-violence which many families experience.

Please remember that we are here to support all of our families should you need it.

Governors' Corner

Could you be a Foundation Governor at St. Mary's?

Our Governing Body is looking for a new Foundation Governor to join our "One Family."

What is a Foundation Governor? Foundation Governors play a vital role in maintaining and developing the religious character of our school. They work alongside the rest of the Board to ensure the school provides a high-quality education, while specifically nurturing our Christian ethos and links with the local Church.

Do I need to be an education expert? No! We value diverse perspectives. Whether you have a background in business, community work, or simply a passion for seeing our children flourish, your skills could be exactly what we need. What matters most is a commitment to our school's values and a little of your time each term.

What's involved?

- Attending meetings (usually twice a term).
- Visiting the school to see our vision in action.
- Supporting the school leadership in making strategic decisions.

Being a Governor is immensely rewarding—it's a chance to give back to the community and help shape the future of our pupils.

Interested? If you would like an informal chat about what the role entails, please contact Sefton Lucas (Chair of Governors) via the School Office. We would love to hear from you!

F.O.O.B.S. news

As we settle into the new year there are some exciting F.O.O.B.S. events just around the corner. We hope all our Year 5s have an amazing time at the disco tonight. Music, dancing and plenty of fun to kick off the weekend. Enjoy every minute.

Below are some save the dates of some events coming up:

- 30th January 2026-Year 6 Movie Night
- 28th February 2026- F.O.O.B.S. Quiz Night, expect friendly competition, laughs, and a great evening for all.

Full details to follow on both these events soon.

Parking

Please can we remind you to park considerately around local roads, we appreciate it is very busy at drop off and pick up in the village, this is inevitable with many families at both schools coming from out of the local area. We have had reports this week of a parent being verbally abusive to a local resident when they were asked to move their car as they were blocking access to a driveway in Fraser Close - this behaviour is unacceptable. Please look to park a little further away from the schools to ease parking. Thank you for your support.

Coffee Mornings

Parent and Carer Coffee Mornings

Our half-termly coffee mornings are an opportunity for parents to get together, share ideas and challenges over a cup of coffee (and biscuits!) Miss Bunkle (our SENCo), Mrs Alvarez (our ELSA) and Mrs Squire (Behaviour Support LSA) are also on hand to chat about issues.

Meet us 9am to 10.30am on:

11th February
25th March
20th May
1st July



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 23rd February 2026

Fri 22nd May 2026

Dates for your Diary

21st January – Year 5 Swimming

22nd January – White Class Sharing assembly 2:45pm

26th January – Year 5 Art Workshop (Southampton Art Gallery) here

27th January – Holocaust Memorial Day

28th January – Year 5 Swimming

29th January – Year 4 Village Walk

29th January – Nightingale class sharing assembly 2:45pm

30th January – Year 6 Movie Night

3rd February – Year 4 Church visit (parents welcome) 1:30pm

4th February – Year 5 Swimming

4th February – Paulet Class Parents Evening (rest of school Spring 2)

5th February - Paulet Class Parents Evening (rest of school Spring 2)

6th February – Year 5 First Aid Training

w/c 9th February – Year 3 Show week – details will follow for year 3 parents.

9th February – Year 4 science visit to QMC (am Wellington)

10th February – Year 4 science visit to QMC (am Nelson, pm Paulet)

11th February – Year 5 Swimming (last one)

13th February – F.O.O.B.S Dare to be Different Day!

16th-20th February – Half term

23rd February – Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

24th February – First day back

26th February – Year 5 visit to Old Basing Nursery

28th February – F.O.O.B.S Quiz Night

2nd March – Book Week

4th March – Year 4 French Café

9th March – Year 5 QMC

10th March – Year 5 QMC

10th March - Year 3 Church visit (parents welcome) 1:30pm

11th March – Parents Evening (not Paulet Class)

12th March – Parents Evening (not Paulet Class)

17th March - Year 5 Church visit (parents welcome) 1:30pm

18th March – Year 3 Roman Drama Day

21st March – F.O.O.B.S Easter Fair

25th March – Global Friends Day (non-uniform details to follow)

26th March – Austen class sharing assembly 2:45pm

27th March – End of term church visits – times TBC

30th March – 10th April – Easter Holiday

13th April – First Day Back – start of Summer term

20th April – Austen Class to Gilbert White

22nd April – Conan Doyle and Dickens Class to Gilbert White

23rd April - Nelson class sharing assembly 2:45pm

24th April – Year 4 Disco

30th April - Conan Doyle class sharing assembly 2:45pm

4th May – Bank Holiday Monday

11th-14th May 2026 Year 6 SATs tests

12th May - Year 4 Church visit (parents welcome) 1:30pm

22nd May – INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

25th – 29th May – Half Term

1st-12th June 2026 Year 4 Multiplication Tests

1st June – Brunel Class to Gordon Brown Centre

4th June – Sports Day

5th June – White Class to Gordon Brown Centre

8th June – Mitchell Class to Gordon Brown Centre

8th June – Year 3 to QMC (Class TBC)

9th June - Year 3 to QMC (Class TBC)

12th June – Reserve Sports Day

16th June - Year 3 Church visit (parents welcome) 1:30pm

18th June – Year 4 trip to Ufton Court

24th June – Year 5 trip to Costello

24th June – Year 6 Diocese Leavers Service – Winchester Cathedral

30th June - Year 5 Church visit (parents welcome) 1:30pm

5th July – F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair

13th -16th July – Year 6 Show Week

17th July – Family Picnic, joint with Old Basing Infants

20th July – Year 6 Leavers Service - St Mary's Church

21st July – Year 6 Leavers Party

22nd July – End of term Church Visits – times TBC

22nd July – Last Day of term

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.

