

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 10
30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week Year 6 enjoyed a trip to London to visit The Globe Theatre and The Tate Modern Art Gallery. This visit feeds into their learning around Shakespeare and their history unit of 'Let Me Entertain You', looking at entertainment through the ages. They had a tour of the theatre and a drama workshop, led by Shakespearian actors. It also gave us a chance to take the children to see the original Pop Art pieces at the gallery by Roy Leitchenstein and Andy Warhol ahead of their upcoming linking to this term's art unit. For many children, this was their first visit to London and they enjoyed seeing the sights of The Houses of Parliament, The London Eye, Big Ben and St. Paul's Cathedral!



On Monday we welcomed Kate from Southampton Art gallery who worked with Year 5 to create Medusa heads out of clay. She talked about sculpting techniques and the story of Medusa to support their topic on Ancient Greece.

Well done to White and Nightingale class who have entertained us with their sharing assemblies over the last two weeks. They all showed confidence and team work whilst rehearsing and performing. We believe these opportunities are really important to help develop the whole child and to develop oracy skills and confidence when speaking in front of others.



Year 4 have been out and about this week on a Geography field trip around the village looking at land use and physical and human features of the local area and Year 6 ended this week with a First Aid session introducing them to basic first aid and lifesaving skills as part of our PSHE curriculum.

On Monday in our AoW we thought about Holocaust memorial day which we commemorated with others around the world on Tuesday 27th January. The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, was 'Bridging Generations', a reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us.

All classes shared an age appropriate picture book this week and had an opportunity to discuss the themes with their teachers. We all then thought about our hopes for the next generation and used these to create a whole school Holocaust Memorial Day Display.

We were honoured to be part of the 2026 Basingstoke and Deane Council Holocaust Memorial Day service, led by Mayor Cllr Colin Phillimore, outside the Civic Offices on Tuesday afternoon. Our senior choirs sang; 'Carry the Light' beautifully and we heard readings by 2 of our pupils, Mrs Malone and Mr Gibbs. This was a very touching service and the children all represented the school brilliantly.



Talking Point!

This week's family talking point encourages empathy and values.

"Did you see or do something kind today? How did that make you feel?"

More sporting success!

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 athletics team who came second out of 10 schools at the Basingstoke and Deane indoor athletics competition held at The Costello School on Monday afternoon. This means that the team now progress to the next stage of the competition. They represented the school really well in terms of their resilience, conduct and team work - well done all!

Safeguarding

9-12 years - our children are growing up!

You are entering an exciting and important stage of your parent-child relationship. You are now more than just a parent; you are a role model! Your child is learning how to respond to all the ups and downs of daily life, how to respond to upsets and disappointments, how to manage conflict, and how to build healthy relationships with others – all by watching how you do it!

Your child is developing their independence, but they still need routines and boundaries to help them feel safe and secure. You are still their safe base – their "go-to" person when they need support, comfort and guidance. The following link to the Barnardos site contains some helpful information to support with establishing routines and behaviours with your 9-12 year old.

[Routines and behaviour | Barnardo's Family Space](#)

Russell Class Read Their Way To Marwell!

At the start of last term Russell class set themselves the challenge to collectively read their way to Marwell Zoo! They contacted the zoo when they had completed their mission and were thrilled to receive a video message from the zoo to congratulate them. Where will their reading take them next!



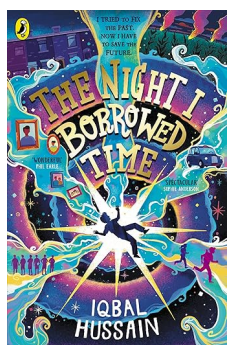
New Book Recommendations

Ages 8-12

'The Night I Borrowed Time' By Iqbal Hussain

A funny, heartbreaking and uplifting tale about family, bravery and living in the here and now, perfect for fans of Time Travelling With a Hamster and Wonder.

I'm going back in time to save this family. Eleven-year-old Zubair is a seventh son. This means a LOT of big brothers. But when Zubair's granny arrives from Pakistan and gives him a mysterious amulet, he discovers it means something else, too: he has inherited a gift. The seventh sons in his family have the ability to time-travel. With his dad a shadow of his former self since his car accident, and his mum always tired and angry, Zubair has a genius idea. He'll use time-travel to fix things between them.



Ages 5+

What's the Weirdest Thing About Animals?

Edward Brooke-Hitching and Jez Tuya

From bottom-breathing turtles to fish that live in trees, set off with Edward Brooke-Hitching on a fact-packed safari to discover the strangest, silliest and down-right weirdest things our planet's amazing animals has to offer.

Written by QI elf and author extraordinaire, the first book in Brooke-Hitching's spectacular new series is extraordinarily enlightening and seriously shareable. Both information- and humour-rich, it is a glorious treasure trove of bite-sized facts for children to either snack on throughout the week or gobble up all in one go. And with a 'Who's the Smartest?' quiz at the end of each section, this book is the perfect companion for children determined to know their barking piranhas from their purring rottweilers – and that's a fact!



Governors' Corner

As you are all aware, the school recently had the pleasure of an Ofsted inspection. I am sure that receiving the phone call on the first day back after the Christmas break was a dream come true for all the teachers, as was seeing the snow fall on the first day of the inspection!

This was the school's first inspection under the new Ofsted framework and the published report will be in a 'report card' style so the process, while familiar, was different from previous inspections. It certainly felt a collaborative experience for the whole school community. As governors, we had the opportunity to be involved during the inspection, and we were proud to see first-hand the professionalism, dedication and care shown by staff and pupils alike.

All the governing board would like to thank the school leadership team, staff, pupils and families for their continued hard work and support. Inspections are always a moment of reflection as well as validation and this experience highlighted just how much is being done across the school.

I know Mrs Lillywhite is looking forward to sharing more information once the official report is released. In the meantime, the governing body remains committed to working closely with the school to build on the current positive momentum and continue supporting our pupils' success.

Andy Grayson, Local Authority Governor, Chair of Learning and Ethos Committee

F.O.O.B.S. news

We hope all our Year 6 pupils have a fun Movie Night this evening.

Save the Date – Dare To Be Different Day. Friday 13th February 2026. On Dare To Be Different Day, children can make a donation to F.O.O.B.S. and, in return, choose a school rule to break for the day. Further details will follow.

Save the Date – F.O.O.B.S. Quiz Night. Saturday 28th February 2026. Join us for an evening of brain teasers, hot food, and fantastic prizes. Tickets go on sale today, 30th January 2026.

Old Basing Schools 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!)

Mrs Medlin (our SENCo) and Mrs Thompson (OBI SENCo) will be attending alongside the Primary Behaviour Service.

Meet us 9am to 10.30am on:

11th February

25th March

20th May

1st July



News From St Mary's Church

PANCAKE RACE FUN!

Shrove Tuesday, 17th February, 12.15 - 1.30pm

St Mary's Parish Room

Children with parents and carers are warmly invited to come along to the parish room for some pancake flipping fun (no experience needed!). This event is free of charge, with no booking needed, just turn up on the day! The event is being led by volunteers from the youth hub (*a joint venture between St Mary's and Old Basing Methodist Churches and is fully funded by The Welcome Tea Room – see below*). As well as the races there will be pancakes available to eat so do bring your friends and family and come and enjoy some Shrove Tuesday silliness together!

FLOWER FESTIVAL & OPEN GARDENS - 15-17 MAY 2026

Theme: *Parish Life with Petals*

We are delighted to announce our **Flower Festival and Open Gardens weekend**, taking place from **15–17 May 2026**, celebrating the theme “**Parish Life with Petals.**”

We would love as many gardens as possible to take part, both in Old Basing and Lychpit. Would you like to join in? Large or small, formal or informal — every garden helps make the event special. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact Debbie at

admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk ✿

THE WELCOME TEAM ROOM

St Mary's Parish Room, 1st & 3rd Friday of the month, 2pm – 4pm.

All are welcome to come and enjoy delicious cakes lovingly baked by volunteers on the first and third Fridays of each month. There are no set prices, donate if you would like to. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome (with treats available!)

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

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)

11th February – Parent & Carer coffee morning 09:00-10:30am

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

w/c 24th February – After school clubs start back this week

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

w/c 9th March – No after school clubs this week

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 – Parent & Carer coffee morning 09:00-10:30am

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

20th May – Parent & Carer coffee morning 09:00-10:30

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

1st July – Parent & Carer coffee morning 09:00-10:30

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.

