



Church of England Junior School

No: 12

27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The start of this half term has started well, all of the children have come back after the half term break eager to learn. I hope that you all got to enjoy some of the brighter and drier weather we had last week and hope that we see some more of the spring sunshine this weekend!

Year 5 enjoyed their trip to Old Basing Village Nursery this week. This was originally planned for last term for them to deliver their cards and Christmas gifts, however the very wet weather meant that it was postponed! They really enjoyed their visit yesterday and enjoyed playing with the youngest members of our community.

We are looking forward to Book Week next week to mark World Book Day. It has been great to see some of the children's wooden spoon creations coming into school already this week, we will enjoy sharing them all next week. Watch this space for our annual Book Week guess the staff challenge! We will send home the challenge each day so you can also play along at home.

We are looking forward to the year 4 French Café next week and we look forward to finding out more about the Christian festival of Lent in our Act of Worships. We are also looking forward to Year 5 heading off to QMC and a vocal festival next week involving lots of our pupils and pupils from other local schools. We have busy few weeks ahead!

Talking Point!

This week's family talking point encourages imagination, develops explanation skills and builds confidence in sharing ideas

'If you could invent one brand-new gadget to make life easier,
what would it be and how would it work?'

Attendance

As of today the school's overall attendance stands at 97.4%. Thank you again for your support in ensuring good attendance.

Parents Evenings

We are looking forward to seeing you at parents evening next week on Wednesday 11th March and Thursday 12th March. If you have not been able to book your appointment already, please contact the school office.

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day 2026

Comic Relief is approaching!

On **Friday 20th March** we will be joining many others around the country to mark this day of fundraising. We will be raising money for Comic Relief by having a 'red dress-down day'. Please can everyone come to school wearing as much red as possible, but please no permanent hair dye - in return for a donation to this great charity. A link to the Comic Relief/Red Nose Day just giving donation page will be sent out nearer the time.

Safeguarding

As the evenings are getting lighter we know that many of our older pupils will be going out to play at local parks etc. with their friends without an adult.

When children go out to play on their own, it's important for parents to ensure their safety while encouraging their independence. Start by setting clear boundaries on where they can go and establish a specific time for them to return home. Make sure they understand the importance of staying in well-lit, familiar areas and avoiding secluded places. If possible equip them with a way to contact you, such as a

mobile phone, and teach them how to respond in case of an emergency. Remind them never to talk to strangers or accept anything from people they don't know. Regularly check in with them to ensure they feel safe and confident. By taking these precautions, you can help your children enjoy their playtime while keeping them safe.

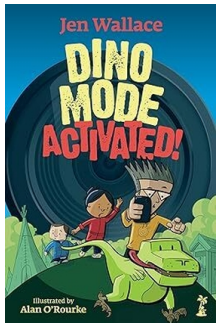
I know myself that going out to play on their own for the first time is very exciting for the children – but it can be nerve wracking for us!

New book recommendations

A Girl's Guide to Spying by Holly Webb

Reading age: 9+

When fourteen-year-old Phyl and her young sister Annie join the Girl Guides in 1915, their activities aren't seen as ladylike. But the girls enjoy tying knots, playing memory games and learning Morse Code. Then Phyl is recruited by MO5, part of the War Office and pre-cursor to MI5, to run errands and pass on messages. She's delighted to be helping the war effort, even if the Guides are supposed to exist quietly in the background. But when one of the officers goes missing, Phyl begins an investigation of her own - and uncovers a secret spy! In a London overshadowed by night-time Zeppelin raids and daily news of dreadful casualties from the front, can one young Guide make a difference to the tide of the war?



Dino Mode Activated! by Jen Wallace

Reading age: 7+

Oleg's ambition is to become an awesome internet sensation, so he's thrilled when Mum buys him a deluxe, intuitive camera. There are no user instructions in the box or buttons on the device, but the camera seems to know exactly what Oleg needs it to do.

F.O.O.B.S. News

Welcome back, we hope you all had a great half term.

Thank you to everyone supporting us for our F.O.O.B.S quiz night tomorrow, we look forward to seeing you and hope you have a great time.

Preparations for the Easter Fair on Saturday 21st March are well underway. Tickets will be on sale from Monday until 18th March while stocks last (please note: no tickets will be available on the day). We would be very grateful for donations of chocolate for the chocolate tombola, particularly Easter eggs, although any kind of chocolate would be much appreciated. Please bring them into either school from Wednesday next week (4th) until Friday 13th March.

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:

25th March

20th May

1st July

Gemma Lillywhite
Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

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

20th March – Red Nose 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 to be confirmed

30th March – 10th April – Easter Holidays

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

20th April – Austen Class to Gilbert White House & Gardens

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

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

24th April – F.O.O.B.S Year 4 Disco 5:00-6:30pm

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 – Class Photos (whole Y6 photo on 18th June)

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

18th June – Whole Year 6 Photo

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