

# St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 17  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils who completed their SATs tests last week. They all did brilliantly, stayed calm and showed a huge amount of resilience. They are now preparing for their end of year musical production – 'Disney's Aladdin Jr.' There was much excitement when the show was revealed by a visiting genie and parrot!

The school was full of the sound of music during our 'Try an Instrument' session this week – I hope that it has inspired some of our existing pupils, and those joining us in September, to sign up for lessons with the Hampshire Music Service. We are lucky to have very strong links with the Music Service which helps to enrich the experiences of the pupils here at St Mary's.

It was lovely to see so many of our younger pupils singing at the Church Summer Festival on the weekend. I hope many of you managed to pop in to see the wonderful displays including our school display 'St Mary's C of E Junior School - A School Full of Petals'. Thank you to Mrs Malone for leading this and thank you to all the families and friends who came to support the choir. We are now looking forward to watching many of our instrumentalists perform at our Summer Concert at Christ Church Chineham after half term.

**A reminder that tomorrow, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, is an INSET day.** We return to school after half term on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Finally, I wish you all a lovely break over the half term, hopefully we can enjoy some early summer sunshine and lots of time enjoying the outdoors!

## Punctuality and Attendance

Thank you for your support in getting your children to school on time ready to start learning!  
As of today the school's overall attendance stands at 97.5%.

**Only absences for very exceptional circumstances will be authorised** and 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within 100 sessions can result in a penalty notice.

## INSET Days for 2026/2027 Academic Year

The following INSET days for next academic year have been agreed with Old Basing Infant School and approved by our governors:

Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2026

Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026

Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2027

Friday May 28<sup>th</sup> 2027

Term dates for next academic year can be found following this link:

[School holiday dates | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council](#)

## New book recommendations

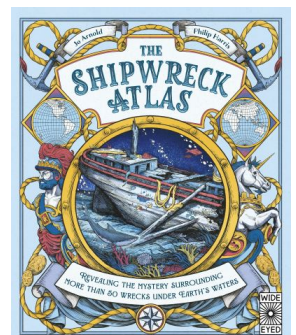
**The Shipwreck Atlas**

**By Jo Arnold**

**7+ Readers**

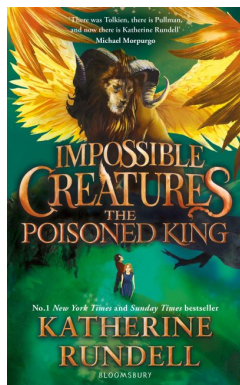
Why do ships sink? What happens to them when they do? And how are their wrecks located?

Join (the fictional) Dr Profundo and chart a course across the world's oceans, seas and lakes, revealing the mystery surrounding more than 50 of the three million wrecks that lie under Earth's waters.



A comprehensive and engaging insight into the underwater world of shipwrecks, told in compelling narrative non-fiction style by a well trusted voice in children's books.

Each spread has full bleed illustration and is annotated by the fictional explorer in charming narrative non-fiction style. Some spreads are dedicated to single wrecks and others taking in two/three/four (or more, for examples like the fleet of Kubla Khan, The Spanish Armada, Chuuk lagoon and the Tangalooma wrecks, where many wrecks are concentrated in a small area).



### **Impossible Creatures: The Poisoned King By Katherine Rundell**

In this second instalment, we follow Christopher as he is called back to the Archipelago to help Jacques save the dragons who are mysteriously dying. But, met by Naraviralas, the awesome Sphinx, they are told that Anya, the Princess of Dousha, would die without their help. Anya then becomes the emotional heart of this story, as she battles to escape murder and save her father, who is wrongly accused of killing the King, her beloved grandfather, and she and Christopher realise that their objectives are inextricably aligned, with the same villain to outwit.

### **Governors' Corner**

Last term, I had a lovely afternoon supporting the Prayer Space which had a Lent and Easter theme. Children loved filling bags with treats for the local community and reflecting on their strengths by designing colourful coasters with a positive affirmation. They thought about things they were grateful for by lighting a candle alongside writing a prayer. They also considered how they could help others in need by writing this on a 'helping' hand. One activity that proved especially popular was shredding their worries using a small shredder and coloured card, this provided a simple but effective way for many children to let go of concerns in a tangible and memorable way.

Earlier this month I came in to complete the governor monitoring forms for administering and storing the year 6 SATS papers. My visit provided a huge insight into the incredible amount of effort that goes into the SATS. I would like to thank all the teachers and support staff for all their hard work and dedication in creating an environment for our children to thrive.

*Sarah Adams - Parent Governor*

### **F.O.O.B.S. News**

We hope you all are looking forward to a great half term of sunshine and the children enjoyed their non-uniform day today. Thank you for all your Tombola donations!

If you can, please have a look over half term for any toys, games, children's books or uniform items that are no longer needed for our very popular Toys, Books and Uniform sale at the Summer Fair. Donations will be accepted on Friday 5th June between 8:15-9:00am in the carparks of both the infant and junior schools as well as the RBL carpark. Larger items can be dropped off on the day of the Summer Fair.

Pick a jar week: 8th-12th June (all week). We are asking for donations of filled jars consisting of stickers/sweets/crayons anything kids can enjoy, however please nothing that can melt.

Congratulations to Emilia O in Year 6 who was the winner of the summer fair poster competition – her design will be used to advertise this year's fair.

### **Safeguarding**

Please find attached to this newsletter this month's Safeguarding Newsletter.

This month the focus is sexism and misogyny and understanding Roblox – a platform commonly used by many of our pupils

### **Talk Point**

What ideas will you all have for this week's talk pint?

*If you could create your perfect day from morning to night, what would happen and why?*

This question will help build vocabulary (describing activities, feelings, time), encourage the use of full sentences and storytelling and help to develop listening and turn-taking skills!

### **Coffee Mornings and Parental Support**

Our half-termly coffee mornings are an opportunity for parents to get together, share ideas and challenges over a cup of coffee (and biscuits!) Join us for the last one of the year. Mrs Medlin (our SENCo) and Mrs Thompson (OBI SENCo) will be attending alongside the Primary Behaviour Service.

**Meet us 9am to 10.30am on:  
8<sup>th</sup> July**



**Gemma Lillywhite  
Headteacher**

### Dates for your Diary

**22<sup>nd</sup> May – INSET Day (School closed to pupils)**

25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May – Half Term

1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2026 Year 4 Multiplication Tests

4<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day

5<sup>th</sup> June – F.O.O.B.S Toys/Books/Uniform Collection

8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June – Pick a Jar donation week

5<sup>th</sup> June – White Class to Gordon Brown Centre

8<sup>th</sup> June – Mitchell Class to Gordon Brown Centre

8<sup>th</sup> June – Year 3 to QMC (Class TBC)

9<sup>th</sup> June - Year 3 to QMC (Class TBC)

10<sup>th</sup> June – Brunel class to Gordon Brown Centre

12<sup>th</sup> June – Reserve Sports Day

16<sup>th</sup> June – Class Photos (whole Y6 photo on 18<sup>th</sup> June)

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

18<sup>th</sup> June – Whole Year 6 Photo

18<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4 trip to Ufton Court

19<sup>th</sup> June – BPSM Rehearsals all day, Christ Church Chineham 9:30am-2:30pm

23<sup>rd</sup> June – BPSM Rehearsals all day, The Anvil 9:30-2:30pm

23<sup>rd</sup> June – BPSM Evening Performance 7pm The Anvil

24<sup>th</sup> June – BPSM Evening Performance 7pm The Anvil

24<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5 trip to Costello

24<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Diocese Leavers Service – Winchester Cathedral

30<sup>th</sup> June - Year 5 Church visit (parents welcome) 1:30pm

w/c 6<sup>th</sup> July – No after school clubs this week

5<sup>th</sup> July – F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair

8<sup>th</sup> July – Parent & Carer coffee morning 09:00-10:30

w/c 13<sup>th</sup> July – No after school clubs this week

13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Show Week

17<sup>th</sup> July – Family Picnic, joint with Old Basing Infants

20<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers Service - St Mary's Church

21<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers Party

22<sup>nd</sup> July – End of term Church Visits – times TBC

22<sup>nd</sup> July – Last Day of term

### Inset Days 2026/2027

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027