



Church of England Junior School

No: 20
10th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we rapidly approach the end of term there are lots of activities going on and it is great to see the children still focused and working hard, despite the warm temperature and end of term tiredness!

Thank you to everyone who helped to organise, run and came to support last weekend's Summer Fair, it was a great success and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the F.O.O.B.S committee and the other volunteers on the day for their tireless efforts in organising and running this event. We are really blessed to have such a hard working team of parents who put on these events for the community to enjoy and raise vital funds for our schools. Thank you F.O.O.B.S!

Year 6 have been busy! They thoroughly enjoyed planning and running their enterprise stalls and their customers enjoyed what was on offer! Thank you so much for your support with this, they have raised enough funds to enjoy some inflatables, games, food and other treats for their leavers party. Some of our pupils enjoyed watching the dress rehearsal of 'Aladdin!' today and we cannot wait for a second dress rehearsal next week ahead of their evening performances!

This week Year 5 have been busy planning, making and evaluating fajitas. They smelled amazing and I hope that they offer to cook for you this weekend!

Year 4 have enjoyed creating Egyptian sarcophagi and enjoyed planning Egyptian themed cam toys in DT this week – they look fantastic!

Year 3 enjoyed a walk to the infant school today to watch the Year 2 show dress rehearsal, they were a great audience, thank you Old Basing Infants for having us.

At the bottom of this newsletter you will see a message from Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education, about the, 'Great British Summer Savings, scheme announced last month.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week for our final full week of the year.

End of year family picnic, joint with OB infant school – 17th July 12:45pm-2:00pm

We are pleased to share plans for an end of term family picnic to mark the end of the academic year! We have enjoyed several joint events this year and these activities and links are really important for our school community and relations.

On Friday 17th July you are invited to join your child/children for lunch at the junior school.

Details will be confirmed nearer the time, but infant parents will be asked to join their infant school child/children at school at 12:30pm in order to then walk over to the junior school with their class at 12:45pm.

Junior children will meet their family on the junior school field.

Any child who does not have a parent/relative in attendance will enjoy their picnic with their class.

At the end of the picnic, children will be able to leave with their parents/carers. For safeguarding reasons **pupils will only be able to leave after the picnic with their own family – children will not be allowed to leave with any friends.** There will be no exceptions to this for pupils at either school.

Mrs Lillywhite and Mrs Denning

Year 6 Leavers Service at St Mary's Church

Parents of year 6 pupils are welcome to join us at church On Monday 20th July at 2:00pm for their final church visit. The children will leave school around 1:45pm.

End of term church visits – Wednesday 22nd July

As Year 6 will have already had their own special service they will not be visiting the church on the last day of term. Parents are welcome to attend these short services.

09:15 Mitchell, Paulet, Dickens

10:00 White, Nelson, Austen

11:00 Brunel, Wellington, Conan Doyle

If you can help to walk the children to and from the church, please contact your class teacher. Any help will be appreciated. Classes will leave school approximately 15 minutes before the start of the service times above.

Talk Point

'If you could swap places with anyone in the family for a day, who would it be?'

This question helps develop empathy and understanding. It encourages family members to see things from another person's perspective, appreciate each other's roles and responsibilities, and express gratitude for what others contribute to family life.

Keep Learning Alive this Summer!

Research suggests that some children can lose around a month of learning over the summer holidays if reading, writing and maths are not practised regularly. Just 10–15 minutes a day can make a big difference! Remember to pick up a good book, log into TTRS or Anton and write a story! There are more ideas at the bottom of this newsletter. Little and often can make a big difference.

Safeguarding/Online Safety - CapCut App

CapCut is a popular video-editing app that we know is used by many of our children to create and share short videos. While it offers creative tools, music, effects and templates that can help children develop digital skills, parents should be aware of potential risks. These include exposure to inappropriate content, pressure to share personal information, contact with strangers through linked social media platforms, and concerns around privacy and data collection. We encourage you to discuss safe online behaviour with your children, supervise app use where appropriate, and review privacy settings regularly to help ensure a positive and safe experience.

Safeguarding during the summer holidays

During the school holidays, school staff will only check their email address occasionally, this will include safeguarding leads.

- If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.
- For other serious or urgent issues, contact Hampshire Children's Services via the contact form or numbers available on this page:

[Contact children's services for yourself, friends and family or the public | Children and Families | Hampshire County Council](#)

- Children and young people can contact Childline free and confidentially on 0800 1111.
- Parents and carers can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.
- If a child or young person is struggling with their mental health, they can text YM to 85258 for free, 24/7 crisis support. Parents wanting advice can also contact the YoungMinds Parents Helpline on 0808 802 5544.

Online Safety

As we head into the summer holidays, we may find our children are online more or having more screen time. The UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has some useful guidance as to how to reduce screen times over the long summer holiday.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/balancing-screen-time-over-the-holidays-advice-for-parents-and-carers>

Summer Reading Challenge - 2026

Hampshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – Read to the Beat!

It would be great to see lots of our pupils signing up for this summer's Hampshire Libraries reading challenge. Sign up at your library or online from Saturday 11th July to Saturday 12th September.

This year the challenge theme is 'Read to the Beat!'

[Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2026! | Leisure and culture | Hampshire County Council](#)

Attendance

The most recent DfE monitoring of attendance places St Mary's 9th out of 422 schools in Hampshire, which is higher than this time last year (11th) and in the top 10% of schools in the country.

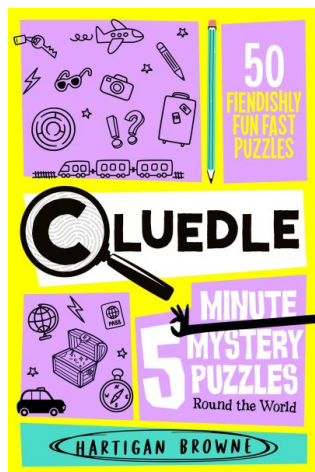
We are really pleased that our whole school attendance remains very good, thank you for your support in this. Good school attendance at primary school age provides a range of academic, social, and personal benefits, setting a strong foundation for future success. Consistent attendance helps students learn more effectively, build stronger social connections, and develop essential life skills

Our current overall attendance is 97.4%. In recent weeks we have seen fewer pupils arriving late in the mornings, thank you for your support with this.

Please make a note of the Hampshire School's term dates for next year to avoid booking holidays in term time.

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

New Book Recommendations – Books to keep you busy at home over the summer or on your travels!



Cluedle - 5 Minute Mystery Puzzles: Round the World Synopsis

By Hartigan Browne

9+ Readers

Hartigan Browne might be Britain's greatest detective but he's embarking on a global mission to learn from other private investigators around the world.

Team up with Hartigan Browne as he sets off on a global mission to learn from other super sleuths across the globe. As you travel from city to city, you'll both be put to the test with 50 mind-boggling puzzles designed to be completed in five minutes or less . . . so keep an eye on the clock!

Packed full of codes to crack, evidence to evaluate, clues to unravel and maps to navigate, Cluedle is puzzling fun for the whole family.

Full of bite-sized puzzles, Cluedle - 5 Minute Mystery Puzzles is the perfect activity book to keep budding young spies entertained on the go.

Activity Book For Kids Ages 6-8: +100 Puzzles

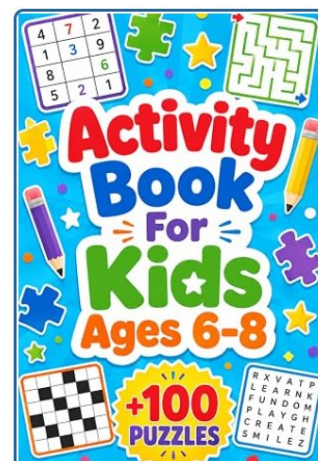
Exciting brain-teasing fun with logic, imagination, and clever surprises

by Olivia Juna

6+ Readers

Looking for a book that keeps kids happily busy while giving their minds something clever and exciting to do?

This collection is made for curious young puzzlers who love to search, solve, and discover. With a bright mix of fun challenges and surprising twists, it turns quiet time into playful brain-boosting adventure.



Governors' Corner

Last week we held our final full governor meeting for the school year. At the meeting we sought volunteers to stand for the various office holder positions, such as Chair, Vice Chair and heads of the various sub committees. We are so lucky to have not only a large governing body but one filled with experienced, diligent, keen and enthusiastic participants. Consequently, filling the various positions was all very straightforward, setting us up well for the next school year.

As a governor it is always nice to visit the school, during school hours, and to observe the normal day to day activities. I had such an opportunity a couple of weeks ago when I was asked to take some photos, of school activities, that could be used for the school website. While my presence with a large camera, in a classroom, understandably caused some excitement with the children they were impeccably behaved and continued their lessons as normal. It is always a joy to see the enthusiasm of the children in their lessons and to see the huge number of hands shoot up whenever a teacher asks a question. The children's behaviour whether it was in class, in the corridors, or engaging in outside PE lessons was exemplary.

I am sure that many of you will have attended the FOOBs school fete last Sunday. What an amazing day it was and so well organised. We are so lucky, as a school, to have an incredible organisation like FOOBs that, year in year out, makes huge donations, to both schools, to help enhance the learning experience of our pupils. I really would like to thank, on behalf of the governing body, the organisers and all the volunteers that made the fete such a massive success.

Michael Wright, Vice Chair

F.O.O.B.S. News

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful parents, volunteers, staff, and everyone who supported our Summer Fair on Sunday.

Your time, generosity, and enthusiasm made the day such a fantastic success. Whether you helped organise the event, ran a stall, donated prizes or cakes, volunteered your time, or simply came along to enjoy the day, every contribution made a real difference.

We're delighted to share an amazing provisional total for this year's fair which, thanks to your incredible support, is more than £13,600.

This is a fantastic achievement, and the money raised will go towards enhancing opportunities and resources for our children. We couldn't have done it without our amazing school community.

Gemma Lillywhite
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Dates for your Diary

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

13th -16th July – Year 6 Show Week (evening performances 14th, 15th & 16th 6pm)

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

20th July – Year 6 Leavers Service - St Mary's Church 2pm

21st July – Year 6 Leavers Party pm

22nd July – End of term Church Visits:

09:15 Mitchell, Paulet, Dickens

10:00 White, Nelson, Austen

11:00 Brunel, Wellington, Conan Doyle

22nd July – Last Day of term

Inset Days 2026/2027

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 2nd November 2026

Friday 18th December 2026

Monday 22nd February 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

KEEP LEARNING ALIVE THIS SUMMER

Research suggests that some children can lose around a MONTH of learning over the summer holidays if reading, writing and maths are not practised regularly. Just 10–15 minutes a day can make a big difference.



**LITTLE
AND
OFTEN**

**10–15
MINUTES
A DAY**



FAMILY LEARNING

READING

- Summer Reading Challenge at the library
- Read every day
- Family reading
- Audiobooks
- Talk about books

WRITING

- Holiday diary
- Postcards
- Letters
- Stories/comics
- Book reviews
- Recipes

- Nature walks
- Museums
- Maps
- Budgeting
- Scrapbook
- Board Games
- Arts and Crafts

MATHS

- Anton App
- TTRS
- Times tables
- Board games
- Cooking maths
- Shopping maths



Great British Summer Savings

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. This Government is determined to help, and that is why last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme.

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

The public are ready to get behind the scheme and are keen to take advantage of the discounts available. As trusted pillars of their communities, schools play a vital role in connecting families with important information.

This forms part of a broader effort by the Government to ease financial pressures on families. From ending the two-child limit and expanding free school meals, to rolling out free breakfast clubs and delivering 30 hours of free childcare, this Government is taking action to put more money back into parents' pockets and give every child the best possible start in life.

As part of this campaign, we have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON BRIDGET PHILLIPSON MP
Secretary of State for Education