



Church of England Junior School

No: 21
21st July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank all for your support over the last year and for your many kind messages and 'thank you's' this week. There have been many highlights which we have shared with you through our newsletters and news articles on the website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team we have here at St Mary's. Our staff go beyond for the children here, finding time beyond their working hours to support the school, for example through running clubs and attending school events. Our Ofsted inspection in January recognised what our families see every day: a caring, dedicated team who go above and beyond for every child. Inspectors noted that *"strong relationships between pupils and staff underpin a nurturing culture"*, that *"staff know pupils well and foster a culture of mutual respect"*, and that *"parents and carers consistently praise the efforts staff make to help their children achieve, belong and thrive."* They also recognised the expertise of our team, describing staff as *"knowledgeable"* with a *"secure understanding of pupils' needs and vulnerabilities"*, providing *"sensitive support"* to ensure all pupils can flourish. We are incredibly proud that the care, commitment and professionalism of our staff shone through so strongly during the inspection.

During the final full week of the term we enjoyed the Year 6 show. We thoroughly enjoyed their performances of 'Disney's Aladdin JR' they were brilliant! Everyone contributed from the actors on stage, the singing, the pupils who made all the props and those who controlled the sound and lighting - a real team effort, well done to you all! Thank you to the Year 6 staff team and Mrs Malone for pulling it altogether and thank you to Mrs Thomas for doing the choreography for the dances and Karen Ashton, one of our governors, for your help with costumes and props.

We held our annual leavers service at the Church on Monday. It was lovely to see them presented with their traditional certificates, leavers books and a bookmark with both the school and church logos which were kindly provided by the church. These were presented to each child by one of our foundation governors and church volunteer, Paul Skinner in the Bolton Chapel where the school began back in 1865.

Last Friday, we enjoyed our family picnic with the infant school. We have continued to work on joint projects and events with Old Basing Infant School this year. This has included work between subject leaders focusing on curriculum priorities. The majority of our year 3 pupils transfer from Old Basing Infant School every year, so it is really important that we have strong working relationships. Strong relationships between separate infant and junior schools can foster a sense of belonging and community for pupils which will support a positive transition to the junior school.

Yesterday, Year 6 had a great time at their leavers' party; they enjoyed their games, inflatables and ice creams! We hope they will remember this day in the future as they transition to many different secondary schools. We wish them all the very best for the start of Year 7 and know that they are ready and well prepared to move on. This morning, pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 headed to church where they enjoyed their end of term services.

We will say goodbye to Mr Rundle, Mrs Buckey and Miss Robyn in our assembly later today before they head off for new adventures or retirement! They will very much be missed, but will always be part of the St Mary's family.

Finally - I am sure you will join us in wishing miss McCluskey and her fiancé all the best for their wedding over the summer holidays. We will welcome her back in September as Mrs King!

I wish you all a happy, safe and restful summer break. We look forward to seeing you all **back in school on Wednesday 2nd September**.

First Day Back – Wednesday 2nd September

Please remember that Tuesday 1st September is an INSET day and school is closed for pupils. Term will begin on Wednesday 2nd September.

8:30am—Doors open.

8:45pm – Entrance Gate locked

8:30am-9:30am - Tea and Coffee for New Year 3 parents in the hall.

3:20pm—Year 3 Children only to be collected from the playground. (All other children to be collected at **3:25pm** as usual)

Please remember that **only year 3 parents should collect from the playground after school**. Please make arrangements to meet older children at the entrance gate or at an alternative location.

EpiPens and Inhalers return

Just a reminder that if your child has an inhaler or EpiPen, they must come in with them on the first day back over the summer and be handed to their class teacher along with any care plan that they have. They will then be registered with us through the office who will check them regularly. It would help us if you keep a note at home of the use by date and make arrangements for replacements before they become out of date.

Uniform and PE Uniform

When you are purchasing new uniform, could I please remind you that our uniform is **grey skirts, trousers or shorts and not black**.

Please also ensure that your child has a plain white t-shirt, bottle green shorts and **plain black jogging bottoms** for PE. Please remember to label all items of clothing and remember to send your child in with a waterproof jacket each day as we try to get out for movement and fresh air even if it is drizzling! We will return to school in winter uniform so shirts and ties must be worn.

PE Days 2026-27

PE days for 2026-27 will be as follows as of September:

Year 3 – Tuesday (Indoor) Friday (Outdoor)

Year 4 – Monday (Outdoor) Wednesday (Indoor)

Year 5 - Monday (Indoor) Wednesday (Outdoor)

Year 6 – Tuesday (Outdoor) Friday (Indoor)

There will be no PE lessons on the first three days back (Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th September) back, therefore all pupils need to be in full normal school uniform, including shirts and ties. PE lessons will begin on Monday 7th September

Summer Homework

Individual year groups will have set some small bits of homework to complete over the break in preparation for starting in new classes in September.

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.

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](#)



National Assessment Dates 2026-27

For parents of children in Year 4 and Year 6 next year, please make a note of the following dates for the National Multiplication Check and End of Key Stage 2 SATs.

10th -13th May 2027 Key Stage 2 (KS2) SATs (Year 6)

7th – 18th June 2027 Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)

Meet the teachers – Yrs 4,5 and 6 and parent briefing meetings

4th September 3:30pm - 4:00pm Meet the teacher – Yrs 4,5 and 6

Parents of pupils in Yrs 4,5 and 6 are invited in to briefly meet their child's teacher and see their new classrooms after school 3:30pm-4:00pm on Friday 4th September. This will be a quick opportunity for you to say hello and see the new classroom.

There will be an opportunity to find out more about the year ahead at the parents briefing meetings held at the start of the new term:

7th September Year 4 Parents Briefing Meeting 6pm

8th September Year 5 Parents Briefing Meeting 6pm

9th September Year 3 Parents Briefing Meeting 6pm

16th September Year 6 Parents Briefing Meeting inc. Calshot 6pm

Attendance

As of today, the school's overall attendance is 97.3%. Thank you for your support with securing good attendance for all over the last year.

Autumn Clubs

Autumn Clubs will start week commencing 7th September, there will be no clubs during the first three days of term. A reminder that there will be no clubs running week commencing 12th October due to Parents Evening, or week commencing 19th October as this is our Y6 residential week. Clubs will then resume for the second half of the Autumn Term week commencing 2nd November until the week commencing 30th November.

Governors Corner

As another fantastic school year comes to a close, I would like to share a huge note of thanks with our incredible teachers, support staff and wider team for their tireless hard work for the children and families of St Mary's. On behalf of the whole governing body, I also want to express our thanks to Sefton Lucas, our outgoing Chair, for his leadership. As the new Chair of Governors, I look forward to working alongside our wonderful school community in the year ahead.

Andy Grayson, Local Authority Governor and Chair of Governors.

F.O.O.B.S. News

The FOOBs Run is back on Sunday 11th October. Please see attached a flyer and see more details at [F.O.O.B.S. - Home](#)

As another school year comes to an end, we would like to say a massive thank you to all the parents, teachers and volunteers for your incredible support throughout the year. From attending events to donating and giving up your time, your support has helped us achieve so much for our schools and children. We truly couldn't do it without you.

Hope you all have an incredible summer and see you in September.

Safeguarding over the Summer- Water Safety

With many of you heading to coastal areas over the summer break, please do keep yourselves and your children safe. Hampshire has over 230 miles of coastline, rivers and lakes, and it's important that everyone knows the Water Safety Code and what to do if they should get into difficulties.

The Water Safety Code:

- **STOP & THINK** - Look for the dangers. Always read the signs and understand what they mean.
- **STAY TOGETHER** - Never go near water on your own. Always have an adult with you.
- **FLOAT** - If you fall in, float or swim on your back and stay calm. Throw something that floats to someone who has fallen in.
- **CALL** 999 or 112 - In an emergency call 999 or 112 (coastguard)

The following links will take you to some really useful resources to help everyone stay safe in the water this summer:

Float to Live Toolkit: resources for download (rnli.org)

Teach your children the Water Safety Code - Hampshire SCP

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/>

The Water Safety Code | Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK)

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/the-water-safety-code>

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 produced some useful guidance as to how to reduce screen time over the long summer holiday.

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

Thigs to do in Basingstoke over the summer!

The 'We Love Basingstoke' website has some great ideas for family friendly activities in the local area this summer!

[What's on in Basingstoke and Deane](#)

Gemma Lillywhite
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

1st September - INSET Day School Closed for Pupils
2nd September - First day of term
4th September - Meet the teacher Yrs. 4, 5 and 6 3:30pm - 4:00pm
7th September - Year 4 Parents Briefing Meeting 6pm
8th September - Year 5 Parents Briefing Meeting 6pm
9th September - Year 3 Parents Briefing Meeting 6pm
16th September - Year 6 Parents Briefing Meeting inc. Calshot 6pm

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



TRAIL & FUN RUNS 2026

10K | 6K | 2K FUN RUN

SUNDAY

11TH OCTOBER
2026

REGISTRATION
OPENS AT 9AM

ENTER NOW



[HTTPS://FOOBS.WEEBLY.COM](https://foobs.weebly.com)

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT
RECREATION GROUND,
93 THE STREET,
OLD BASING,
BASINGSTOKE,
RG24 7DA

