



Church of England Junior School

No: 1

11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for all of the information in this week's newsletter, there is always a lot to share at the start of term, please do make a drink and read to the end!

The first full week back has gone well, the children have produced some lovely work and they are being the best versions of themselves they can be! Thank you for your support in having your child ready to start the new term. Coming back to school can be a really anxious time for some pupils and we are really proud of how well they have all done this week.

All classes started the year exploring our school vision and values. We have thought about what they mean from a Christian perspective, but also importantly what they mean for those of other faiths and none. We have talked about how we can live out these values both in school, at home and in our community. We hope these values will provide a firm foundation for all we do in school.

*At St Mary's we are **One Family**; living this out takes **love, courage and creativity**.*

Our aims and values are underpinned by John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

We believe in fulfilment and excellence in all aspects of school life. We encourage individuals to be the best version of themselves academically, spiritually, socially and emotionally. Life in all its fulfilment is the gift God wants for all of us.

At St Mary's we achieve more together.

Clubs have started again this week, and it has been lovely to see pupils trying new activities and working alongside children from different classes and year groups. Our after-school clubs are not intended to provide wraparound childcare. This is provided by ACE Kids after school and Old Basing Infant School Breakfast Club before school. Our school clubs are run to enrich pupils' experiences, helping them to develop new skills, discover new interests and enjoy activities that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to try. Whether it is learning a new sport, being creative, or working as part of a team, we hope that every child finds something they enjoy.

For information about after-school childcare/wrap around provision, please visit:

ACE Kids: After School Care Clubs

<https://www.acekidsclubs.com/>

This week we held the Year 3, 4 and 5 parent briefing meetings to share information about your child's learning this year, a reminder that the Year 6 meeting is on Wednesday 16th September at 6:00pm.

This week Mitchell class have visited Old Basing House, they had a lovely afternoon exploring the ruins and taking part in a number of activities to develop their understanding of what happened there during the Civil War. Brunel and White classes are looking forward to their visit next week. We are also looking forward to welcoming volunteers from Natural Basingstoke to support Year 4 with pond dipping as part of their current Science unit of work.

Kitchen Garden: Can you help?

We are fortunate to have a lovely kitchen garden where we try to grow a variety of different seasonal things! As you can imagine this takes time and we are very grateful to the staff and relatives that have helped look after this area in the past. If you are a keen gardener and have some time to spare, we are looking for a volunteer to come in regularly to tend to this area possibly with some pupils. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Attendance Policy

Thank you so much for a fantastic start to the term in terms of attendance. Please can I remind you that holidays in term time will not be authorised and may be subject to a penalty notice. Our attendance policy on our school website.

Allergies and Benedict's Law - Nut-Free School Reminder

As a school, we are committed to being a nut-free environment. Please do not send any snacks, packed lunch items, or other food products into school that contain nuts. We have a number of children in school with severe allergies, and even small amounts of nut products can pose a serious risk to their health. To help keep all children safe, we will no longer allow children to bring sweets into school for birthdays. If parents wish to give out birthday treats, these must be distributed outside the school grounds after the school day has ended.

In addition, we will no longer be providing biscuits at after-school clubs for the same reason. If your child attends an after-school club and requires a snack, please ensure that they bring a suitable nut-free snack from home. Please see the poster at the bottom of this newsletter explaining more about Benedict's Law and what that means for us as a school.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep all members of our school community safe.

Reporting Absence

We would please ask that if your child is ill and cannot attend school that you let the school office know before the start of the school day if possible. Please note you will need to notify the school daily if your child is off for longer than a day.

Individual Photographs

On Thursday 1st October, all pupils will have their individual photographs taken. There will be **no PE lessons on this day**, therefore all pupils need to be in full, smart school uniform.

St Mary's CE Junior School - Open Days for prospective parents 2027

Do you, or do you know someone who has a child due to start Year 3 in September 2027? We will be holding two open days this term for prospective new parents. These will give you the opportunity to tour the school and see us in action, as well as an opportunity to find out more about what you and your child can expect from St Mary's from the leadership team.

This year's dates are:

Tuesday 13th October 2026, starting at 1:30pm and finishing around 3:00pm.

Wednesday 4th November 2026, starting at 9.30am and finishing around 11:00am.

If for any reason you are unable to make one of these dates, please contact the school office on 01256 465092 or adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk, and we will try our best to arrange an alternative date.

Please note that applications for places will need to be completed online through the Hampshire admissions website from 1st November and applications will close on 15th January 2027.

[Year R and year 3 applications | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council](#)

Applying for a Secondary School place Yr 7

Year 6 parents, applications are now open for applying for Year 7 places. Please remember that you need to get your applications for secondary school in by **31st October 2026**.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

Do you know anyone with a child due to start Year R in September 2027?

Old Basing Infant School will be holding open mornings on:

Thursday 24th September

Wednesday 14th October

Friday 6th November

Monday 23rd November

Please call the infant school office on 012556 325704 to book in for one of these mornings.

For more information, please contact Old Basing Infant school: adminoffice@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk

Emergency Contact Details

Please can you ensure that all of your contact details are kept up to date with the office and that we hold at least three contact numbers in case of an emergency. Email the office if you need to make any changes.

Permission Slips

When your child started at St Mary's the following permission slips and forms were completed:

- Multimedia consent form
- Group and Individual Photographs (to enable external photographers to take your child's photo)
- Email/text consent form
- Local trip permission letter
- Hampshire county council medical questionnaire

If you need to make any amendments to the permissions you granted, please contact the school office by phone or email.

Your child would have also received and signed the following:

- Pupil internet agreement (Year 5 pupils will be bringing home, during the next few weeks, a new upper school agreement to sign, please return to class teachers)

Items from home

Please do not allow your child to bring in toys, large key chains on bags, fidgets, chew toys, soft toys etc. from home, unless it has been agreed with the class teacher for specific individual need. The school takes no responsibility for items brought in from home.

Please also make sure all belongings, including uniform, is clearly named, we already have a few unnamed new jumpers in lost property!

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)

Voluntary Contribution

Thank you to everyone who has already made this payment. We have planned in a full programme of enrichment opportunities for all year groups to enhance their learning opportunities. These include visitors into school for workshops etc. and trips out throughout the school year. These are only possible through the annual voluntary contribution. If you are yet to make this payment of £35 please do so as soon as possible via SCOPAY.

Medical/Special Dietary needs

Should there be any changes to your child's health/medical needs during the year, please contact the school office so we can update our records.

Safeguarding

Please find attached September Safeguarding Newsletter which has information on returning to school and device boundaries.

A Message From The Governors

On behalf of the governing body, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all our returning pupils and staff and a special hello to the new families and team members joining our 'One Family' this year.

A huge thank you goes to the teachers and support staff who worked tirelessly over the break to ensure the school was sparkling clean, safe and ready for another fantastic year of learning.

As ever, there is so much for the children to look forward to over the coming months and at our first full governing body meeting this week (including an informal meet with all the teachers beforehand) it was great to hear how well everyone has settled - it's clear that everyone is ready and raring to go!

As governors, our main priority is ensuring every child feels safe, supported and happy so they enjoy their school life and achieve academically. Please do contact the school office if you might be interested in joining the governing board. We are incredibly proud of our vibrant school community and can't wait to see what our pupils accomplish this year.

Here's to a happy and successful year ahead!

Andy Grayson, Chair of Governors

F.O.O.B.S. news

We have lots of exciting events coming up over the next few weeks, and we'd love for you to get involved. Year Two School Disco – Friday 2nd October. Get your dancing shoes ready for what promises to be a fantastic school disco. Tickets will be on sale at the end of September.

F.O.O.B.S. AGM – Wednesday 7th October, at the infant school. Our Annual General Meeting will take place on 7th October. This is a great opportunity to find out more about F.O.O.B.S., hear about the fantastic work and fundraising that has taken place, and get involved in supporting our school community. Everyone is welcome, and we would love to see as many parents and carers there as possible!

FOOBS Fun Run – 11th October. The countdown is on for our exciting F.O.O.B.S. Fun Run on Sunday 11th October! There is still time to enter, so don't miss out on what is sure to be a brilliant day of fun, fitness and fundraising. For more information and to sign up, please visit www.foobs.weebly.com.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Every event and contribution helps us raise valuable funds and create fantastic opportunities for our children and school community. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Diary Dates

Please see below for key dates for this term. We are a very busy school so new dates are frequently added and things may have to change! Please check on each of our newsletters for any new or amended dates and do keep an eye on your Parentmail account for updates, new dates and details of events. We will aim to have all dates up on our website by the end of next week.

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 2026/2027

Monday 2nd November 2026

Friday 18th December 2026

Monday 22nd February 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

Dates for your Diary

16th Sept - White Class to Basing House

16th Sept – Year 6 Parent Briefing and Calshot Meeting 6pm

17th Sept – Brunel Class to Basing House

21st Sept – Oxenwood History Workshop Yr 4

21st Yr 6 - QMC Primary Science Centre

22nd Sept - Oxenwood History Workshop Yr 4

22nd Sept – Yr 6 to QMC Primary Science Centre

23rd Sept - Oxenwood History Workshop Yr 4

1st Oct – Individual Photographs (No PE this day)

6th Oct –Year 6 Church Visit 1:30pm (Parents of Yr 6 welcome to attend)

7th Oct – F.O.O.B.S AGM

8th Oct – Davies Sharing Assembly 2:45pm (Parents of Davies Class welcome to attend)

8th Oct – The Costello School Open Evening

11th October – F.O.O.B.S Fun Run!

13th Oct – Open Afternoon for Year 2 Parents 1:30pm

14th Oct – Parents Evening

15th Oct – Parents Evening

w/c 19th Oct – Year 6 to Calshot

22nd Oct – Wellington Sharing Assembly 2:45pm (Parents of Wellington Class welcome to attend)

23rd Oct – Be Bright To Be Seen Day

26th-30th – Half Term

2nd Nov – INSET DAY School closed to pupils

4th Nov - Open Morning for Year 2 Parents 9:30pm

5th Nov – Space Dome Yr 5

6th Nov – Year 3 F.O.O.B.S Disco

10th Nov - Year 3 Church Visit 1:30pm (Parents of Yr 3 welcome to attend)

12th Nov – White Sharing Assembly 2:45pm (Parents of White Class welcome to attend)

13th Nov – Children in Need Non Uniform Day

16th-20th Nov – Friendship Week

17th Nov - Year 4 Church Visit 1:30pm (Parents of Yr 4 welcome to attend)

16th Nov – Yr 3 Iron Age History Workshop

23rd Nov – F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market

24th Nov - Year 5 Church Visit 1:30pm (Parents of Yr 5 welcome to attend)

3rd Dec – Russell Sharing Assembly 2:45pm (Parents of Russell Class welcome to attend)

5th and 6th Dec – St Mary's Church tree festival Junior Choir to sing on 5th

11th Dec – Yr 6 Christmas Carol at the Haymarket (TBC)

15th Dec – Carol Concert at St Mary's Church 6:00pm

16th Dec – Class Christmas Parties

17th Dec – End of term church visits

18th Dec – INSET DAY School Closed to Pupils

21st Dec – 1st Jan – Christmas Holidays

4th Jan – Start of Spring term

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

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

For all Hampshire term dates please follow this link:

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

Benedict's Law

Keeping our children safe with food allergies

Safe children • Confident learners • A caring community



What is Benedict's Law?

Benedict's Law is the nickname for the updated allergy guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). It sets out the legal duties for schools to take stronger action to protect children with serious allergies, including food allergies, and to manage the risk of allergic reactions.



Why was it introduced?

Severe allergic reactions can be life-threatening. Benedict's Law was introduced to make sure all schools take allergies seriously, reduce the risk of exposure, and ensure that children with allergies can learn and thrive in a safe environment.



What does the law require?

- Clear allergy policies and risk assessments.
- Staff training and awareness of allergies and anaphylaxis.
- Safe food practices, including clear labelling and no cross-contamination.
- Emergency plans and access to adrenaline auto-injectors (where needed).
- Regular communication with parents and carers.



What has our school done to be compliant?

- ✓ Updated our allergy policy in line with DfE guidance.
- ✓ Carried out detailed risk assessments for all areas (classrooms, dining hall, trips and events).
- ✓ Ensured all staff receive regular training, including recognising and responding to allergic reactions.
- ✓ Put in place clear systems for food labelling, storage and no cross-contamination.
- ✓ Made sure we have emergency adrenaline auto-injectors and trained staff (where needed).
- ✓ Worked closely with parents to keep allergy information up to date.



Together we can
keep our children
safe



How you can help

- ✓ Let us know about any allergies or intolerances your child has (regularly update us if anything changes).
- ✓ Provide accurate information about ingredients and lunchbox items.
- ✓ Avoid sending food into school that may contain allergens (e.g. nuts, sesame, etc.).
- ✓ Talk to your child about the importance of not sharing food.
- ✓ Support us by following our school's allergy policy and food guidance.



Our shared commitment

At St Mary's Junior School, we are committed to keeping all our children safe, healthy and included. Benedict's Law helps us do this by making sure allergies are managed with care, clear procedures and the right support for every child.



Healthy, safe and happy at St Mary's

