



Church of England Junior School

No: 1

6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable summer holiday. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and they have all settled back well to the daily routines and their learning. Our new Year 3 pupils have settled in really well showing great maturity and independence. Thank you all for your support in making their transition from the infant school as smooth as possible for them.

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!

In order to share further information about your child's learning this year we will be holding year group curriculum meetings on the following dates starting at 6.00pm:

- Tuesday 10th September 6:00pm - Year 3 Information Meeting
- Wednesday 11th September 6:00pm - Year 5 Information Meeting
- Monday 16th September 6:00pm - Year 6 Information Meeting (inc. Calshot Information)
- Wednesday 18th September 6:00pm - Year 4 Information Meeting

Please do not forget that this afternoon (Friday 6th September 3:25pm-4:15pm) is 'meet the teacher', except for Russel and Wellington class. This will take place straight after school - please collect your child first and re-enter via reception.

We operate an 'open door policy'. If you have any concerns, please call or email the school office who will put you in contact with the class teacher, or please email them directly. If it is an urgent matter, please pop into the school office.

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. We are excited to see what this term will bring!

School Values

Following consultation last year with staff, parents, governors and pupils we are excited to share our three new school values and our new vision statement. All classes have started the year exploring these values and what they mean from a Christian perspective, but also 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.

Please find attached to this newsletter homework for the whole school linked to our new values!

Behaviour

We worked closely last year with pupils to unpick our behaviour policy, expectations, sanctions and rewards. It was very insightful talking to the pupils! Based on these discussions we have implemented new procedures this September.

I hope that your children have talked to you about the rewards available to them while they are at St Mary's including their class recognition boards and class points, Headteacher Awards, Star of the Week certificates and our new individual stamp cards! I know many pupils have already shown me what stationery they want to exchange their 15 stamps for when they have earned them!

We want our procedures for recognising good personal conduct and systems for addressing inappropriate behaviour to encourage our pupils to be the best versions of themselves and to give them an opportunity to reflect on their mistakes when things do go wrong.

When pupils have been spoken to about inappropriate behaviour they will be given a chance to 'turn it around' and provided with an opportunity to reflect on what they have done and what they can learn from it. If your child has made an inappropriate choice they will bring home a reflection form to share with you so that we can work together to support them in making better choices in the future. For incidents of extreme inappropriate behaviour, staff will make direct contact with parents.

It has been lovely to see how well our older pupils have responded to these changes. We know that good behaviour is central to a good education. We need to provide a calm, orderly, safe and supportive environment in which our pupils want to attend, can learn and flourish.



Attendance Policy

Thank you so much for a fantastic start to the term in terms of attendance. As we do each year, the attendance policy has been updated together with the infant school in order to ensure a consistent approach. The full policy can be found in the policies section of the website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2904&type=pdf>

Also attached to this newsletter is our annual letter about attendance from myself and Mrs Denning at Old Basing Infant School.

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.

Individual Photographs

On Monday 30th September, 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.

Open Days for prospective parents 2025

Do you, or do you know someone who has a child due to start Year 3 in September 2025? We will be holding two open days in the autumn 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:

8th October 2024, starting at 1:30pm and finishing around 3:00pm.

19th November 2024, 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 November and applications close in January 2025.

Data-checking exercise

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.

Pupil and Parent Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

We at St Mary's C of E Junior School are the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you about your child(ren) and may receive information about them from their previous school and Hampshire County Council.

A full copy of the privacy notice can be found on the school website.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies%26%23160%3B+%26amp%3B%26%23160%3BPrerequisites&pid=22>

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 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, fidgets, chew toys, soft toys etc. from home, unless it has been agreed with the class teacher for specific individual need.

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

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.

For further information on special dietary requirement and how to apply please use the following link to HC3S:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hc3s/education-catering/primary/specialdiets>

Dinner money

The cost of a school dinner is £3.20 a day, payments for lunches are to be made through SCOPAY, please ensure that your account is in credit at all times.

Free School Meals

If you think you are eligible for free school meals, please register your child by using the easy online facility which has been launched by Hampshire County Council Catering Services (HC3S). You can now check your eligibility for FSM. This self-service option is available at: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

Home learning

We will be continuing to use Google Classrooms for weekly home learning. This week homework has been sent out with this newsletter for the whole school. This platform allows pupils to see, complete and upload work which can be seen by class teachers and then necessary feedback can be given. If you have any problems accessing home learning on Google Classroom please contact your child's class teacher. Year 3 pupils will be provided with their log ins by their class teacher.

Parent Helpers

If you would like to come in to help in your child's class in the future, or help on trips, you will need to complete a volunteers' application form (which will include references) and a DBS check. Please contact the school office via email for details. We really appreciate the help we get from volunteers.

Afterschool clubs and wraparound care

After school clubs will start next week, which you will have signed your child up for last term. If your child is attending a sports club on their PE day they will not need a change of clothing, although for Football Club they will need boots and shin pads. If it is not their PE day they will need to bring in kit in a small draw string bag and change at the end of the day. The pick-up for all after school clubs is the main entrance through the reception door – please wait on the pavement outside.

The Old Basing Infant school are still running their breakfast club before school. Places are limited and need to be booked directly with the infant school. SCL are also still running their after school club there.

A message from the Governors

We are very fortunate at St Mary's to have an active and dedicated team of governors with a wealth of experience to bring to the board. Our Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They help us to run as effectively as possible, working alongside leaders and supporting teachers to provide the best possible education to our pupils.

F.O.O.B.S. news

Welcome back from F.O.O.B.S! We are very excited about the events we have in store for you this year! Starting off with the F.O.O.B.S. trail and fun runs on 13th October, head over to our website, www.foobs.weebly.com for more info and to enter! We are also in need of volunteers to help at the event too - including marshalling out on the course or helping with timing or refreshments.

Our AGM will be held at 7:30 on Thursday 10th October at the infants school. Anyone is welcome to attend with no obligation to become a committee member. It would be lovely to see some new faces!

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 parent mail 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

INSET Days for 2024/2025

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

Monday 4th Nov 2024

Friday 20th Dec 2024

Monday 24th Feb 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

Dates for your Diary

10th Sept - Year 3 Information Meeting 6:00pm

11th Sept - Year 5 Information Meeting 6:00pm

13th Sept – Year 5 to Basing House

16th Sept - Year 6 Information Meeting (inc. Calshot Information) 6:00pm

16th – 27th Sept – Harvest Collection for foodbank

18th Sept - Year 4 Information Meeting 6:00pm

23rd Sept – Year 6 to QMC (details to follow)

24th Sept – Year 6 to QMC (details to follow)

30th Sept - Individual School Photos No PE Lessons

1st Oct – Year 4 Oxenwood in school (History Day, details to follow)

1st Oct – Year 6 Church visit 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome.

3rd Oct - Year 4 Oxenwood in school (History Day, details to follow)

4th Oct - Year 4 Oxenwood in school (History Day, details to follow)

8th October – Yr. 2 parents open afternoon 1:30-3pm

10th Oct – F.O.O.B.S AGM and meeting 7:30pm

10th Oct – Nightingale Sharing Assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

13th Oct – F.O.O.B.S Fun Run

15th Oct – Year 4 Church visit 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome

16th Oct - Parents' Evening (no clubs)

17th Oct - Parents' Evening (no clubs)

21st – 25th Oct – Year 6 to Calshot

24th Oct – Paulet Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

28th Oct – 1st Nov – Half Term

4th Nov – INSET Day

5th Nov – Whole School Flu Vaccination

6th Nov – Year 5 and 6 Eucharist service 10:00am, parents/carers welcome

12th Nov - Year 3 Church visit 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome

12th Nov – Year 5 Parents Calshot Meeting 6:00pm

19th Nov - Yr. 2 parents open morning 9:30-11:00am

21st Nov – White Sharing Assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

25th Nov – F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market

26th Nov – Year 5 Church visit 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome

29th Nov -5th Dec Year 6 Bikeability (details to follow)

5th Nov – Nelson Sharing Assembly, 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

12th Dec – Dickens Sharing Assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

13th Dec – Class Christmas parties

17th Dec – Carol Concert at St Mary's Church 6:00pm

19th Dec – End of term church visits am, parents/carers welcome (details to follow)

19th Dec – Last Day of term

20th Dec – INSET Day

6th Jan – First day of Spring term