

# St Mary's

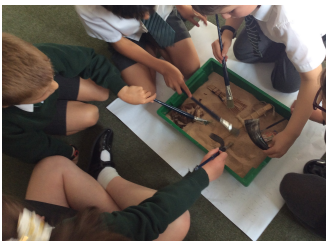
Church of England Junior School

No: 2  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first three weeks of term have been busy!

Children continue to show responsibility in school and a real enthusiasm for their learning. It was lovely to see after school clubs resume last week, our music clubs, orchestra, band and choirs have also restarted.



Year 3 have started learning about the Stone Age. They enjoyed becoming cave men for the afternoon, collecting firewood and building shelters. They have also enjoyed looking at cave art in their art lessons!

Savage Saxons is this term's topic in Year 4. They have launched their learning by becoming archaeologists and uncovering artefacts!



Year 5 have started their topic on Old Basing House and the Civil War with a visit to the ruins last Friday. They worked with visiting members of the English Civil War Society to enrich their learning experience. Thank you to the volunteer parents and relatives who helped on this trip.



Last week Year 6 enjoyed an action packed day developing their team building skills and geography skills to launch their new topic of 'Extreme Earth'. They worked as a team to build earthquake-ready structures out of spaghetti and marshmallows; played an online game called 'stop the disaster' to manage the impact of a natural disaster in a simulated computer game and enjoyed a visit from staff at our nearby RAF base to hear how they use their chinook helicopters to deliver aid to disaster areas in the aftermath of earthquakes or other natural phenomena. They were challenged to create a parachute to protect their 'relief pack' (an egg!). It was a great day with lots of excitement and fun. Thank you to those who came in to help us hold this day.

Please do check our website regularly for galleries of some of the activities going on in school and our latest news.

This week, in our Acts of Worship, we have been thinking about the value of love and putting others before ourselves. Thank you so much to all the donations that have already come in for the Basingstoke foodbank. We will continue with our collection until the end of next week. We were pleased to welcome in Rev Cannon Dodie Marseden to talk about the link we have with Katakala Primary School in Mityana, Uganda. She is off to Uganda in the next few weeks and as part of our charity fundraising we have passed on money to help her purchase a lunch for all of the children. Look out for our Global Friends fundraising activities this year.

## Values through art project: Love, Courage, Creativity

The art homework projects that have been brought in are amazing! The children have been really proud to show their ideas. Once they are all in we will create a gallery on the website to showcase their great work. Thank you parents for your help and support with these.

## Year 3 Transition Survey

We have been really impressed with how the year 3 children have settled in to life at St Mary's. They have already contributed much to the whole school with their enthusiasm for learning and in how they have embraced our school values. If you are a parent of a child in Year 3 please do complete the transition survey sent out earlier this week if you haven't already done so.

### Parent Briefing Meetings

All year groups have now held their curriculum briefing meetings. It was lovely to see so many of you attend. Information from these meetings can be found in the relevant year group section of the 'Our Curriculum' area on the school website which can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Curriculum&pid=28>

If you have any questions about the curriculum, or arrangements for your child this year, please contact their class teacher.

### Parents Evening

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October - 3.40 PM – 7.00 PM

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October - 3.40 PM – 6.00 PM

Please make sure that you have read the letter sent out yesterday about Parents Evening and book your appointment when they open on Monday.

### Trees

Unfortunately we have had some damage done to three trees on our school site out of school hours. These three beautiful, large established trees will now have to be felled. The trees have been deliberately ring barked using an axe or some kind of saw. This damage has been reported and the trees will be removed. If you live close to the school site and notice anyone on site over the weekends or in the evening, please do report it and let us know. Whilst we await



for them to be felled, an area of the school field will be kept out of use as a precaution. It is really sad to see these trees go and there will of course be budget implications for their safe removal.

### Medical Conditions

Please make sure that you inform the office of any new medical conditions, medications or treatments that your child is having so that we can keep our records up to date.

### Drop off

It is great how quickly our new pupils have confidently said their goodbye's at the gate in the morning. We do now ask for all parents to now leave your child at the gate in the morning, unless there has been a prior arrangement, so that we can limit the number of adults on site. If there is any problem, please speak to a member of staff at the gate or come to reception. There are usually 3 members of staff at the gate in the morning, if nobody is there when you arrive it is likely that we have had to support a pupil in and someone will be back!

### Parking

Thank you to everyone who is parking considerately in the local area during drop off and collection, please do avoid parking on footpaths.

### 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](mailto: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.



### **Attendance**

Currently the whole school attendance stands at 97%. Thank you to the vast majority of you who are managing to get your child to school on time this really supports children to settle in to the day and be ready for both the register and to start learning at 8.50am.

Please do ensure you have read the latest attendance guidance from Hampshire County Council sent out earlier this week.

### **Parent Helpers**

If you would like to come in to help in your child's class in the future, or you maybe want to help on future 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.

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**

16<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Sept – Harvest Collection for foodbank

23<sup>rd</sup> Sept – Year 6 to QMC (details to follow)

24<sup>th</sup> Sept – Year 6 to QMC (details to follow)

30<sup>th</sup> Sept - Individual School Photos No PE Lessons

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13<sup>th</sup> Oct – F.O.O.B.S Fun Run

15<sup>th</sup> Oct – Parents Coffee morning 09:00-10:30am

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

16<sup>th</sup> Oct - Parents' Evening (no clubs)

17<sup>th</sup> Oct - Parents' Evening (no clubs)

21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – Year 6 to Calshot

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

25<sup>th</sup> Oct – Be Bright To Be Seen Day (non uniform day – wear something bright)

### **28<sup>th</sup> Oct – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – Half Term**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Nov – INSET Day**

5<sup>th</sup> Nov – Whole School Flu Vaccination

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

6<sup>th</sup> Nov – Year 6 Weighing & Measuring (pm)

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

12<sup>th</sup> Nov – Year 5 Parents Calshot Meeting 6:00pm

15<sup>th</sup> Nov – Bags2School (further details to follow)

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

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

25<sup>th</sup> Nov – F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market

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

29<sup>th</sup> Nov -5<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 6 Bikeability (details to follow)

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Parents Coffee morning 09:00-10:30am

5<sup>th</sup> Dec – Nelson Sharing Assembly, 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

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

13<sup>th</sup> Dec – Class Christmas parties

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

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

19<sup>th</sup> Dec – Last Day of term

#### **20<sup>th</sup> Dec – INSET Day**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Jan – First day of Spring term**