

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 3

4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week Year 4 have enjoyed a visit from Oxenwood education centre and a real life Anglo Saxon! They enjoyed cooking bread on an open fire, making a torque and learning how to go into battle as a team!



Last week Year 6 visit the primary science classroom at Queen Mary's College, they enjoyed learning more about digestion.

Year 6 headed to church on Tuesday for their termly year group church visit, thank you to all the parents and relatives who walked down with them for their service.

We are looking forward to our first sharing assembly of the week, I am sure Nightingale class will entertain us all! We are also looking forward to our Year 3 Iron Age day and Year 4's visit to the church on 15th October.

Harvest Food Bank Collection

On behalf of the Basingstoke Food Bank we would like to say thank you for all of your kind donations to our harvest collection. We were able to donate an amazing 352Kg of items to support people in our local community. Thank you to one of our parents, Mrs Baldwin, who transported all of our donations to the foodbank for us again this year.

Applying for a Secondary School place Yr 7

Please remember that you need to get your applications for secondary school in by **31st October 2024**.
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

Wool and Colouring Books!

The children are enjoying using our courtyard area for quiet activities at lunchtimes. Finger knitting has become quite a craze! If you have any unwanted balls of wool hidden in a cupboard at home, we would be grateful for any donations. Colouring is also popular if you have any colouring books that are no longer wanted.

Sharing Assemblies, Church visits and other events

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that you are welcome to attend your child's class sharing assembly and year Group Church Act of Worships. Dates for these are advertised in our newsletters and take place throughout the year. Class Sharing Assemblies are held in the school starting at 2:45pm. Year Group Church visits, which you are also welcome to attend, take place at 1:30pm at St Mary's Church.

We also warmly invite any parents to join us for our termly Eucharist services held in school for pupils in Yr. 5 and 6 (parents from Yr. 3 and 4 are welcome to attend these too) and these dates will be included in our calendar dates.

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.

Lost Property

Despite it only being 5 weeks into the term we already have a large amount of lost property. Please do send your child to have a look if they have lost anything and please do make sure all personal items are named.

Safeguarding updates – NSPCC Parents Page

This link to the NSPCC website will take you to lots of information for parents, from how to support your children with friendship fall outs to talking to children about the breakdown of marriages and adult relationships. Navigating the challenges of parenting is always tricky, resources on this website can be really useful in a variety of situations.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

Time to Shine Day – 'Be Bright To Be Seen'

On Sunday 27th October British Summer times ends and sadly those clocks will go back. On Friday 25th October we are having a 'Be Bright to Be Seen' day in school and we would like the children to come to school dressed as brightly as they possibly can – what would you need to wear to be seen safely out walking or cycling during the darker evenings? If year 6 pupils want to take a bright outfit to Calshot to wear on that day that would be great!

In school each class will talk about and complete activities about keeping safe on the streets. Year 6 will cover these important messages with their classes when they return from Calshot.

We look forward to seeing St Mary's full of colour – the brighter the better!

Coffee Mornings

Parent and Carer Coffee Mornings

Our half-termly coffee mornings are an opportunity for parents to get together, share ideas and challenges over a cup of coffee (and biscuits!)

Miss Bunkle (our SENCo), Mrs Alvarez (our ELSA) and Mrs Squire (Behaviour Support LSA) are also on hand to chat about issues.

Meet us 9am to 10.30am on:

Tuesday 15th October
Tuesday 3rd December
Tuesday 4th February
Tuesday 1st April
Tuesday 20th May
Tuesday 8th July



F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! We have a busy week coming up! Thursday 10th Oct we will be holding the AGM at 7:30pm at the Infants school. All welcome! Friday 11th Oct sees our first school disco of the year for the year 2s. Tickets will be on sale on Monday, see email coming out ASAP for further details. Dates for all years' discos have been set, please see the schools' calendars. On Sunday 13th Oct we have the annual Trail and Fun Runs. Advanced entries close on Friday 11th at 10pm. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we would be extremely grateful for donations of cakes, homemade or shop bought. They can be brought down to the tearoom at the Rec on the day. If you are able to provide any 'free from' cakes, this would also be appreciated as we have a number of children who have allergies. In addition, please avoid any nuts or nut-based ingredients. If the baked goods are homemade, please include a list of ingredients for those with allergies.

Attendance

At the end of September whole school attendance was 97.3%. Here at St Mary's Junior School we want to ensure every child has the best chance to be successful and we therefore value high attendance. We closely monitor the attendance of all pupils regularly and contact parents when necessary to offer support.

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

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 – Parents Coffee morning 09:00-10:30am

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

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

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

6th Nov – Year 6 Weighing & Measuring (pm)

8th Nov – F.O.O.B.S Year 3 disco 5:00-6:30pm

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

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

15th Nov – Bags2School (further details to follow)

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)

3rd Dec – Parents Coffee morning 09:00-10:30am

5th Dec – 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