

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 4
18th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see the school and local community come out in force last Sunday for the annual F.O.O.B.S Trail and Fun Runs. Well done to everyone who entered and thank you to all those who helped organise the event and those who volunteered on the day. Without the very hard working committee, these events would not be possible and the schools would not benefit from the donations F.O.O.B.S are able to make. This year some of the money raised by F.O.O.B.S will help to improve our courtyard areas.



Last week Mrs Denning (Headteacher Old Basing Infant School) and I attended the F.O.O.B.S AGM. It was great to reflect on all the events held last week and an opportunity for us to thank the committee for all their hard work and commitment to the organisation. F.O.O.B.S is a really important and valued part of the school community and all that they do is appreciated.

Teachers enjoyed meeting with you all during parents' evening this week. It was lovely for them to share your child's achievements so far. Please do contact your child's teacher if you ever have any concerns, do not wait until the spring parents' evening.



The Year 6 corridors were full of wonderful smells this week as they planned and made their own vegetable soups. They all enjoyed this unit of work and many tried things that they hadn't eaten before.

Year 3 enjoyed their Iron Age day on Wednesday learning more about this period of history through sharing artefacts and taking part in warrior training!

Thank you to the parents who were able to accompany Year 4 to church for their Act of Worship on Tuesday afternoon, your support is really appreciated.

Next week Year 6 are off on their residential trip to Calshot activity centre. I am sure that for many (myself included) this weekend will be full of last minute packing! We are looking forward to making lots of memories. May I take this opportunity to thank all of the staff and one of our governors, who will be accompanying them on this trip.

Let's hope that the final week of this half term will continue to be drier than it was earlier in the term!

Courtyard Improvements

We are working on improvements to the courtyard which is now used for quiet playtimes, reflection and outdoor learning opportunities. We have kindly had an offer of help with some repointing that is needed, this is much appreciated. We are currently in the process of sourcing new seating, decorative pebbles, signage and planting – watch this space for these changes!

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>

Open Morning for Year 2 Parents

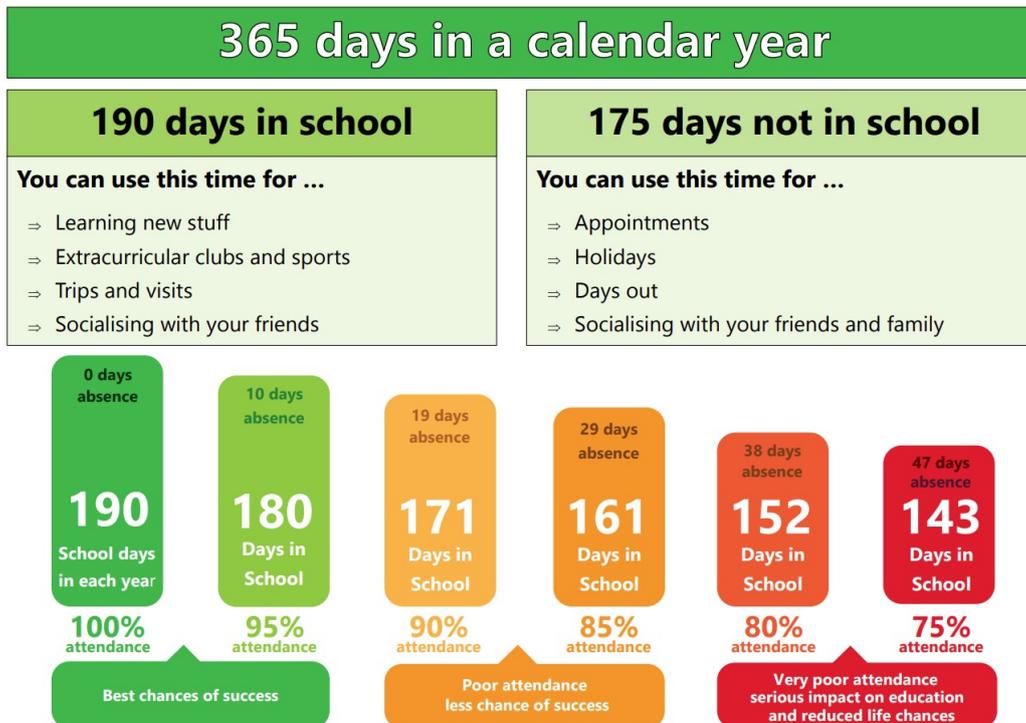
We will be holding a second Open Morning for prospective new parents on 19th November 2024, starting at 9.30am and finishing around 11:00am

This will give you the opportunity to tour the school, see us in action and a chance to find out more about what you and your child can expect at St Mary's.

Please note that applications for places need to be completed online through the Hampshire admissions website and applications for Year 3 places close in January 2025.

Attendance – it matters!

During parents evening you will have been given your child's latest attendance report. Good school attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment nationally at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.



Junior Road Safety Officers – JRSO's

I am pleased to announce our new Junior Road Safety Officers for this year– George, Elliot, Hattie and Charlotte. They have undertaken their on-line training with Hampshire County Council this week. We will be meeting once they return from Calshot, to share their ideas for things we can do within our school to support all of our community to be safe out and about on our roads.



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 – led by our new JRSO's.

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

School Dinners

A reminder that dinner money should be paid in advance through SCOPAY, please try to keep your balance up to date

After half term, there will be a new dinner menu, further details about this will be sent out next week!

Governors' Corner

The school is a community within itself. It is also part of a wider community, that being the village and catchment area.

Alongside being a governor I am involved in a number of other village organisations; the Archery club, the village show and a Men's breakfast group. Using these other activities as a lens, I see the valuable contribution the school (children, staff and parents) makes to the wider community through its involvement in a range of activities involving these organisations.

Some examples are:-

- This year's Church flower festival, the Men's breakfast provided their usual BBQ and other refreshments and Mrs Malone led the school choir performance in the church.
- At the Village show in September, Mrs Lillywhite gave the prizes to the winners.
- At last weekend's F.O.O.B.S fun run, the Archery club helped by providing metal pins to support barrier netting. In this small way the club was able to support this fantastic event.

F.O.O.B.S are a tremendous asset to both of the schools, arranging fund raising events that engage with the community. My thanks go out to everyone involved in running F.O.O.B.S and for all your fund raising efforts. The school has an important role to play within the community and it does that in many ways. Please carry on supporting the school and its contribution to our thriving wider community.

Phil Jubin, Foundation Governor

Safeguarding updates – Snapchat

Although the minimum age for having this App is 13, we are aware that many of our older pupils are using Snapchat. Snapchat is a popular messaging app that lets users exchange pictures and videos, called snaps, that are meant to disappear after they're viewed. The essential function is to take a picture or video, add filters, lenses, or other effects, and share it with friends.

Follow this link to find out more about Snapchat - Is Snapchat safe for kids? How does it work? And what's with Snapstreaks? Everything curious parents need to know about this ultra-popular app.

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-snapchat>

F.O.O.B.S News

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! Once again the Trail and Fun runs were a huge success! We had a record turnout and weren't we lucky with the weather! A BIG thank you to the runners, volunteers and organisers. Final results for the 10k and 6k runs and the event photos have now been published and are available on our website, along with a brief event summary <https://foobs.weebly.com/2024-trail-and-fun-runs-results.html>. We will, of course, announce the amount raised once we have the final figures.

After half term we have more exciting events for the children! Could you please bring in donations for the Christmas Markets during the week of 5th - 8th November. At the Christmas Markets the children have the opportunity to purchase a gift for two loved ones from the selection donated. Monetary donations are also gratefully received to enable us to purchase further gifts. The year 3 disco will be held on 8th November, ticket information will be sent out by email soon. Finally, we have a Bags2school collection booked for 15th November. Further details of what is accepted and drop off points will be sent by email in due course.

Children in Need 2024

We will once again be supporting the Children In Need Appeal with a non-uniform day on Friday 15th November. We would love to see as many people as possible celebrating the charities spotty theme by being 'SPOTacular'. Can you create your spottiest outfit to support this great charity?

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 3rd December

Tuesday 4th February

Tuesday 1st April

Tuesday 20th May

Tuesday 8th July



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

21st – 25th Oct – Year 6 to Calshot

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)

7th Nov – Space Dome for Year 5 (in hall)

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

11th-15th Nov Friendship week

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)

15th Nov – Children in Need (non uniform day)

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

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

18th Dec - Class Christmas parties

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

8th January 2025 – Year 5 Swimming starts