



Church of England Junior School

No: 5
25th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of our first half term! I hope that you all have a lovely half term break and I look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 5th November, please remember Monday 4th November is an INSET day.

This week Year 6 have been in Calshot for their residential trip. I was able to spend the first half of the week with them before swapping with Mr Gibbs on Wednesday night. They have had a great time learning new skills and they have made many lasting memories. Many have overcome fears and pushed themselves to try new things – the biggest challenge for most was making their own beds! Thank you parents for supporting your child and sending them on this trip, it really is a great experience for them. Thank you to all of the staff and Mr Grayson, one of our governors, for giving up their time to accompany the children on this trip.

Don't forget that the clocks go back on Sunday 27th October. This means that as well as dark mornings we will start to see the evenings getting darker as well. Our 'Be bright to be seen day' today reminded the children about being visible when out and about. As parents, you may want to back this up with some further road safety work with your children over the holidays. Please also keep yourselves safe. Below are some links you may find useful to share with your children:

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Have a good break everyone!

Applying for a Secondary School place Yr 7 - FINAL REMINDER

Reminder that the deadline for applications for year 7 places is 31st October. Applications received after the closing date will not be processed until after all on-time applications have been considered.

Safeguarding – Safety over half term

Please take care over the half term holiday, take care if your children are out 'Trick or Treating' over Halloween or if you are planning a firework display over the final weekend of half term ahead of November 5th.

Please share this message from our Junior Road Safety Officers with your children:

'Over half term, remember to wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter. Wear bright clothing whenever you're out and about and remember to stop, look, listen and think when crossing the road.'

Elliott, Hattie, Charlotte and George.

Sporting Competitions

It has been a great sporting month at St Mary's with a variety of competitions and tournaments starting. Firstly, a team of boys and two teams of girls competed in the Team Table Tennis tournament. They showed our school values, playing valiantly against the many other teams, the boys' team achieving a bronze medal and the girls' A team achieving a silver medal and qualifying for the County Final taking place in December. We have also seen the netball, football and rugby leagues starting. So far, the boy's football team secured a 2-0 win over Fairfields and the netball team started with a good win! Our year 5/5 rugby team started with a win, a draw and loss against the three teams in their league. All children have represented St Mary's brilliantly and we look forward to more sporting success over the next term.

Anton

By now, we are hopeful that the children have been talking about our new maths App – Anton. All children will have their login details in their reading records. The app is designed to be simple and easy to use – with a list of subjects in the top left hand corner and then year groups to click on. The children can play on different short activities that have either been set as homework or that can be played at home. In the 'Group' tab at the top, the children will find any homework they have been set. The app is available to download on phones and iPads and useable on the Internet.

The children have enjoyed completing the short tasks to earn coins. They can then spend those coins to play games. If you have any questions about Anton, please speak to your class teacher.

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?

Remembrance

As usual, we will be supporting the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Children will be able to buy poppies and various other items from after half term, we will send out further details when we have them. We will be arranging for representatives from our school to lay a wreath at St Mary's Church and at the War Memorial in town as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations.

As a school, we will be marking Remembrance Day as usual on the 11th November with a special assembly and a minute's silence.

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



F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! Tickets for the year 3 disco to be held on Friday 8th November are on sale today! Please visit www.foobs.weebly.com to purchase. We're already looking ahead to the run up to Christmas. You will hopefully have seen an email giving you details of the Christmas Markets. Please bring donations of gifts suitable for adults, or a financial contribution to enable F.O.O.B.S to purchase gifts, in the week of 5th November, the first week back after half term. We will be selling Letter to Santa Kits again this year! More details will be available after half term. Hope you have a great half term!

Attendance

At the end of this half term, whole school attendance was 97.6%. 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.

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 this 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

28th Oct – 1st Nov – Half Term

4th Nov – INSET Day

5th Nov – Whole School Flu Vaccination
5th-8th Nov – F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market donations into school
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, wear something spotty)
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