



Church of England Junior School

No: 6
8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely half term break, it was lovely to have some dry weather at last to get out and about in – let's hope it continues!

This week started with an INSET day here at St Mary's. As part of staff professional development we had a training day led by an English advisor from Hampshire Improvement and Advisory Service (HIAS) who supported staff in planning for the progression and improvement in outcomes in writing across the school.

On Wednesday we welcomed Reverend Jo and members of the St Mary's congregation to our termly Eucharist series for Years 5 and 6. This term the focus was on Remembrance. Well done Year 5 and 6 for being so sensible during this special service, your behaviour and conduct was praised by many of our visitors. It was lovely to see so many parents at this service.

Year 5 enjoyed a visit from the Science Dome on Thursday. Each class visited the dome to find out more about space and the planets to launch their new topic, it was lovely to hear them talking about what they learnt after.

Please do make sure you make a note of dates from our newsletters and keep an eye out for messages and forms on Parent Mail – we are a busy school with lots going on. We are looking forward to a fun and productive half term ahead!

Spotlight Christmas Toy Appeal

Once again this year we are supporting Spotlight's Christmas Toy Appeal by being a collection point to help ensure that as far as possible, all children in our local area receive a present this year. Items do need to be new and unwrapped. We are collecting donations up until Thursday 5th December.

Please spread the word around different organisations and work places as anyone can use the school as a donation hub. Thank you to those of you who have already donated items, the boxes are already filling up!

Remembrance

Alongside Old Basing Infant school we have arranged for representatives from the school to lay wreaths 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 on the 11th November with a special assembly and a minute's silence.

Friendship Week and Odd Socks Day

The week commencing 11th November is our annual Friendship Week which coincides with National Anti-Bullying week. This year we will incorporate Odd Socks day on Tuesday 12th November to celebrate the fact that we are all unique. You do not need to buy anything special or donate money for this event – just look in your odd socks drawer at home! During the week pupils will take part in a wide range of activities about Friendships and Anti-Bullying. We will also share a break time with Old Basing Infants which was great fun last year!

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? Donations can be made to Children in Need

Governors' Corner

Soup's Up!

I am fortunate to be both a Foundation Governor and a regular volunteer at St. Mary's. It gives me the opportunity to see first-hand how year five and six pupils are learning and developing, expertly guided by their teachers on a multitude of educational activities.

Before half term, I spent a morning with a year six group involved in a great example of the diverse design and technology experiences used to enrich the pupils learning. What fun they had learning to make soup! Having designed and chosen their unique soup flavour, and listened to the safety guidance, they worked in pairs preparing the vegetables – a wide range of ingredients were available - bell pepper, carrot, celery, chillies, parsnip, potato, onion, sweet potato, and more – certainly the opportunity to “eat a rainbow” for some!

Although many of the pupils had no experience of chopping fresh vegetables, some proudly talked about helping parents or grandparents in the kitchen or making food at scouts, and their culinary skills were all the better for this prior experience.

Once the vegetable selection was prepared, they worked under supervision to cook the soup, adding additional ingredients, stock and a variety of seasoning choices. Many enjoyed tasting their recipe which also gave them information for their evaluation, in particular thinking how they could improve their soup recipe.

Hopefully some will have subsequently had the opportunity to practice what they learned outside school to tempt your taste buds!

Karen Ashton

Foundation Governor

Safeguarding update – Parenting Support

Balancing the various demands as parents we have to cope with isn't easy and all of us can come under pressure or stress from time to time. Please see the following information from Family Lives.

Online Parenting Courses - Family Lives

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>

Family Lives offers a confidential and free* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice. (* Free from landlines and most mobiles)

Health and Safety - Timber Trail and Woodland Area

Younger siblings must not use the Timber Trail or play in the woodland area while they are waiting for older siblings to come out of classes. We ask that all children brought onto our site are supervised by an adult at all times for their own safety. Thank you for your support in this.

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! Thank you very much for all of your donations for the Christmas Markets! If you have forgotten to bring them in we will be collecting from the schools on Monday so please still bring them. Our Letter to Santa Kits are on sale today! Please see separate email with details. Our Bag2School collection is scheduled for next Friday, 15th November. Drop off points will be at the Infants School and RBL car parks. Details of evening drop off points and items that can and cannot be donated can be found in the email sent just before half term. Finally, we hope the Year 3s have a fantastic time at their disco this evening!

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



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:

Friday 20th Dec 2024

Monday 24th Feb 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

Dates for your Diary

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 collection

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

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