

# St Mary's

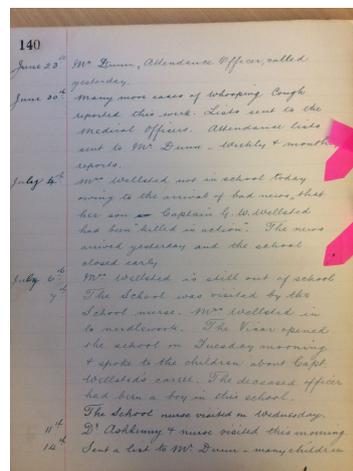
Church of England Junior School

No: 7  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to the families who represented the two Old Basing Schools at Remembrance Sunday Services. Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in town and at St Mary's Church.

In school the pupils were amazing observing the two minutes' silence on Remembrance day. During a special Act of Worship on Remembrance Day we thought about Captain J.G. W. Wellsted, a former pupil of the school and the son of two teachers here. Our school log book from 1915 states: "*July 4<sup>th</sup>, Mrs Wellsted not in school today owing to the arrival of bad news that her son, Captain James G. W. Wellsted had been "killed in action". The news arrived yesterday and the school closed early.*" The author was the husband of Mrs Wellsted and the father of James. Devastating news for the parents who were both in the employment of the school. His name lives on as part of the Old Basing war memorial today & in the hearts of the school community and a local family.



Last week saw our annual 'Friendship Week' at St Mary's to mark national Anti Bullying Week. Pupils took part in a wide range of activities around friendship and anti-bullying. On Odd Socks Day there were many brightly coloured socks on show! Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week and is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves, and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! The theme of the national Anti Bullying Week this year was 'Choose Respect' a phrase that has been talked about a lot in school.

The whole school enjoyed a joint playtime with the infant school last Wednesday. Half of our pupils made their way across to the infant school and half of them came to us. It was lovely to see our Year 6 pupils playing so sensibly with the younger children. We look forward to doing the same later in the year.

Last Friday the school was full of spots to raise money for Children in Need, thank you for your generous donations. Our fundraising total currently stands at £540, well done St Mary's. Donations can still be made by following this link:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1731343681979?utm\\_campaign=lc\\_frp\\_share\\_transaction\\_fundraiser\\_page\\_donation\\_received\\_-\\_nth\\_donation&utm\\_content=287cea23-5e15-4894-afb2-354a7f6c091b&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=postoffice&utm\\_term=1731710947310](https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1731343681979?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_donation_received_-_nth_donation&utm_content=287cea23-5e15-4894-afb2-354a7f6c091b&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1731710947310)

It was lovely to see so many parents, relatives and friends in school yesterday to watch White class's sharing assembly. They entertained us with their acting and musical skills. It was lovely to see how confident they were to perform in front of a large audience and I know Mr King was proud of how they worked so well as a team to plan and rehearse their show!

Finally we have enjoyed the first week of our Autumn Term Prayer space this week. Children have enjoyed a range of reflective activities. During Prayer Space pupils have an opportunity to think about themselves those close to them and those in the wider world. They will all get a second chance to visit next week – children we have ordered a new badge maker for you to use next week!

*'Prayer Space is very calming, I liked making my badge!'* Charlie Year 4.

*'I liked my time in Prayer Space because it was glowing and it was calming.'* Bella Year 3

*'I like it when we have Prayer Space because it's really fun and it's exciting. When I am in Prayer Space I feel Happy.'* Jack Year 6



### **Spotlight Christmas Toy Appeal**

A reminder that we are supporting Spotlight's 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. Donations can be brought into school until 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please do spread the word around different organisations and work places as anyone can use the school as a donation hub. Thank you to those who have already donated, thank you for your generosity.

### **Year 5 Parents Calshot 2024 Information**

If you were unable to attend the recent information evening about the 2025 Year 6 Calshot residential trip, please follow this link for details.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Years+5+%26amp%3B+6&pid=30>

You should have received a later with payment details. Please speak to the school office if you have any questions about this trip.

### **News from our Junior Road Safety Officers**

On Monday we led a short assembly on road safety, after this children were given a Road Safety Quiz! If they want to be entered into our first prize draw please return it to the tray at the office before November 29<sup>th</sup>. Remember to put your name on it!

Also remember to wear your helmets on your bikes and scooters.

Hattie, Georgie, Charlotte and Elliot

### **Governors' Corner**

All the year 6 parents should be extremely impressed with their children after a tremendously successful residential trip to Calshot last half term. Were there times I wondered why on earth I had agreed to go? Yes there were. Did I enjoy being woken up at around 4.00am on the first morning? No I did not. However, it was great to see the children throwing themselves into both the activities and also the challenges that come

with being away from home on a week-long trip. Some children were understandably nervous of this and should be incredibly proud of how bravely and maturely they dealt with it. Well done Year 6! A huge amount of behind the scenes planning and preparation goes into taking children on trips like this, let alone the round the clock nature of residential for the staff that attended. A huge thank you needs to go to the staff that went and worked hard to make sure the children had such a fantastic time (and apologies again to my group for the blatant disregard I showed towards the queuing system in the dining hall but there was absolutely no way I was waiting with them all the way at the back!)  
*Andy Grayson, Parent Governor*

### Safeguarding update – Mobile Phones

Those of you with children in the upper school may be in the position where you are thinking about getting your child a phone for Christmas! It is always difficult to know when it is the right time and everyone's circumstances are different.

The following page from the UK Safer Internet Centre has some useful advice for parents and carers:  
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones>

### Health and Safety

Please can you ensure that nuts are not brought into school in packed lunches. We have some pupils in school with serious nut allergies. Thank you for your support with this.

Please can we also remind you that no children should be on the timber trail or playing in the woodland area after school, this includes younger siblings.

### Christmas Events

Yes it's only November, but the festive season is fast approaching so here are a few dates for your diaries! Please do read and take on board all of these dates and arrangements for our festive celebrations especially if this is your first St Mary's Christmas! (Parents/carers of pupils involved in the various choir and orchestra events have already been sent information about these, the dates for these concerts can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.)

- **FO.O.B.S Christmas Market**

We are excited to once again hold the F.O.O.B.S Christmas market on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November, information has already come out about this from F.O.O.B.S. Thank you for all the donations made for this event.

- **Carol Concert**

We are currently working on putting together our annual Christmas Carol Concert which will be held in the church on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm, we look forward to welcoming you to this special service. All are welcome to attend.

- **Christmas Cards**

The children at St Mary's have traditionally loved using our Christmas post boxes to post cards to friends and staff. The Christmas post boxes will be out from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from which date cards can be brought in to post. Please make sure that envelopes are marked with full names and classes to help our Year 6 elves deliver them!

- **Christmas Parties**

All classes will have their Christmas party during the afternoon of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We ask for children to bring in their own individual small box/bag of 'party food' for them to enjoy during the party. Please note this is in addition to their normal packed lunch or school dinner.

This day will also be a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day and we look forward to seeing lots of festive attire.

- **Christmas Dinner**

Finally, thank you for returning your children's Christmas dinner orders already. Our annual Christmas lunch will be held on the last day of term, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July



### F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! Thank you for your orders of Santa Letter Kits. A bumper year this year! They will be sent home with children next week. We collected a whopping 540kg last Friday for Bag2School! Thank you to everyone who donated!

Next week we will be holding our much anticipated Christmas Markets! Monday for the Juniors and Friday for the Infants. The children will be able to purchase a maximum of 2 gifts for £2.50 per gift. Please send money into school with your child in a named envelope. We hope you are excited to see what your child will choose for you!

And finally, we've totted up the numbers following the Trail and Fun Runs held in October. We had a record number of runners and a record profit of over £3600! A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event as either a volunteer, a runner or a parent.

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

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

29<sup>th</sup> Nov -5<sup>th</sup> Dec Year 6 Bikeability

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Year 5 Church visit 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome- **CHANGE OF DATE**

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

7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Junior Choir at St Mary's Church 11:30am

8<sup>th</sup> Dec – Orchestra Xmas Concert at Milestones 10:15am

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

15<sup>th</sup> Dec – Senior Choir at Winchester Xmas market 1pm

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

18<sup>th</sup> Dec - Class Christmas parties 1:30pm (non uniform/Christmas jumper day)

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 2025 – First day of Spring term**

w/c 6<sup>th</sup> Jan – Spring term after school clubs start

8<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 5 Swimming starts

14<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 6 Church visit 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome

15<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year 5 Swimming

16<sup>th</sup> Jan – Mitchell class sharing assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

17<sup>th</sup> Jan – F.O.O.B.S Year 5 Disco, 5:00-6:30pm

21<sup>st</sup> Jan – Year 6 SATs information evening 6pm

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan – Year 5 Swimming

23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Russell class sharing assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

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

29<sup>th</sup> Jan – Year Swimming

30<sup>th</sup> Jan – Paulet class sharing assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

31<sup>st</sup> Jan – F.O.O.B.S Year 6 movie night, details to follow

4<sup>th</sup> Feb – Parent & Carer coffee morning 09:00-10:30am

5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Year 5 Swimming

w/c 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – No after school clubs this week

w/c 10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Year 3 show week, details to follow

10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Year 4 QMC visit

11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Year 4 QMC visit

12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Year 5 Swimming (last one)

14<sup>th</sup> Feb – F.O.O.B.S Dare to be Different Day

**w/c 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – Half term**

**24<sup>th</sup> Feb – Inset Day**

25<sup>th</sup> Feb – First day back (after school clubs start back this week)