

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 11
31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

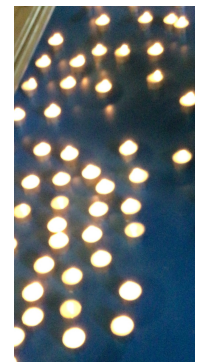
Last week Year 6 enjoyed a trip to London to visit The Globe Theatre and The Tate Modern Art Gallery. This visit feeds into their learning around Shakespeare and their history unit of 'Let Me Entertain You', looking at entertainment through the ages. They had a tour of the theatre and a drama workshop, led by Shakespearian actors. It also gave us a chance to take the children to see the original Pop Art pieces at the gallery by Roy Leitchenstein and Andy Warhol ahead of their upcoming art unit. For many children, this was their first visit to London and they enjoyed seeing the sights of The Houses of Parliament, The London Eye, Big Ben and St. Paul's Cathedral.



We welcomed Kate from Southampton Art gallery who worked with Year 5 last Thursday to create Medusa heads out of clay. She talked about sculpting techniques and the story of Medusa to support their topic on Ancient Greece.

Well done to all of Mitchell and Paulet classes who have shown confidence and team work whilst rehearsing and performing in their recent sharing assemblies. We believe these opportunities are really important to help develop the whole child and to develop confidence when speaking in front of others.

On Monday the whole school gathered together to commemorate Holocaust memorial day. We lit 80 candles as part of a quiet time of reflection to represent the 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz at the end of WW2. All of the children showed respect and were really thoughtful in their responses to questions during our assembly.



The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day this year is 'For a better Future' and my hope is that by educating young people about the past we can prevent such intolerance in the future. All classes shared an age appropriate picture book this week and had an opportunity to discuss the themes with their teachers. To end our Act of Worship on Monday we joined together with many schools around the diocese to say the following prayer:

Dear God

We thank you that we live in a safe country where we can be ourselves without being hurt by others.

Today we especially remember people who suffered in the Holocaust, or have been hurt by others just because they are hated for being themselves.

We pray that they may feel brave because you love and care for them.

Please give us the courage to stand together when we know things are wrong.

We pray that people who are filled with hatred, especially against Jewish people, may have a change of heart and show kindness in the world instead.

We ask all this in Jesus' name.

Amen



More sporting success!

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 athletics team who were joint winners at the Basingstoke and Deane indoor athletics competition held at The Costello School on Thursday afternoon. This means that the team now progress to the county finals! They represented the school really well in terms of their resilience, conduct and team work - well done all!

Big Emotions Meeting

Hopefully you will have received the Parent Mail sent out this week about a meeting we are hosting run by the Primary Behaviour Support Services about understanding BIG EMOTIONS. This meeting will include practical tips for parents and carers. This meeting has been organised in collaboration with Old Basing Infant School and Great Binfields Primary School. It is always helpful to get a few new tips on how to handle the challenging emotions our children display from time to time.

Thursday 27th February, 6pm – 7:45pm

Please complete the attached form by following this link to register your attendance.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ehrpnaGn_U-DffOAw45I2EsA8xCuGZREpmBSiYA03viUODQxRjVBSzRGNEtMSjJNTkxaMVJaT1IzSy4u

Safeguarding

We are aware that many of our older pupils are using WhatsApp to communicate with their peers.

How Safe is WhatsApp for Children – Message from the NSPCC

WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people in 180 countries. It allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number. However, children and young people can easily subvert the restrictions placed on its access. Although rated at 16+, all that is required is a phone number. All it takes is one child in a class to be on WhatsApp, and all the others will wish to join. This can lead to increased vulnerabilities for child users. The NSPCC has released its own analysis about the dangers of the app. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

St Mary's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We recognise that all adults have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm, and that the child or young person's welfare is our paramount concern.

We have a team of Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL's) that can be seen on posters around school. Our lead DSL is Mrs Lillywhite and we have four Deputy DSL's (DDSL's), Mr Gibbs, (Deputy Headteacher) Miss Bunkle (Inclusion Manager/SENDCo), Mrs Parsons (Teacher) and Mrs Squire (LSA). Please do speak to one of the above if you are concerned about the welfare of any child.

Make a Difference at St. Mary's: Join Our Board of Governors!

St. Mary's thrives because of passionate people like you! We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our Board of Governors and help shape the future of our school.

Be a champion for our children's education. As a Board Governor, you'll gain valuable leadership experience, collaborate with inspiring colleagues, and directly contribute to the success of St. Mary's. Please contact the school office for further information.

Sefton Lucas, Chair of Governors

Junior Road Safety Officers

This week we have launched a new competition for pupils of this school. Your child will have been given a 'Spot the hazards' activity sheet. If your child wishes to enter, completed sheets must be handed into the office by Friday 7th February.

According to statistics, injuries and deaths relating to road safety have decreased due to help from people just like us, the JRSO's. However, everyone needs to be aware of the dangers and rules of the road. Such as making sure your children wear a helmet when on a bike, scooter etc. Another thing to be aware of is to be careful of icy and slippery roads.

We have included a link to a road safety video appropriate for your children. The link is below.

[Film: Road ready? Expect the unexpected – THINK!](#)

Stay safe.

George, Hattie, Charlotte and Elliot, JRSO's

New Book Recommendations

We would like to start regularly sharing with you the latest children's book releases – some of you may have received book vouchers for Christmas!

Hunt for the Golden Scarab by M.G. Leonard

Epic, blockbusting adventure meets the mystery of time travel in Hunt for the Golden Scarab. Sim and his mum never live anywhere long. When dangerous strangers appear one night, Sim discovers why. His mum has been keeping secrets: she has the power to open doors in time.

Running for their lives, Sim and his friends are determined to outwit the sinister Council of Keys and be the first to find Nefertiti's lost tomb and a powerful door to Ancient Egypt. They must piece together long-hidden clues if they are to solve the mystery of her golden heart scarab. Can they find it before the Council finds them?

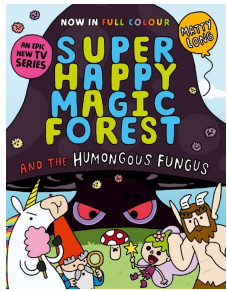
(Age 9-11Yrs)



Super Happy Magic Forest and the Humongous Fungus by Matty Long

A Super Happy Magic Forest chapter book packed with illustrations and plenty of humour-this is the perfect read for fans of Dog Man and Captain Underpants (6+). Fun-filled frolics from award-winning author Matty Long. The Super Happy Magic Forest is the friendliest, most frolic-filled place in all the world, but very occasionally some evil-doer likes to come along and disturb the peace. That's when our five brave heroes to step up to save the day-there's Blossom the unicorn, Twinkle the pixie, Herbert the gnome, Hoofius the faun, and a plucky little mushroom called Trevor. In Super Happy Magic Forest and the Humongous Fungus the heroes of the forest must fight against Fungellus the evil mushroom. Prepare for epic adventures, the odd picnic-break, and plenty of fun-filled frolics!

(Age 6+)



Governors' Corner

Have you ever had the opportunity to tour the Globe Theatre, London? Have you had the chance to explore and experience the creative genius displayed at the Tate Modern? On 22 January year 6 set off on an expedition just after 8am that included both those opportunities!

Even with an early start, the journey in a two coach convey through rush hour traffic was slower than hoped. Despite this, from their higher vantage point in the coach the children were able to spot some of London's well known landmarks en route. On Southwark Bridge they disembarked, and the long line of children and adults snaked their way to the Globe Theatre.

A quick rest break was followed by arranging the logistics of three class groups and their assigned tour / workshop leader. The children (and adults) were fascinated by the explanation of the history and architecture of the Theatre as they stood in the courtyard beside the Thames, with a clear view of St. Paul's Cathedral on the other side of the river. The second half of the visit allowed the children to immerse themselves in a Midsummer Night's Dream workshop, acting out the main characters and creating a tableau of a scene in small groups. They all joined in and seemed to have a lot of fun in this entertaining drama session.

With little time to spare, the children regrouped and headed along the South Bank to the Tate Gallery, where they ate lunch and relaxed briefly. The trip then moved on to the Tate Modern where the children were able to observe a number of gallery rooms which they explored with great interest, before particularly

focusing on Lichtenstein's famous pop art and Edward Degas' exquisite statue of a ballerina, the basis of some of the art study later in the year. It was a joy to see how the experience ignited the children's interest. This was a very successful enrichment activity, enjoyed by the children, the teachers and adults who supported it. Hopefully a taster for some who have not previously had the opportunity to explore the sights in our capital city.

Karen Ashton, Foundation Governor

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! We hope the Year 6's enjoy their Movie Night tonight! On Friday 14th February we will be holding our annual Dare to be Different day. Please see separate email sent out today with more details. If you have children at both schools, please note that the rules are different for each school.

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 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 2025

Monday 24th Feb 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

Dates for your Diary

31st Jan – F.O.O.B.S Year 6 movie night

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

5th Feb – Year 5 Swimming starts

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

12th Feb Year 3 Show afternoon performance 2:00-3:00pm

13th Feb Year 3 Show evening performance 6:00-7:00pm

10th Feb – Year 4 QMC visit am (Paulet class)

11th Feb – Year 4 QMC visit (Nelson class am, Wellington class pm)

12th Feb – Year 5 Swimming

14th Feb – F.O.O.B.S Dare to be Different Day

w/c 17th Feb – Half term

24th Feb – Inset Day

25th Feb – First day back (after school clubs start back this week)

26th Feb – Year 5 Swimming

27th Feb – Big Emotions Workshop 6:00-7:45pm here

5th Mar – Year 5 Swimming

10th Mar – Year 5 QMC visit

11th Mar – Year 5 QMC visit

11th Mar – Year 3 Church visit 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome

12th Mar – Year 5 Swimming

12th Mar – Year 4 French café

13th Mar – Austen class sharing assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

w/c 17th Mar – No after school clubs this week

18th Mar – Year 5 Church visit 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome

19th Mar – Year 5 Swimming

19th Mar – Parents Evening, details to follow

20th Mar – Parents Evening, details to follow

20th Mar – Davies class sharing assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

27th Mar – Wellington Class sharing assembly 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

29th Mar – Easter Fair, details to follow

1st Apr – Parent & Carer coffee morning 09:00-10:30

4th Apr – End of term Church visits (am) timings to follow

4th Apr – Last Day of term

7th-21st Apr – Easter Holidays

22nd Apr – First day of new term