



## Church of England Junior School

No: 15  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support over the last term. The Spring term has been a busy one. We are really pleased with the learning that has been going on and the progress the children have made in their learning.

There are always things to improve and as a staff team we are always looking at how we can move the school forward to benefit the children and improve outcomes. Over the autumn and summer term we have been focusing on improving our writing outcomes for all pupils by looking closely at 'non-negotiables' for each year group and piece of work. We are continuing to look at our writing curriculum to ensure that it gives all children the best opportunity to succeed and be ready to transition to Year 7 at the end of Key Stage 2.

I hope that you enjoyed reading the joint newsletter sent out yesterday from ourselves and Old Basing Infant Schools. Although we are two separate schools, it is very important for us to work closely together for the best interests of the children who mainly transition to us from there. Mrs Denning and I meet frequently to discuss strategic priorities and subject leaders from both schools meet regularly to ensure there is continuity and progression from the Early Year up to the end of Year 6. This Thursday we all enjoyed our second joint playtime of the year, these have become very popular with children in both schools! Mr Gibbs enjoyed watching the Year 1 Easter performances this week and we look forward to welcoming those children to us in 2026!

Last week Wellington class did very well performing in their sharing assembly, well done all. I know that they enjoyed putting it all together and rehearsing.

Thank you to all the F.O.O.B.S committee, staff and other volunteers who helped run the Easter Fair last weekend. It was lovely to be on the door with Mrs Denning and see many of our pupils come, it was also lovely to meet some of the infant school pupils and families who we look forward to welcoming to St Mary's in the future. Thank you again F.O.O.B.S for your hard work.

Congratulations to our Year 6 boys football team who have played well all year and made it through to the Basingstoke and Deane School's finals yesterday. They won their semi-final match 2-1 and then the final 5-0. Well done boys and thank you to the parents who have supported them throughout!

Good luck to Sophie H in Year 6, who is heading off to Wolverhampton at the end of April to compete in the Girls U11 National Table Tennis final after her success in the county competition. Good luck Sophie!

We said a sad farewell to Mr King in assembly today, we wish him all the best for his future and thank him for all he has done for the school over the last 10 years.

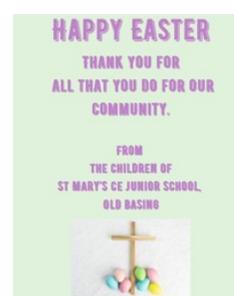
Finally, may I wish you all a happy and healthy Easter and a good break from the school run over the next two weeks! Children please stay safe if you are out playing on your bikes or scooters and remember all that you have learnt about keeping yourself safe online if you have some time on your electronic devices.

I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### Prayer Space Easter Gifts

During this term's prayer space the children made Easter bags for those in the local community who help us.

This week they have been delivered to various people including, Old Basing Health Centre, Day Lewis Pharmacy Old Basing, Old Basing Infant School, Basingstoke Firestation, Friends of Old Basing Schools, Chineham Library and



## Music News

Please see Mrs Malone's music update attached to this newsletter!

## Sports

This term has been a busy one with the children participating in many different sporting events and the children have represented St Mary's brilliantly! We have seen some huge successes in many different sports - football, athletics and table tennis being just a few. The netball team were fantastic and managed to get through to the finals, where they played brilliantly. The rugby team have been training at lunchtimes to be ready for their tournaments and have put in some excellent performances recently against 3 other schools. In table tennis, we attended the individual event and performed well, with one individual progressing to the national championships later this month. The athletics and badminton teams managed to get through to the county finals, representing the school brilliantly and winning most of their matches. Lastly, a huge well done to the football teams; the girls have more matches to play in the summer and the boys have just been crowned the best team in Basingstoke after a 5-0 win in the finals. Sports continues to be such a strength at St Mary's and many individuals have enjoyed competing against other schools.

## Easter Egg Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket, congratulations to those who were drawn out today. We are all winners as the money raised will be used to purchase new small playground equipment that the children have said they would like. Thank you all again and thank you to our staff who kindly donated all of the prizes.

## Siblings on site after school

Please can we remind you that no children should be using the play equipment at the end of the day when coming onto site to collect Year 3 pupils from the playground.

Please can we ask that younger children are not left to ride bikes and scooters on the playground whilst waiting for Year 3 pupils to come out. The playground is often still being used for curriculum activities for classes at this time. We appreciate your support with this.

## School Dinners

Please ensure your dinner money account is in credit at all times.

As you are aware from previous newsletters, the school has been working with Old Basing Infants to procure a new catering company for both schools with the upcoming closure of Hampshire School Catering. We will provide further details after the Easter break.

## Summer Uniform

Summer uniform can be worn after the Easter holidays. This consists of green checked dresses, grey shorts and white polo shirts or short sleeved shirts. Pupils can still wear winter uniform of a shirt and tie, if they prefer. PE uniform remains the same.

Please note, as per the letter you received this week, that on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April, all pupils are required to wear winter uniform as we have the website photographer in school. Please ensure you have read this letter.

## Safeguarding

Some families can feel quite alone over school holidays without the regular contact with school professionals. If you need any support or have any concerns over the next two weeks, please do seek advice from Hampshire Children's Services. Contact details can be found on the Hampshire County Council Website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren>

## Attendance

As of the end of March whole school attendance was 97.1%.

As the summer term approaches, I would remind parents that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods. Only absences for very exceptional circumstances will be authorised.

Please make sure you have read and understood the attached advice for parents from Hampshire County Council in regards to school attendance.

[PenaltyNotices-for-non-attendance-guidance-parents-carers.pdf](#)

## INSET Days for 2025/2026

The following INSET days for next academic year have been agreed with Old Basing Infant School and approved by our governors.

Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2025

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2025

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2026

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Please follow this link for the 2025-26 term dates to assist in any holiday planning:

[HAMPSHIRE](#)

## Chineham Easter Trail 10<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> April



Come & take part in the Chineham Easter Trail, running from 10th - 20th April! Simply visit the Customer Service Desk in Tesco to pick up your trail sheet and go on the hunt for 10 Easter Eggs in the shop windows at Chineham Shopping! Write down the letter you see inside in each egg and, when you have finished the trail, reorganise the letters to find TWO Easter-themed words. Hand in your completed sheet back into Tesco to claim your free Easter goodie. Wishing you & your family a very happy Easter from all of us at Chineham Shopping!

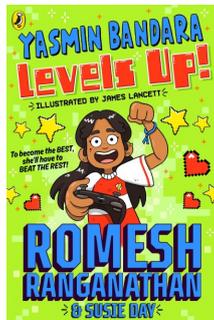
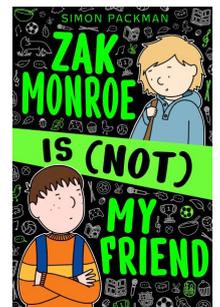
## New book recommendations

**Zak Monroe Is (Not) My Friend, by Simon Packham**

Interest age: 7+

Sam has been best friends with Cal, Fin and Jay for EVER. They're all about to move up to a new school together - scary but exciting. But then he overhears them saying they're not going to put him on their Friends Lists! So Sam will be stuck in a different tutor group with a lot of kids he doesn't know. Help!

How can Sam convince them to change their minds? Can he keep on hiding his new friendship with 'weird' new boy Zak Monroe? And what will happen when these two sides of Sam's life collide?



**Yasmin Bandara Levels Up! By Romesh Ranganathan**

Reading Age: 9+

Yasmin Bandara has NO IDEA what she wants to be when she grows up.

Her parents want her to become a doctor and focus on school, they won't even let her play computer games unless it's an educational one called Monkey House. Yasmin's amazing at it, but *yawn!*

So when her best friend Zane introduces her to an exciting football game called FifPro, Yasmin can't get enough! She secretly plays whenever she can, hoping one day she'll be as good as her favourite gamer, mysteriously known as 'The Goat'.

But balancing schoolwork with gaming is starting to make Yasmin's head SPIN. And when she's invited to play in tournaments for *both* games, she realises she's got to make a choice.

Can Yasmin make her parents proud AND beat The Goat, or will it be GAME OVER?

As well as being a hilarious and accessible read, the story also delivers a really powerful and heartwarming message about the importance of believing in yourself and following your dreams.

## News from our Junior Road Safety Officers.

Hello and happy Easter! It's getting sunnier and we are getting warmer days which means more outside time although you must still wear a helmet and keep safe! You could be out on the road with your bikes or going near the roads on your scooter and it is easy to get distracted with the fun activities but we should always remain careful.

In the road safety calendar, this month's topic is finding a safe place to play. It is not safe to play near roads but it is safe to play in a park or recreation ground. Remember to not ride any bikes or scooters in any parks as it is not safe and could result in injury. Remember to keep safe and have fun this Easter.

Watch this space – summer term quiz coming after Easter!

Happy Easter from the JRSO's- Hattie, Charlotte, Elliot and George.

## Governors' Corner

On the 21st March I was very fortunate to be invited to St Mary's to attend the Science Day that had been organised for all year groups. Not only did I get to see all of the fantastic Science themed events that had been organised for each year group, but I was also able to visit some lessons to listen to some of the guest speakers who had come in to present about their own science-based careers.

There were a huge variety of professionals visiting the school to talk to the pupils, including an ecologist, conservationist, microbiologist, psychologist, engineer and an astronomer. What a fantastic opportunity this was for the children at St Mary's to gain an understanding of some of the fantastic professions available to keen scientists!

In preparation for the day pupils had been researching a diverse range of scientists linked to the science investigation they were completing. For the day itself there were some fantastic and fascinating investigations going on. Year 3 were researching reaction times; Year 4 were actually 'planting pants' to investigate soil health around the school site; Year 5 were creating rockets and seeing how far they could get their rockets to fly; and Year 6 were using chromatography to solve a murder mystery! It was also wonderful to see some former pupils now at Costello back at St Mary's for the day, to help the Year 6 pupils with their experiments and investigations.

I want to say a massive well done to all of the pupils who were so engaged in the activities I saw. It was not only loads of fun but was clear the children were learning so much about Science. I also want to recognise the fantastic work of all the teachers and a special mention to Mrs Stephens for all of the organisation to make the day such a success.

*Mr White, Parent Governor*

## F.O.O.B.S. News

Hello and happy Easter from F.O.O.B.S! A big thank you for your donations for the Easter Fair and to those who attended, it looked like everyone had a lot of fun! And also thanks to our amazing volunteers who made the event possible. The winners of all the games have received their prizes, congratulations! We don't have a final fundraising total yet as some expenses are still to be processed.

Looking ahead to our next big event, the Summer Fair! Please save the date - Sunday 6th July. See attached information on upcoming key dates.

We also have the year 4 disco when we return from the Easter holidays on 25th April, and a charity clothing collection on 21st May. More details to follow.

## F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair Poster Design Competition!



Over the Easter break we would like you to design a poster to advertise this year's summer fair. Your poster should be bright, colourful and eye catching! Please complete your design on A4 paper (portrait).

Please put your name and class on the back of your entry.

The winning design will be chosen by the F.O.O.B.S committee and used to advertise this year's fair!

You should include the following details on your poster.

- F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair
- St Mary's CE Junior School, Old Basing
- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- 12:00pm – 3:00pm
- Entry £2 per adult. Children go free.
- There will be: Bouncy Castles, Stalls, Games, BBQ, Refreshments, Ice Cream Van, Entertain and much more!

All entries need to be brought to the school office by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

## **Coffee Mornings and Parental Support**

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July – joint with Old Basing Infant School

**Gemma Lillywhite**

**Headteacher**



### Inset Days for 2025/26

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

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### Dates for your Diary

4<sup>th</sup> Apr – Last Day of term

#### **7<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Apr – Easter Holidays**

22<sup>nd</sup> Apr – First day of new term (summer term after school clubs start this week)

23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Apr – Year 3 visit to Gilbert White House, details to follow

24<sup>th</sup> Apr – Hampshire Music Service Inset Day – no music lessons

25<sup>th</sup> Apr – F.O.O.B.S Year 4 Disco 5:00-6:30pm

1<sup>st</sup> May – Conan Doyle class sharing assembly, 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

7<sup>th</sup> May – Eucharist Years 5/6 10:00am – parents/carers welcome

8<sup>th</sup> May – Brunel class sharing assembly, 2:45pm, parents/carers welcome

8<sup>th</sup> May – Try an Instrument day, 3:45pm - further details to follow

w/c 12<sup>th</sup> May Year 6 SAT's week

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

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

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

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> May – Inset Day**

#### **26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May – Half term**

2<sup>nd</sup> June – First day back (after school clubs start back this week)

5<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day

12<sup>th</sup> June – Reserve Sports Day

19<sup>th</sup> June – Whole Year 6 & Class Photos

6<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Fair

w/c 14<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Show week

18<sup>th</sup> July – Family Picnic, joint with Old Basing Infant School. Details tbc