



No: 1 – September 2020

UNCRC Article 1 – Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the convention. We have the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. I hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable summer holiday. As I said in our message earlier this week it has been lovely to see the children back in school and they have all settled back well to the daily routines and their learning.

Thank you all for working with us in regard to drop off and pick up arrangements, we too are now used to the new times!

The teachers have been hard at work over the summer planning for the new year and there are lots of exciting opportunities planned already. At this time of year, we would normally be holding our year group briefing meetings in school. Details of how this information will be conveyed to you this year will be sent out next week.

We operate an 'open door policy' – well currently a technological open door policy! If you have any concerns, please call or email the school office who will put you in contact with the class teacher or use the class teachers email addresses that were sent out with your information at the end of last half term. Please do bear in mind these may not be checked until the end of the school day. If it is an urgent matter, please call the school office.

Thank you to all of you who are trying your hardest to remain socially distanced when dropping off and collecting your child. We understand that this is challenging given the surrounding narrow footpaths, however as well as needing to protect ourselves, we have number of parents/relatives who were previously shielding and are understandably anxious when faced with larger numbers of people. Please do not gather outside the school gates but rather as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child head home. As mentioned before you may want to consider wearing a face covering at these times. If your child is collected by a childminder, or other relative, please make sure they are aware of times and procedures.

With our unpredictable weather it is important to ensure that your child comes to school with a suitable coat every day. We do try, whenever possible, to go outside at break and lunchtime which will include periods of light drizzle. The children really benefit from the chance of more freedom to run around in the fresh air which makes them far more ready to start work in the afternoon than on days they have to remain indoors. In school we also operate the daily

mile and therefore it is vital for both this and playtimes that children have safe, waterproof shoes, with a good grip and some form of fastening to keep them securely on their feet!

Homework

We are excited to inform you that as of next week homework, will be set using our new virtual learning platform Google Classroom. Details of log in's etc. will be sent out to you all.

This platform will allow pupils to complete and upload work which can be seen by class teachers and then necessary feedback can be given. The benefit of using this platform to now set our weekly homework will be that in the event of pupils having to self-isolate and access homelearning, the platform for this is already in place.

Parent Governor

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. Please look out for further information regarding this role which will be sent out next week. This is an exciting opportunity to welcome a new governor to our hardworking, supportive and highly effective governing body.

Reporting Absence

As usual we would please ask that if your child is ill and cannot attend school that you let the school office know before the start of the school day, if possible. It is vital at the moment that the reason for the absence is made very clear so that we can distinguish between anyone with COVID 19 symptoms who will need to isolate, and get tested, and those who are off for any other reason. If the reason is not made clear a member of the office staff will call for clarification. Parents need to be ready and willing to book a test if they or their child are displaying symptoms of COVID 19. Pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school.

Attendance Policy

Thank you so much for a fantastic start to the term, we have consistently achieved 99% attendance this week. As we do each year, the attendance policy has been updated together with the infant school in order to ensure a consistent approach. The full policy and the COVID addendum can be found in the policies section of the website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies%26%23160%3B+%26amp%3B%26%23160%3BPremiums&pid=22>

Also attached to this newsletter is our annual letter about attendance from myself and Mrs McCarley.

Data-checking exercise

In previous years we have sent home the current data (address, contact details etc) we hold on your child for you to check and update. In light of a recent review of GDPR, we will no longer be doing this. Please can you ensure that all of your contact details are kept up to date with the office and that we hold at least two contact numbers in case of emergency. Please email the office if you need to make any changes. We will shortly be sending out blank data checking sheets to Year 3 parents to ensure we have up to date contact information.

Focus Week

We have started the year with our values focus week. The aims of this week are as follows:

- To Introduce new children and remind others of our core values and concept of One Family
- To remind children that if we all work together we can achieve more
- For all children to be responsible for making the most of their opportunities and enjoy their rights to be safe, to be healthy, to be treated fairly and to have a voice in decisions that affect them, and to encourage others to do the same.

This week we have looked at how being kind to others is also beneficial to ourselves. We hope you can catch your child being kind to others at home too! We will endeavour to share outcomes of work linked to our values week and act of worships on the website.

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello and welcome back from FOOBS,

We hope all the children are enjoying being back in school. With the current social distancing restrictions we are not in a position to announce any of this year's events just yet but we are excited to get planning activities for everyone to get involved in!

We have a couple of meetings coming up that will be held via Zoom. A committee meeting on Monday 14th September and the AGM on Thursday 8th October both at 7:30pm. These are open to all parents and carers and as always, we would love to see you there. If you would like to join us, please email friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com for the Zoom details.

Don't forget you can continue to support FOOBS through Amazon Smile, Easyfundraising, Stampstastic and Easy2name. Follow this link to the FOOBS shopping page to find out how! <https://foobs.weebly.com/fundraising-as-you-shop.html>

An if you would like to join in the FOOBS Monthly Lotto please email us!

Music fees

If your child has music lessons this term's fees of £75 per instrument are now overdue – please arrange for any outstanding fees to be paid online asap. Please remember that having signed the music agreement you have committed to the music lessons for the whole year i.e. three payments of £75 even if your child decides to stop lessons.

Voluntary Contribution

We are still planning for lots of enrichment opportunities for all year groups to enhance their learning opportunities. These include visitors into school for workshops etc. and some trips out later in the school year. These are only possible through the annual voluntary contribution. Information has been sent to you all about this, please speak to the school office if you have any problems.

Permission slips

When your child started at St Mary's the following permission slips and forms were completed:

- Multimedia consent form
- Group and Individual Photographs (to enable external photographers to take your child's photo)
- Email/text consent form
- Local permission letter
- Hampshire county council medical questionnaire

If you need to make any amendments to the permissions you granted please contact the school office by phone or email.

Your child would have also received and signed the following:

- Pupil internet agreement (Year 5 pupils will be bringing home a new upper school agreement to sign today, please return to class teaches next week)
- Home school agreement

These are both available in the policies section of the school website and it would be timely to go through these with your child again. They can be accessed via this link.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies%26%23160%3B+%26amp%3B%26%23160%3BPremiums&pid=22>

Medical/Special Dietary needs

Should there be any changes to your child's health/medical needs during the year, please contact the school office so we can update our records. For special dietary requirements please complete the form using the following link:

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/HC3S/MedicalSpecialDietForm.pdf>

Dinner money

The cost of a school dinner is £2.40 a day. If you wish to pay for the half term in advance it will be £84. Should you wish to pay for the whole term this will be £165.60. We are currently minimising the amount of cash we have in the school office and would encourage payment by SCOPAY where possible. Should you have any issues with payment please contact the school office.

Free School Meals

If you think you are eligible for free school meals, please register your child by using the easy online facility which has been launched by Hampshire County Council Catering Services (HC3S). You can now check your eligibility for FSM. This self-service option is available at:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

For this online service, all you need to do is enter your name, National Insurance number or Asylum number, address and your child's details. Then press submit and find out if you are eligible. If the result comes back found, this means your child is eligible for FSM and the system automatically tells the school. You no longer have to find the paperwork and go into school to get it checked.

PE Lessons

As far as possible all PE lessons will be outside at the present time and children need to come into school wearing their kit on the days that they have PE:

Year 3 – Tuesday and Thursday
Year 4 – Wednesday and Friday
Year 5 – Monday and Thursday
Year 6 – Tuesday and Friday

PE kit comprises of: green shorts, white t-shirt, trainers, green/black or dark blue tracksuit bottoms and, at the moment, **their school sweat shirt or cardigan**. We also ask that if your child is unable to remove their earrings that you provide them with tape so they can be covered during PE sessions. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Long Sleeve Shirts for Art

If you have any old spare long sleeve shirts at home that you no longer require, please send them in for us to use for art lessons. Thank you!

Lost Property

Please ensure that your entire child's uniform and other property – especially fruit and lunch boxes - are clearly marked and that you check them on a regular basis. Many items that make their way into lost property have clearly been marked at some time but have become illegible! All named items will be returned, any unclaimed and unnamed items will be recycled or disposed of at the end of each week.

Parent Helpers

At the present time we are still limiting visitors into school and so will not be able to accept volunteers to help with reading or maths.

However, if you would like to come in to help in your child's class, when we are able to welcome you in, or maybe want to help on future trips for safeguarding purposes you will need to complete a volunteers' application form (which will include references) and a DBS check completed first. Please contact the school office by phone or email for details.

On your first visit into school, both current and new volunteers will need to collect some information from the office.

Pupil and Parent Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

We at St Mary's C of E Junior School are the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you about your child(ren) and may receive information about them from their previous school and Hampshire County Council. A full copy of the privacy notice can be found on the school website.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies%26%23160%3B+%26amp%3B%26%23160%3BPrerequisites&pid=22>

Site Security

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our site security information leaflet. We would ask that you please read this, so that we can continue to work together and ensure that all children are safe in school. A copy of this document is also available on the website.

Afterschool Clubs

Under the current guidance we are still unable to offer our usual range of after school clubs. As the guidance continues to be updated we will keep this situation under review, however it is likely that clubs will not be available until the spring term at the very earliest.

The infant school are still running their breakfast club before school and any junior children attending will be brought around to us and will enter through a separate entrance. Places are limited and need to be booked directly with the infant school. SCL are also running their after school club and will pick up from us in the usual way. Again places will be limited and need to be booked directly with SCL.

Parking

Although the staggered start and drop of times has significantly reduced the amount of traffic and resulted in positive comments from local residents, we would still encourage you to consider whether you can walk to school, as traffic in the village is an ongoing problem. When parking, please consider other road users, our neighbours and the safety of our children; as well as being mindful of any parking restrictions. There are increasing numbers of cars

parking along Milkingpen Lane in the morning which, although there are not yellow lines along the whole length, has made it difficult for families to cross and difficult for other cars to pass.

INSET Days 2020/21

2nd November

22nd February

28th May

Dates for your Diary

w/c 14th Sept HMS Music Lessons start this week
14th Sept Yr. 5 Fire Service Visit
17th Sept Individual School Photos in hall
w/c 21st Sept Harvest (details to follow)
21-25 Sept Yr. 6 Bikeability
28th Sept Yr. 5 Old Basing House visit
**30th Sept/
1st/2nd Oct** Yr. 4 Oxenwood visit (here)
8th Oct F.O.O.B.S AGM @ 7:30pm
13th// 14th Oct Parents Evening (details tbc)
16th Oct Whole School Flu Immunisation
20th Oct Yr. 5 Willow Weaving
21st Oct Yr. 3 Iron Age Workshop
23rd Oct Stay Bright Day (details to follow)

26th – 30th Oct Half Term

2nd Nov Inset Day
5th Nov Yr. 4 Viking Day
9th Nov Yr. 5 Space Dome
13th Nov Children in Need Appeal Day
16th-20th Nov Friendship Week
24th Nov Year 5 Calshot meeting (details tbc)
25th Nov Eucharist Service tbc

18th December Last day of term 3.25pm finish

For even more news, updates and photos, don't forget to visit our website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/>

And the Facebook page if you need to check events on the go.