

**No: 16**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed the sunshine this week, it has been lovely to see the children on the field at break and lunchtime making full use of our lovely school grounds. School council are currently choosing the new playground equipment that we can purchase following our Easter raffle, so there will be soon more to play with outside too! Hopefully the warm and dry weather will continue into the bank holiday weekend.

The children have all come back after the Easter break settled and showing positive learning behaviours; we look forward to a productive and fun final term of the year.

The first two weeks of the Summer Term have been busy. Year 3 classes went off to visit Gilbert White's House and Gardens in Selborne last week to launch their science unit on plants. They all had an enjoyable time in the gardens – I think they particularly enjoyed pretending to be pollinators!



Conan Doyle worked really hard this week to put on a great performance to their friends and family in their sharing assembly. Well done to them all. We also enjoyed the Year 4 disco last Friday, thank you to all of the volunteers from F.O.O.B.S who helped organise and run this event.

Places for Year 3 in September 2025 have now been allocated and we are looking forward to welcoming our new pupils and families over the summer term as part of their transition work. We were once again oversubscribed and are pleased to have a full cohort for the start of Year 3 in September. We will be sending our newsletters to our new families this term to give them an insight into life at St Mary's.

The summer term is always a very busy one with lots of events so please do make a note of the diary dates on our newsletters and keep an eye on Parent Mail.

Have a lovely long weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

### **Try an instrument - Thursday 8th May 3.45pm to 4.45pm**

Come along to our FREE music event. Try out all the instruments we offer at St Mary's through Hampshire Music Service. Meet the instrumental teachers and if you like, sign up for lessons next year.

### **Pick up from the playground – Year 3 parents**

Please can we ask you not to allow children, junior or younger siblings, to play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day or in the woodland area. This equipment is not supervised at this time by school staff and therefore is not to be used. Any younger siblings brought onto site at pick up time must be kept under close supervision by an adult.

## Assessments

Year 6 SATs will be taking place once again during the week commencing **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May**, beginning on the Monday, with the final test on the Thursday.

The Multiplication Tables check for Year 4 will take place over a two week period from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Information about these assessments has already been sent to Year 4 parents, but it can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>

Your child's end of year report will contain teacher assessments for reading, writing and maths, Year 6 parents you will also be informed of your child's SAT's results.

It is important to remember that every child is different and they do not all make progress in straight lines. For example, a child may be working at 'Age Related Expectations' at the end of one academic year, but the next they may be assessed as 'Working Towards Age Related Expectations' because the curriculum has changed and they may need time to consolidate some areas of their learning, they will still have made progress. It is important that as a school we look at progress over time with the end goal being their attainment in the end of Key Stage 2 statutory assessments and not just look at each year in isolation. We work regularly with other local schools to moderate our assessments and use a variety of resources in school to support teacher assessments. We also have regular Pupil Progress meetings to look at performance and progress of individuals so that early intervention can be put in place.

## Summer Term Uniform

Summer uniform can now be worn. This consists of green checked dresses, grey shorts and white polo shirts or short sleeved shirts, without ties. Sensible footwear, please – no flip-flops or open-toed sandals, school shoes should still be worn.

## Attendance

As of today the school's overall attendance stands at 97%.

Please can we remind parents that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods. Only absences for very exceptional circumstances will be authorised and 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence within 100 sessions can result in a penalty notice.

## 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](#)

## Governors' Corner

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March I attended the French café, a hugely popular event run by Madame Quick our Modern Foreign Language (MFL) teacher. I attended as a Governor overseeing the MFL curriculum but also as a proud French national (although I have now lived longer in the UK than in France!).

Each class in year 4 took their turn to spend about 40 minutes in le "Café Français", complete with posters, bunting, 2 bérets hats to try on, and Mrs Malone's French playlist. Beautiful red gingham covered tables welcomed the pupils and each was given a menu to order from. They were waited on by 6 Costello School students who took their orders in French and brought them their order of food and drinks.

The photos should be available now on the school online gallery. I loved the sheer enthusiasm of each and everyone of the pupils, even the shy ones having a go at saying a few words. Absolutely everyone I spoke to love the selection of patisserie and bread, there was no waste to speak of! A lot of them loved to tell me about their holidays in various French destinations, and some of them were courageous enough to start a full discussion in French. Many of them laughed at hearing their names pronounced the French way!

These immersive events are so important to provide real-life practical and sensory experience as well as cultural awareness and confidence building. We are very lucky that our school fully support a whole range of learning, working as a team and with the wider community to enrich our children's time at St Mary's.  
Aude Jarret, Parent Governor

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

Hello from F.O.O.B.S!

A big thank you to everyone who came to, volunteered at and/or made donations for the Easter Fair. We raised a whopping £1,903.76!

Don't forget to dig out things for the Happy School Bags clothing collection! Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday 20th May between 5pm-8pm at 8 Park Lane, Old Basing and 3 Paynes Meadow, Lychpit or on Wednesday 21st May between 8:15-9am in the Infant School car park. Bags will come home very soon with the children, if you haven't received them already - and you can also use your own bags for extra donations! A reminder of what can be donated can be found here: <https://www.happyschoolbag.co.uk/what-we-collect/>

On Thursday 22nd May, both schools will have a non-uniform day in return for a prize for the general tombola or bottle tombola at the Summer Fair. Donations can be for the adult or child tombola and please ensure the items are new/unused.

Thank you for all the entries for the Junior School competition to design the Summer Fair poster. Well done to everyone who took part! Judging will be done next week and winner will be announced in due course.

### **Safeguarding**

As a parent myself I know that as our children move through primary school we come to the stage where we have to consider letting them walk to school on their own or consider them going out to meet friends at a local park, especially as the weather is better and the evenings lighter. The NSPCC website has many useful guides for parents, including one providing practical tips and advice to help parents and carers decide what is best for their child when it comes to staying home alone or going out alone.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/leaflets/parent-leaflets>

### **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



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### Inset Days for 2025/26

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

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

### Dates for your Diary

6<sup>th</sup> May – F.O.O.B.S Meeting at Junior School, 7:30pm

7<sup>th</sup> May – BPSM Orchestra Rehearsal at Everest 4:15-5:30pm

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

8<sup>th</sup> May – Try an Instrument day, 3:45-4:45pm

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

16<sup>th</sup> May – Austen class river trip 09:15-11:00am

17<sup>th</sup> May - Junior Choir Performance at St Mary's Church, 11:30-12:00am

19<sup>th</sup> May – Dickens class river trip 09:15-11:00am

19<sup>th</sup> May – BPSM Orchestra Rehearsal at Everest 4:15-5:30pm

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

20<sup>th</sup> May – Conan Doyle class river trip 09:15-11:00am

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

22<sup>nd</sup> May – F.O.O.B.S Non uniform day – details in newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> May – School concert at Christ Church, Chineham (small groups, recorder clubs, school band & senior choir) 6pm

**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)

2<sup>nd</sup> June – Y5 Gordon Brown visit, White class

3<sup>rd</sup> June – Y5 Gordon Brown visit, Mitchell class

5<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day

6<sup>th</sup> June – Y5 Gordon Brown visit, Brunel class

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

13<sup>th</sup> June – BPSM rehearsal Orchestra & Dancers– Christ Church, Chineham

17<sup>th</sup> June – BPSM (Orchestra & Dancers) Rehearsal all day & performance Anvil 7pm

17<sup>th</sup> June – Year 3 Church visit, 1:30pm, parents/carers welcome

18<sup>th</sup> June – BPSM (Orchestra & Dancers) Anvil 7pm

18<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Leavers Service, Winchester Cathedral

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

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

26<sup>th</sup> June – New Year 3 Parents afternoon 1:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 5 Taster day to Costello

4<sup>th</sup> July – Shuffle up day

6<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Fair

w/c 7<sup>th</sup> July – No after school clubs this week

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

21<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Beach Party

22<sup>nd</sup> July – Church visits am (details to follow)

22<sup>nd</sup> July – Last day of term, normal finish time of 3:25pm