



Church of England Junior School

No: 17
22nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils who completed their SATs tests last week. They all did brilliantly, stayed calm and showed a huge amount of resilience. They are now preparing for their end of year musical production – *'I'm An 11-Yr-Old...GET ME OUT OF HERE!'* There was much excitement when the show was revealed with some rather disgusting 'bush tucker trials'!

Brunel class recently put on a great performance in their class sharing assembly taking us back in time to learn more about life in Ancient Greece, there were some very convincing performances of those cast as the Greek Gods and they all learned their lines and spoke really clearly. Well done Brunel class!

The school was full of the sound of music during our recent 'Try and Instrument' session– I hope that it has inspired some of our existing pupils and those joining us in September to sign up for lessons with the Hampshire Music Service. We are lucky to have strong links with the Music Service which helps to enrich the experiences of the pupils here at St Mary's.

Over the last two weeks Year 3 have been out and about by the river as part of their 'River Deep, Mountain High' topic. They enjoyed river dipping and using identification keys to see what they found!

It was lovely to see so many of our younger pupils singing at the Church Summer Festival on the weekend. Thank you to Mrs Malone for leading this and thank you to all the families and friends who came to support the choir. We are now looking forward to watching many of our instrumentalists perform at our Summer Concert at Christ Church Chineham this evening.

A reminder that tomorrow, Friday 23rd May, is an INSET day. We return to school after half term on Monday 2nd June, I wish you all a happy half term break.

Finally, the St Mary's family would like to wish Miss Eckett and her fiancé all the best for her wedding this Saturday which will be taking place at our church in Old Basing. She will return to school after half term as Mrs Bridges! I am sure you will all join us in wishing them a wonderful day and a happy and healthy future together.

Punctuality and Attendance

Since the main entrance gate has been locked at 8:45am we have seen a decrease in the number of children arriving late to school, thank you for your support with this.

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

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.

Medical Appointments in school hours

We appreciate that it is very difficult to get medical appointments (dentist etc.) out of school hours or in the school holidays, therefore these are always approved absences. However, we are seeing a significant increase in some pupils having medical appointments during the school days, and in particular on Friday afternoons. Therefore, as is already an expectation at Old Basing Infant School, we will be asking for proof of any appointments either prior to, or within a week of the appointment. If this cannot be provided the absence will not be authorised and coded as unauthorised. We appreciate your support in ensuring good school attendance.

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 3rd Sept 2025

Mon 3rd Nov 2025

Fri 19th Dec 2025

Mon 23rd Feb 2026

Fri 22nd May 2026

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

[HAMPSHIRE](#)

News from St Mary's Church – something to do over half term!

ST MARY'S CHURCH TREASURE HUNT

Thank you to everyone who came along to support St Mary's Festival last weekend – we hope you had a lovely time!

As part of the Festival, St Mary's has organised a TREASURE HUNT and we are inviting families to continue to take part over half-term. Forms are available to collect from the church lobby with directions (and a map) to guide you around the parish. We hope that you will discover some new things about the local area that you may have overlooked during your daily travels, all while enjoying some fun in the fresh air. The treasure hunt is suitable for all ages and the route is walkable, with all answers visible from public paths etc

You can either complete the Treasure Hunt simply for fun but if you'd like to be in with the chance of winning a £20 "All for One" Gift Card please return your entry to the outside post box of St Mary's church by 6pm on 1st June. For those wishing to take part in the competition we are requesting a £5 entry fee, payable either in cash in a sealed envelope with your name on or by BACS payment, details of which are:

Account Name: PCC of Old Basing & Lychpit

Account No: 01887335

Sort Code: 60-02-49

Answers and the winner's name will be posted on St Mary's Church website after 2nd June. Have fun!

Governors' Corner

As a current governor at St Mary's Junior School, I have the privilege of working alongside a dedicated team that helps shape the direction and success of our wonderful school. We are currently looking for a new Parent Governor, and I would encourage you to consider putting yourself forward!

Being a school governor is an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the life of the school. It involves working with the headteacher and leadership team to help set the vision, monitor progress, and ensure the best outcomes for all our children. As a parent governor, you bring a valuable perspective and help ensure that the parent voice is heard in key decisions.

No specific qualifications are needed – just a commitment to supporting the school, a willingness to ask questions, and the time to attend meetings (usually twice a term) and occasional school visits.

If you're passionate about education and want to help make a difference for the children of St Mary's, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information or to express interest, please contact the school office.

Andy Grayson, Local Authority Governors

F.O.O.B.S. News

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

Thank you to everyone that donated clothing for the Happy School Bags collection yesterday, we collected a whopping 708kg, which is a bumper haul. We raised over £300 with this collection, which is fantastic!

Many thanks also for all your donations today for the Summer Fair Tombola and Have You Got the Bottle stalls. We hope the children enjoyed their non-uniform day.

And if you can, please have a look over half term for any toys or games or children's books that are no longer needed for our very popular Toys, Books and Uniform sale at the Summer Fair. The donation day is Friday 6th June.

And the last save the date is for the Pick a Jar collection week which runs from 9th-13th June. See the Summer Fair update sent on email on 9th May for more information on both of these collections.

Parent Information Portal Poster

Please see the attached poster from the Basingstoke School Nursing Team

Safeguarding - Roblox and Parental Controls, South West Grid for Learning

Roblox, the popular minecraft 'style' game has announced a new raft of parental controls. The website which ranks among the most popular games for children in the e-space, has previously been accused of possessing weak child protection tools. Their new raft of adaptations is important due to the game's position among school aged children. The new features have been adopted to allow parents to take control of their children's game time in a more comprehensive manner.

Parents will now be able to block individuals who communicate with their children, as well as have more detailed oversight over their usage of the programme. Real-time awareness measures have been increased and these changes represent a big step forward in making popular multiplayer games more secure for underaged users. If interested, the South-West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) has produced a comprehensive run down of these changes.

Please follow the link below for more:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-launches-new-parental-controls/>

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 8th July – joint with Old Basing Infant School

Gemma Lillywhite
Headteacher



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Inset Days for 2025/26

Weds 3rd September 2025

Mon 3rd November 2025

Fri 19th December 2025

Mon 23rd February 2026

Fri 22nd May 2026

Dates for your Diary

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

23rd May – Inset Day

26th – 30th May – Half term

2nd June – First day back (after school clubs start back this week)

2nd June – Y5 Gordon Brown visit, White class

3rd June – Y5 Gordon Brown visit, Mitchell class

5th June – Sports Day

6th June – Y5 Gordon Brown visit, Brunel class

6th June – F.O.O.B.S toys, books, uniform collection

9th-13 June – F.O.O.B.S Pick a Jar donation week

9th June – Y3 trip to QMC Dickens class am

10th June – Y3 trip to QMC Conan Doyle class am, Austen class pm

12th June – Reserve Sports Day

13th June – BPSM rehearsal Orchestra & Dancers– Christ Church, Chineham

09:30am-2:30pm

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

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

18th June – BPSM (Orchestra & Dancers) Anvil 7pm

18th June – Year 6 Leavers Service, Winchester Cathedral

19th June – Whole Year 6 & Class Photos

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

26th June – New Year 3 Parents afternoon 1:30pm

3rd July – Year 5 Taster day to Costello

4th July – Shuffle up day

6th July – Summer Fair

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

w/c 14th July – Year 6 Show week

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

21st July – Year 6 Beach Party

22nd July – Church visits am (details to follow)

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