

# St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 18  
13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a good half term, it seems an age ago now.

Thank you for our understanding with the change to sports day last week – after weeks of dry weather it is typical it rains when we had planned sports day.

Sports day, when it eventually happened, was a success. I don't think I have ever spent so much time looking at so many different weather apps! The day saw many examples of teamwork, sportsmanship, resilience and perseverance well done everyone! It was lovely to welcome ex-students from Costello to help; they were a credit to Costello; thank you Miss Lewis for bringing them along.

Year 5 enjoyed trips to the Gordon Brown Centre last week despite the damp weather for two classes! They had a fantastic time learning some key survival skills which might be useful in a rainforest! This links to their topic and also to their reading text 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. They enjoyed den building (especially being squirted to check how water tight they were), archery, climbing (including the infamous 'death drop' which everyone tried) and their day finished with a campfire and more importantly marshmallows!



Year 4 children have had a busy two weeks. Last week they enjoyed a session with Folk Active learning about the traditions of maypole dancing and folk music – there were a few tangled ribbons but they did really well! We look forward to seeing some of them dance at the summer fair. This Tuesday they enjoyed their 'Egyptian Day' with 'Open the Box'. Thank you for your support in making costumes - they all looked fantastic. Around these enrichment opportunities, they have completed their government multiplication tables check, they all worked really hard and did their very best.

This week Year 3 have visited QMC to enrich their science learning. The Science Centre at Queen Mary's College is a specially designed science laboratory for use by primary school pupils! Their visits this week focused on materials and their properties.

Year 6 are well underway with rehearsals for their end of year production, however they are still working really hard in their learning to ensure they are ready to transition to secondary school in September.

This week in Act of Worship we thought about the Christian festival of Pentecost. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and marks the birth of the church. We also took this opportunity to find out more about the history of some of the other faiths represented in our school community and when other religions are thought to have started.

## Reverend Jo

This week saw Reverend Jo's last visit in to school to lead an Act of Worship. We have said our goodbyes as a school as she is leaving the parish at the end of the month to explore new opportunities. She left us

all with a clear message to love one another and gave every child and adult a small wooden heart to remember her and her messages by. Her last service at St Mary's will be on Sunday 22nd June. I am sure you will all wish her well in her new post in Crewe.

### Staffing Update

We are delighted to share that Miss Catherine Fogarty, who you will already know from working in school, and Miss Ellie McCluskey will be joining our teaching team here at St Mary's in September. I know that they will both bring much experience and talent to our teaching team.

### End of year family picnic, joint with OB infant school – 18<sup>th</sup> July 12:45pm-2:00pm

We are pleased to share plans for an end of term family picnic to mark the end of the academic year! We have enjoyed several joint events this year and these activities and links are really important for our school community and relations.

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July you are invited to join your child/children for lunch at the junior school.

Details will be confirmed nearer the time, but infant parents will be asked to join their infant school child/children at school at 12:30pm in order to then walk over to the junior school with their class at 12:45pm.

Junior children will meet their family on the junior school field.

Any child who does not have a parent/relative in attendance will enjoy their picnic with their class.

At the end of the picnic, children will be able to leave with their parents/carers. For safeguarding reasons pupils will only be able to leave after the picnic with their own family – children will not be allowed to leave with any friends. There will be no exceptions to this for pupils at either school.

We will send out further details nearer the time.

Mrs Lillywhite and Mrs Denning

### Safeguarding - Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership

Please remember that as a school community we are not just here for your children we are here for you too.

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP) is a group of local services and agencies in Hampshire working together to provide help and support for:

- victims and survivors of abuse
- children living with domestic abuse
- people who may be abusing or hurting someone
- professionals seeking advice

Advice Line: **03300 165 112**

Always **dial 999** if you are in immediate danger or in an emergency

### Library Poetry Competitions – News from Chineham Library

Chineham Library is thrilled to announce we are holding a poetry competition to coincide with the Summer Reading Challenge and Chineham Shopping's "Summer of Reading". Sponsored by Chineham Shopping, we are inviting all primary school children in Basingstoke to enter a poem of no more than 20 lines about books & their love of reading.

Entries are due by Wednesday 25 June and may either be dropped off at the library or sent via email to [chineham.library@hants.gov.uk](mailto:chineham.library@hants.gov.uk). Please ensure the child's name, school, and contact information.

The winner will receive a £50 book token and their poem will be showcased on a giant book installation which will be on display in the main square at Chineham Shopping, and will form a focal point for the shopping centre's summer garden.

Please see the attached poster for further details and please do let us know at school if you have entered!

### Do you know anyone with a child due to start Year R in September 2026?

Old Basing Infant School will be holding open mornings on the following dates.

September 25<sup>th</sup>

15<sup>th</sup> October 9:15am

7<sup>th</sup> November 9:15am

24<sup>th</sup> November 9:15am

For more information, please contact Old Basing Infant school: [adminoffice@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk)

### Attendance

As of today, the school's overall attendance is 97%. In recent weeks we have seen fewer pupils arriving late in the mornings, thank you for your support with this.

### Governors' Corner

#### **Changing the school's catering suppliers**

We were informed last year that Hampshire catering services were being closed down. This sent us into the cycle of identifying alternative suppliers. Working with Hampshire procurement services and the infant school, request for tenders were issued and from the responses, 4 potential suppliers were shortlisted. On 26/2/25 a group of governors and senior leaders from both schools and a representative of Hampshire procurement services convened to review, evaluate and decide on a new catering supplier.

We were ably guided through the process by the Hampshire procurement services rep and after a long day we settled on a preferred supplier. However, nothing is ever simple and after some re-evaluation based on new data, the suppliers we reordered and a new preferred supplier emerged. We hope the result of the selection process has proven successful and that you and your children are enjoying a different and positive experience with the new supplier.

Phil Jubin

Chair of Resources committee

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

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

Firstly, a big thank you for all the recent TBU donations and the jar donations you have brought in this week.

Please continue selling those raffle tickets and send the stubs back in by Friday 20th June. Please also return any unsold tickets so that they are available for others to buy on the day.

Advance sales are now open for Summer Fair tickets via the website [www.foobs.weebly.com](http://www.foobs.weebly.com)

Sign up sheets for the class stall we be sent out shortly. Your support is greatly appreciated; even half an hour is a massive help!

### World Party at Eastrop Park

Please find attached details of a free World Party event being held in Eastrop Park tomorrow (14<sup>th</sup> June).

### Coffee Mornings and Parental Support

Our final parent Coffee Morning, alongside Old Basing Infants will take place on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**. As usual, Miss Bunkle, Mrs Alvarez and Mrs Squire will be in attendance.



**Gemma Lillywhite**  
**Headteacher**

## Dates for your Diary

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

### Inset Days for 2025/26

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

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

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

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

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

### Dates for your Diary

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

09:30am-2:30pm

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 morning 11:00-12:00

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 in newsletter)

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