



## Church of England Junior School

**No: 20**  
**11<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we rapidly approach the end of term there are lots of activity going on and it is great to see the children still focused and working hard.

We would like to share the lovely news that last week, Mr Whincup and his wife welcomed baby Benjamin into the world, I am sure you will all join us in wishing them many congratulations. We look forward seeing Mr Whincup back in school at the end of next week and I am sure he will be very grateful for the summer holidays soon after to catch up on lost sleep!

Thank you to everyone who helped to organise, run and came to support last weekend's Summer Fair, it was a great success and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the F.O.O.B.S committee and the other volunteers on the day for their tireless efforts in organising and running this event. We are really blessed to have such a hard working team of parents who put on these events for the community to enjoy and raise vital funds for our schools. Thank you F.O.O.B.S!

Year 6 have been busy! They thoroughly enjoyed planning and running their enterprise stalls and their customers enjoyed what was on offer! Thank you so much for your support with this, they have raised enough funds to enjoy some inflatables, games, food and other treats for their leavers party. Some of our pupils enjoyed watching the dress rehearsal of 'I'm an 11 Year Old - Get Me Out of Here!' today and we cannot wait for a second dress rehearsal next week and for their evening performances next week!

This week Year 5 have been busy planning, making and evaluating vegetable fajitas. They smelled amazing and I hope that they have offered to cook for you this weekend!

Year 4 have enjoyed creating Egyptian sarcophagi over the last couple of weeks – they look fantastic and Year 3 have been busy sewing animal themed cushions; thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who have been in to help tread needles and tie knots!

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week for our final full week of the year.

### Year 6 Leavers Service

Parents of year 6 pupils are welcome to join us at church On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2:00pm for their final church visit. The children will leave school around 1:45pm.

### 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

### **End of term church visits – Tuesday 22nd July**

As Year 6 will have already had their own special service they will not be visiting the church on the last day of term. Parents are welcome to attend these short services.

09:15 Mitchell, Paulet, Austen

10:00 White, Nelson, Dickens

11:00 Brunel, Wellington, Conan Doyle

If you can help to walk the children to and from the church, please contact your class teacher. Any help will be appreciated. Classes will leave school approximately 15 minutes before the start of the service times above.

### **Be Tic Aware**

There are many reports in the areas of people finding tics after spending time outdoors; make it a habit to check clothes and bodies regularly for ticks when outdoors and again when you get home. Please do take time to read the advice attached to this week's newsletter.

### **Safeguarding**

With the summer holidays approaching please keep a note of this link where you can find access to support for you or your child whilst schools are closed.

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/organisations-that-can-help/>

Please make sure you look out for your own wellbeing and safety over the break. The long summer holidays can put pressure on many families.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

Hampshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2025!

It would be great to see lots of our pupils signing up for this summer's Hampshire Libraries reading challenge. Sign up at your library or online from Saturday 12 July to Saturday 13 September.

Story Garden will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature!

[Kids Zone](#) | [Leisure and culture](#) | [Hampshire County Council](#)

### **Attendance**

The most recent DfE monitoring of attendance places St Mary's 11<sup>th</sup> out of 422 schools in Hampshire and in the top 10% of schools in the country.

We are really pleased that our whole school attendance remains very good, thank you for your support in this. Good school attendance at primary school age provides a range of academic, social, and personal benefits, setting a strong foundation for future success. Consistent attendance helps students learn more effectively, build stronger social connections, and develop essential life skills

Our current overall attendance is 97%. In recent weeks we have seen fewer pupils arriving late in the mornings, thank you for your support with this.

Please make a note of the Hampshire School's term dates for next year to avoid booking holidays in term time.

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/education/school-year-2025-2026.pdf>

### **Governors' Corner**

At their recent meeting, the members of the Learning and Ethos committee heard from Mrs Parsons about Religious Education teaching and learning at St Mary's Junior School. We heard about the School's aims for RE and the contribution of RE to spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and developing understanding of the School's Christian values. Religious Education aims to help children to live life to the full in accordance with the School vision. The content of RE across the 4 years at St Mary's is varied and wide ranging. As a Church School, Christianity is taught as the main religion, as well as teaching that reflects the beliefs of the Children at the School and the understanding of how religions are related to each other, teaching Judaism in Years 3 and 4 and Islam in Years 5 and 6. There is also teaching around Sikhi traditions in Years 3 and 4 and Humanist beliefs in Years 5 and 6. Visitors to the School and visits of the Children to other places of worship enhance their learning and understanding.

*Philip Hiorns - Foundation Governor*

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Adams to the governing board as our new parent governor. We know that she will bring a wealth of experience to the team.

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

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the F.O.O.B.S. Summer Fair at the weekend – we hope you had an amazing time! An extra special thank you goes out to all the fantastic volunteers who gave up their time to help make the day happen – we truly couldn't have done it without you.

We're still counting up the totals, but early signs show that together we've raised a huge amount for our schools – and that's all thanks to YOU! We'll share the final figure soon, but for now... thank you again for your support, generosity and community spirit!

**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

w/c 14<sup>th</sup> July – No after school clubs this week

w/c 14<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Show week (evening performances Tues, Weds, Thurs 6pm)

16<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers Service at Church pm (parents welcome)

18<sup>th</sup> July – Family Picnic, joint with Old Basing Infant School (details in newsletter)

18<sup>th</sup> July – Hampshire Music Service inset day (no music lessons)

21<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Party

22<sup>nd</sup> July – Church visits am:

09:15 Mitchell, Paulet, Austen

10:00 White, Nelson, Dickens

11:00 Brunel, Wellington, Conan Doyle

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

23<sup>rd</sup> July-2<sup>nd</sup> September Summer Holidays

3<sup>rd</sup> September – Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

4<sup>th</sup> September – First day of new term

11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 Year 6 SATs tests

1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2026 Year 4 Multiplication Tests