



## No: 6 - November 2020

Article 17 Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio, and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

Dear Parents

This week has seen our annual Friendship week at St Mary's. Pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities including drama and role play activities, poetry writing, picture book studies and art. Please take a moment to look on our website next week for examples of some of the work from our Friendship week.

Last week Year 5 enjoyed visiting the Space Dome to help enrich their Earth and Space topic. The children were really excited to share what they had seen and learnt in the dome!

Last Wednesday (11.11.20) each of the class bubbles stopped at 11:00am to participate in a two minute's silence for Remembrance Day. All of the pupils took part with respect, showing compassion for those who lost their lives in the two World Wars and conflicts since. Our Monday act of worship introduced this concept, following the British Legion's theme of 'Service and Sacrifice.' Two of our Year 6 pupils also laid a wreath at the memorial at St Mary's church on behalf of all the pupils and staff.

### **Children in Need**

On Friday 13th November, the children and staff of St Mary's came together to raise money for this worthwhile charity. The spots were out in force on the Friday and previously to this the children have been taking part in 'Five to thrive' activities throughout the week, with a focus on wellbeing, which is the theme for this year's event.

Have a look in our photo gallery for pictures of our 'spotty' children.

One of the changes we made this year was to ask you all to donate through our Just Giving site and I am pleased to tell you that so far we have raised over £1300! This is a phenomenal amount, thank you everyone.

The site will remain open into next week if you would still like to make a donation:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-mary-s-ce-junior-school-old-basing1>

Many thanks to all parents and others at home who helped prepare the children for the day and gave so generously.

### **HSE COVID 19 Spot-check**

Last week we were visited by two representatives from the Health and Safety Executive to assess the school's management arrangements to control the risks associated with COVID-19. We are pleased to

share that they were really happy with the control measures and procedures that we have put in place in school and they were unable to offer any further suggestions or set any actions. We continue to work hard to ensure that school can be as safe as possible for all the pupils and staff and we continually review and amend our risk assessment as needed. Thank you to all of our pupils who are following routines and guidelines really well and thank you too for your continued support at pick up and drop off.

### **Updated Guidance**

The government have recently updated the following document. 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers schools and colleges during the coronavirus covid19 outbreak' Follow the link below to access the document on the DfE website.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm\\_source=12%20November%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_source=12%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

### **Online Safety**

Part of the work children have done in school during Friendship week has touched on the issue of cyber bullying. The UK Safer Internet Centre website offers lots of advice for parents and children if they feel they are involved in any online bullying.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/cyberbullying-advice-parents-and-carers>

### **Christmas Events**

Normally at this time of year we would be busy preparing for our Christmas musical concerts and other exciting events. Obviously this year sadly has to be a bit different, however we will not let the current situation blight our festive spirit at St Mary's! Please do read and take on board all of these dates and arrangements for our festive celebrations.

#### • **Carol Concert**

We are currently working on putting together a virtual Christmas Carol Concert that we hope you will all be able to be part of towards the end of term. Links and details for this will be sent out later, but we hope to have it ready to view as a community on the evening of **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

### • **Christmas Cards**

The children at St Mary's have traditionally loved using the communal post boxes to post cards to friends and staff. To reduce the risk of contamination this year, our post boxes will be slightly different! Should children wish to bring in cards, each class will have 13 large envelopes in which pupils can 'post' their cards to children or staff in their bubble and to those in different classes. Class teachers will then keep these in 'quarantine' before they are handed out to other classes. Therefore, all Christmas cards should be in school by **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December** so they can then be **handed out during the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> December**.

### • **Christmas Panto**

During the **week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> December** all classes will have the opportunity to watch an online performance of Dick Whittington. We are really looking forward to this new experience for St Mary's.

### • **Christmas Parties**

The good news is that these can go ahead as usual! As our parties are held in classes, our class bubbles can still enjoy this afternoon celebrating together. All classes will have their Christmas party during the **afternoon of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. We ask for children to bring in their own individual small box/bag of 'party food' for them to enjoy during the party. This year we will not allow children to share food within their class. Please note this is in addition to their normal packed lunch or school dinner. This day will also be a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day and we look forward to seeing lots of festive attire.

### • **Christmas Dinner**

Finally, thank you for returning your children's Christmas dinner orders already. Our annual Christmas lunch will be held on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

St Mary's Church will still be holding a Christmas Tree Festival this year over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> December. It will be a little different this year as it will be taking place entirely outside. If your family would like to decorate a tree for the event, please complete the attached form and return it as soon as possible. The theme for this year is Comfort and Joy.

### **Christmas Stocking Fillers for the Elderly**

Spotlight UK are seeking anyone who would be willing to make up and donate a Christmas stocking for the residents of local care homes in Basingstoke. Another lovely and rewarding activity they suggest is making Christmas cards for residents. Please see the attached flyer for further information of how you can help.

### **Emotional Wellbeing**

Please see the following which you may find useful for your child:

Introducing Ollee – a virtual friend (ParentZone/BBC Children In Need). Ollee is a digital friend for children aged 8-11, created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing.

It's designed to help children reflect on how they feel and to process their experiences with the support and help of their parents and carers – and it does this by offering them advice about a range of subjects: school, family, friends, their body, the internet and the world.

For each of these subjects, children can choose an emotion that matches how they feel about it: happy, angry, sad, confused, frustrated, stressed or worried. Next, they can choose from a list of topics – for instance, a child who was worried about school might be able to select 'I haven't done my homework' as the cause of their worry. Finally, they'll see a page of advice about the topic, presented in child-friendly bite-sized chunks they can read then or save for later. You can see more information and download the Ollee app here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>

### **F.O.O.B.S. Update**

We have ticket sales open on several events at the moment. Our Letter to Santa packs have been very popular! As a result we are having to close sales earlier than planned to give ourselves time to prepare them all so you have until end of day Monday 23rd November to purchase your pack. The Christmas Craft - Snowman Lantern Kits are on sale until Friday 4th December. Head to [www.foobs.weebly.com](http://www.foobs.weebly.com) to purchase your tickets! Also, I hope everyone is busy planning their Winter Window designs! Email [friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com) by 6th December with your address to be included on the trail map. Maps will go on sale on 11th December and voting for the best window display will be open from 12th December to 24th December. Best of luck to all those who enter!

Many thanks to David Hornsey for his donation of £150 raised for F.O.O.B.S. during Lockdown. David brought together a collection of short stories written by children primarily from years 2 and 5 and published a book called "The Wrong Tooth-Fairy and other Lockdown Stories". Credit is also due to Melody Saunders for helping encourage the children to write. The books were sold locally and raised money for NHS Charities Together and F.O.O.B.S. Well done to all the children who took part.

### **Attendance**

The school's overall attendance currently stands at 98.1%.

Congratulations to Paulet Class with the highest attendance of 99%.

### **Calshot 2021 – Current Year 5**

The information meeting for Year 5 parents is next Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm. This will be a recorded presentation that will be an opportunity for

you to find out more about this amazing residential trip in preparation for next year. A letter with further details and information regarding payment etc. will then be sent out shortly after. We would ask that deposits of £100 are paid by the end of this term via SCOPay. Payment plan options will be included on the letter.

### **School Uniform**

Please note we are now in winter uniform so could all children please wear a shirt and tie. Please can you check that your child's tie is clearly named, we already have a number of un-named ties in lost property.

With the changeable weather it is also important that children have warm, waterproof coats in school every day and that they are wearing suitable shoes with good grips. Can we once again also ask that children have a warm outdoor PE kit of plain dark coloured tracksuit bottoms and a jumper for colder days.

### **A Message from the Governors**

As part of their role in monitoring and evaluating the delivery of the curriculum at school, each of the governors has one or more curriculum links with subject leaders. As the Maths curriculum link, I was pleased to be able to meet up with Mr Gibbs before the new lockdown. Mr Gibbs has taken over this year as the Maths subject leader, but I was able to observe continuity as the staff always seek to build upon the good work of previous years and introduce new ways of doing things where that will improve outcomes for children.

In discussion of last year, the effects of COVID-19 restrictions meant that there was a lack of data for the second half of the year, and of course no SATs results. However, it was good to learn that innovations that had been started in the year had shown a positive impact. These new methods will be further developed this year, with Mr Gibbs and Miss Cosgrove passing on training they receive to other staff. Although the impact of COVID-19 will mean that this year will be more demanding on teachers and children, I was left feeling positive that everything is in place to be able to catch up.

*Paul Skinner, Maths curriculum link governor.*

### **Year 3 applications for September 2021**

The application window for applications into Year 3 in September 2021 is now open. The deadline for applications is Friday, 15 January 2021. Please see our website for our virtual tour and frequently asked questions about admissions.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/news/?pid=195&nid=2&storyid=551>

### **Dates for the Diary**

24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	On-line Year 5 Calshot meeting for parents
12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival
w/b 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	On-line Christmas Panto
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Virtual Christmas Carol Concert (details to follow)
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Parties (non uniform/Christmas jumper day)
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Lunch
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term (normal finish times)

### **21<sup>st</sup> Dec-1<sup>st</sup> Jan Christmas Holidays**

4<sup>th</sup> Jan                      **Start of new term**

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

and see the school's Facebook page if you need to check events on the go.

Caroline Welch  
Headteacher