



30th April 2021

UNCRC Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hopefully the bank holiday weekend will see some of the sunshine we had at the start of this week and the rain will stay away until night time!

It has been lovely to welcome Kath back to our screens this week for another 'Relax Kids' session. This week she focused with some classes on using positive affirmations to remind ourselves of all of our qualities and she taught us further relaxation techniques. One which is particularly useful was the finger hold. This is a simple technique that combines breathing and gently squeezing or holding each finger. Practising finger holds can help to manage emotions and stress. She talked about how this is a great relaxation technique as it can be done subtly in times of need without other people noticing. Ask your child to show you some of the different breathing and relaxation techniques Kath taught their class.

This week in AoW we introduced the next HeartSmart theme – Fake is a Mistake, see below for more details. Over the next two weeks we will be moving on to our value of Curiosity as we continue to look at the events following Easter, including the Ascension.

HeartSmart

This half term the focus for Heartsmart is Fake is a Mistake. This is about unpacking how to bravely communicate truth and be proud of who we are. Why do we lie? Maybe it's just to get out of trouble or maybe it's because we want to present a better version of ourselves to the outside world. If we know that we're loved and if we know that we're enough as we are perhaps we'll feel the urge to lie a little less? Choosing to tell the truth is a powerful way of showing love to ourselves but also to others. For others to trust us we have to show that we are trustworthy. This has an implication on everything that we say. Even white lies, small insignificant lies with no real consequence, impact our trustworthiness. If we're faithful in the small, we'll be faithful in the big. But aside from mere truth-telling, Fake is a Mistake means being free to be yourself.

News from The Rainbow Room

If you have heard your child talk about Relax Kids you may be interested in the Relax Kids website. Kath works with groups and individuals running courses for all age groups. She even runs adult courses to help us manage our stress levels! I was

lucky enough to take part in one just before lockdown and it was really beneficial to my wellbeing.

www.relaxwithkath.com

If your child is on the SEND register, during parents' evening their teacher will share specific targets from their IEP with you. If you have any additional questions following this, do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Jenny Bunkle – Inclusion Manager

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Guidance for Parents and carers of children attending out of school settings

The DfE has recently updated its guidance for parents. When considering using childcare or sending them to out of school activities please consider the following:

- You should send your child to the same settings consistently and limit the number of settings they attend as far as possible, and ideally ensure they attend only one out-of-school setting in addition to school.
- You should use settings local to your home or child's school, such as settings within walking or cycling distance.
- You should also keep a record of when your child attends a setting and where it is. This is to help [NHS Test and Trace](#) identify people who may have been in contact with your child if they test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).
- Check with the provider that they have put in place protective measures to reduce the risk of infection before you send your child to a particular setting.

Follow the link below to read the full guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

National survey of children, The Big Ask,

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ask – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England. It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that we can put

children at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Children will be completing the survey in their class during this half-term.

Parents, care leavers and those working with children are also invited [to complete the adult survey](#) to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back.

The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

PE Kit

After returning to school after lockdown we appreciated that it may have been difficult to replace PE kit and school uniform that may have been outgrown. As shops are now re-open there is no need for pupils to wear alternative PE kits or uniform. We are seeing an increasing number of pupils coming to school in multi-coloured clothing for PE. Please can we remind you that PE kits should consist of the following which should be worn to school on year group PE days:

- Plain white polo short / t-shirt
- Plain dark green shorts
- White socks
- Plain Green/black or dark blue tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE in colder weather
- Trainers
- School Jumper

Shorts should be worn underneath tracksuit bottoms as they must be worn for indoor PE sessions.

Summer term Uniform - reminder

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.

Last year, a large number of pupils continued to wear short sleeved cotton shirt and ties through the summer months, and commented that they found them more comfortable and cooler than polo shirts.

This is something we continue to look into for future years. If you have any thoughts on the subject, please let us know.

Assessment and Reporting arrangements

Ahead of parents' evening appointments next week your child will be bringing home an envelope containing two pieces of writing, one from the beginning of the year and a more recent piece. Inside there will also be some targets that will form part of the discussion at parents' evening. If they have not come home already this week, they will be coming home on Tuesday. Russell class - you will receive

yours ahead of your slightly later parents' evening appointments.

As I am sure that you are aware from the media all end of Key Stage 2 assessments have been cancelled this year. We have reviewed our school assessment procedures and end of year reporting arrangements in line with guidance from the DfE and from the local authority assessment team. This will ensure that our assessments recognise the inconsistent experiences of children this year and ensure that they are focused on the most important areas that will support transition into the next year group and onto the adapted autumn term curriculum. Our end of year reports to parents that come out in the summer term will reflect these changes; we will provide you with further information on this over the next term.

Reading Books

It can be difficult sometimes for parents to support children in selecting good books to read. The following website may be helpful in finding new, exciting titles to share at home.

<https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/>

Love Reading 4Kids reviews the latest publication and is a great place to find recommended reads.

F.O.O.B.S. Update

A big thank you to all who donated to the Bags2School collection. We raised a whopping £235! Apologies for the delay in announcing Lotto winners for the last few months. Lockdown has prevented us drawing it as we are required to have two members of the committee present at the draw. So drum roll please..... January's winner was ticket number 685, winning £163.50. February's winner was ticket 806, winning £163.50 and March's winner was ticket number 235, winning £163.50. If you don't already have tickets and would like to join the Lotto, please email us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com. Don't forget that you can purchase second hand uniform by emailing us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com and if you have any good quality outgrown uniform (green and grey only please, no white) we will happily take it off your hands!

Primary school pupils and testing

On advice from Public Health England (PHE), pupils in primary schools and children in nursery settings are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme.

PHE has advised that there are currently limited public health benefits to testing primary-aged pupils with lateral flow devices (LFD). In addition, primary-aged pupils, particularly younger children, may find the LFD testing process unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.

Therefore, if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19: cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell you should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child.

2021-22 INSET Days

INSET days for the next academic year have now been confirmed. As usual these are the same as for Old Basing Infants.

2nd Sept 2021
3rd Sept 2021
4th Jan 2022
28th Feb 2022
27th May 2022

Dates for the Diary

3rd May Bank Holiday – School Closed

5th May Parents' Evening (virtual)

6th May Parents' Evening (virtual)

28th May INSET DAY

31st – 4th Jun Half Term

7th June First day back

18th June Class Photos

21st June Hampshire Music INSET
(No guitar or drum lessons)

29th June Sports Day *

1st July Reserve Sports Day *

23rd July Last day of term

2nd Sept INSET DAY

3rd Sept INSET DAY

6th Sept First day of term

***Parental attendance is subject to government restrictions in place at the time**

For further detail and updates please see;

School website:

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

and also our Facebook page

@stmarysjuniorsoldbasing

Caroline Welch
Headteacher