



**27<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased that the heavy rain over the weekend and at the start of the week has made way for some clearer skies. Hopefully the forecasts are correct and we will be able to enjoy drier weather and some sunshine over the half term break. The following website has links to some nice family walks around Hampshire if you want to visit somewhere new over half term:

<https://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/things-to-do/walking-and-hiking/family-walks-in-hampshire>

Over the last two weeks, Year 4 have been taking part in the Hampshire School Library Service Information Book Awards. They have looked at 5 different books and as a year group voted for their favourite. They were all great books, but St Mary's have voted that 'Red Alert' by Catherine Barr was their best. This book teaches the reader about some of the world's most endangered animals and what we can do to help protect them and their habitats. We look forward to finding out which title wins the overall Hampshire competition.

This week Year 3 have enjoyed a trip to the River Loddon to enrich their Geography topic. From talking to them, the highlight appears to have been getting into the shallow parts to see what organisms were living in the river.

Year 5 have filled the corridors with delicious smells this week creating different fajita dishes as part of a Food Technology project. Hopefully they will be able to cook something for you at home now!

This week saw the period of Eastertide come to a close and we entered a period of Ordinary Time in the church's calendar. In our AoW, we continued on the theme of One Family, with a focus on kindness. As we continue to struggle with the restrictions, even though things are beginning to ease, I think we are all finding that a little kindness can go a long way.

I wish you all a good break next week and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**DIABETES UK WEEK A non-uniform day 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Dear Parents

Diabetes UK week is held between 14-20 June & on THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE your child will be able to

come into school in home clothes (non-uniform) but preferably dressed all in blue, the Diabetes UK charity colour and crucially to make a minimum £1 donation via the Just Giving link below.

Face painting is not allowed. No football shirts or crazy hair please!

If this is your PE day, please still wear blue but make sure it is appropriate for your sport session.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/diabetesweek2021>

Phoebe  
(White Class)

### **Governor's Corner**

As we approach the half term holiday we can, if the weather forecasters are correct, look forward to basking in near average temperatures for the time of year and luxuriating in occasional sunny spells. While we may not have to worry too much about applying sunscreen it will at least be a relief from the relentlessly miserable weather of recent weeks.

I am sure that the school staff, and pupils, are all looking forward to a well-deserved week off. The school staff have all continued to do an amazing job delivering the high-quality learning, that we are used to at St Marys, in clearly very difficult and trying times.

Over the course of this half-term the governors have continued their various monitoring activities. All governors are assigned a small number of curriculum subjects, or activities to monitor and each are in the process of meeting, in school or via zoom, their respective curriculum link teachers. The aim of each meeting is to discuss and monitor progress, over the past school year, against key objectives. Clearly, at the moment, the emphasis is very much on understanding the impact of lockdowns and COVID restrictions on learning and discussing measures to address any gaps in learning. All governors will report back to the governing body.

A vacancy has recently arisen for a parent governor which we need to fill as soon as possible. Being a school governor can be a hugely rewarding role giving you the chance to make a real difference to young people and to give something back to the local community.

As well as helping to oversee your child's learning, being a governor will give you the opportunity to develop your existing skills and learn new skills. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, extensive training courses are available and encouraged.

The governing body are a friendly bunch so if you feel that you would like to join us then please just complete the recently circulated application form or let the school know.

Michael Wright  
Chair of Governors

### **Assessment and Reporting arrangements**

As we explained to you a few weeks ago, we have reviewed our assessment procedures this year in line with guidance from both the DfE and the local authority. This year's disruptions have meant that we have had to adapt our curriculum in order to meet the needs of this cohort and ensure that they will have the necessary skills to transition into the next stage of their learning. We will continue to review our curriculum and again in the autumn term this will be adapted to ensure that gaps in learning can be closed and children continue to progress as expected. In end of year reports this year we will be using the terminology: 'ready to progress' which reflects those children who have gained those vital skills to progress, and 'not secure in some areas'. For the vast majority of children on the SEND register they will be assessed as not secure in some areas, this does not mean that they have not made progress, but is a reflection of their specific needs and the support that they receive. This should have been discussed as part of the recent Parent's Evening discussions, but if you feel that there was not enough time to gain a full understanding of your child's needs please do make another appointment to discuss this in more detail with your child's teacher.

### **Reporting COVID symptoms and Track and Trace reporting over the Half-term holiday**

**If a child, who has been attending school, develops symptoms up to and including Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May and subsequently tests positive**, parents are asked to inform the school so that we can assist in identifying close contacts and advising on any self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

**We would ask that up to the end of 29<sup>th</sup> May you inform the school immediately if your child has developed symptoms and subsequently let us know the result of any tests, whether positive or negative**

As the school will be closed at this point we ask that all communications be made via email to myself and that you **copy in Mrs Lillywhite** to your email as well so that we can ensure that all messages are

received. The inbox will be checked each morning between 9.00-10.00am

[headteacher@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk)  
[g.lillywhite@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:g.lillywhite@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk)

Where a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (**ie. The symptoms developed after Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May**), the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

### **Covid Restrictions**

At the Governors' meeting last week, we discussed the current COVID arrangements that we have in place, for example staggered start times and year group bubbles. It was agreed that everyone, both adults and children, are used to these and that it makes sense to keep the arrangements the same until the end of the end of the school year.

### **Be 'Tick Aware'**

Enjoy the outdoors but beware of ticks! Hampshire County Council has updated its advice to residents to be 'tick aware' while enjoying time outside or working outdoors. Please see the link below for some useful information.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20210401ticks>

### **Return of Library Books**

We still have a significant number of books that have not been returned to school. Could we please urge all of you to have another look over the holidays for any school library books that you might have forgotten about. Every year we have to write off a significant number of books that have been lost. These include a number that are not owned by us, but are on loan from the Schools' Library Service.

### **E-safety**

As we go into the half term break, children have the opportunity to spend more time online. We would ask that you spend a little time with your child reinforcing the messages that we teach in school to ensure that they keep themselves safe and use the Internet responsibly e.g. not sharing personal information with anyone, saying anything to another person that is in any way unkind or disrespectful and not posting images of themselves, without parental permission. More information can be found on our website in the parents' section, which includes links to some useful websites. Please see the link below.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+safety&pid=68>

## Attendance

Attendance for the whole school from 8<sup>th</sup> March to the end of May was 98% which remains high. The class with the overall highest attendance for this period was Davies on 98.9%

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

Hello from F.O.O.B.S. Our Father's Day craft kits are on sale until 8pm on Monday 7th June. The kits contain all the bits you need to make a wooden desk tidy and a piece of coloured card to make a personalised greetings card. You will also receive 20 assorted foam stickers to decorate the desk tidy and card! You can purchase them from the F.O.O.B.S. website <http://www.foobs.weebly.com>



### FOOBS

F.O.O.B.S. Old Basing  
Schools PTA website  
[www.foobs.weebly.com](http://www.foobs.weebly.com)

for £3.50 each. These will be hand delivered to the address provided on your order by Saturday 12th June.

We still have second hand uniform available for sale and are, as always, grateful for any donations of outgrown items (green and grey items in good condition). Please contact us on [friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com) to arrange collection/drop off.

## 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2021  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2021  
4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022  
28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## Dates for the Diary

**28<sup>th</sup> May      INSET DAY**

**31<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Jun   Half Term**

**7<sup>th</sup> June      First day back**

17<sup>th</sup> June      Diabetes UK - Blue Dress Down Day  
(donation to be made on Just Giving)

18<sup>th</sup> June      Class Photos

21<sup>st</sup> June      Hampshire Music INSET  
(No guitar or drum lessons)

29<sup>th</sup> June      Sports Day \*  
1<sup>st</sup> July      Reserve Sports Day \*

**23<sup>rd</sup> July      Last day of term**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sept      INSET DAY**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sept      INSET DAY**

**6<sup>th</sup> 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