



9th July 2021

UNCRC Article 13: Children have the right to get and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Dear Parents and Carers,

What with the rain returning and high winds, as well as having to send our first bubbles home it has been a couple of weeks to forget! Thank you so much to all of the parents and children, especially Year 3 and Year 5, who have been so understanding.

I am sure that you are as happy as us to hear the government's announcement this week that bubbles will cease in schools and we will no longer have to send close contacts home in the same way as we have recently experienced. As we mentioned before we will be keeping all of our current procedures in place for the final week of the year, as the children are settled into their current routines, but fingers crossed things will be more back to how they were in September.

See below the government's guidance for parents following Step 4:

<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/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

For the last two weeks of the term we will be focussing on our value of Hope, something that we have had to hold onto throughout these challenging times. We will also be exploring this value in terms of transition, both for those children moving up to the next year and those moving on to a different school. All of us can find change tricky and it is important for us to hold onto the positives and work together as 'One Family' to support each other.

Don't forget to look regularly on our website at our news pages and in our photograph gallery for more updates about life at St Mary's!

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

Photo Gallery: <https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=7&qcatid=54>

Free School Meals Eligibility Checker

Please use the following link to check to see if you are entitled to claim for free school meals <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>
To complete a check, you will need the following information for yourself or the person you are checking on behalf of:

- Your own name, Date of Birth, and contact details

- National Insurance number or National Asylum Seekers number
- child's name and date of birth
- school your child is attending or will attend

Staggered Starts/End of Day

It is our intention to return to our previous arrangements for the start and end of the school day in September. Having examined the staggered starts/ends within the context of all activities in school returning to normal we have found it is impossible to stagger the collection of children without causing significant operational difficulties for after school activities, which we plan to resume in full in September. This means we will revert to the timings of the day that we had before the pandemic. Children will be able to enter the school premises, and their classes from 8.30am. The school day will begin at 8.50am, giving families a 20-minute window to arrive. A bell will be rung at 8.45am with the expectation that all children will be in their classes, seated and ready to work by 8.50am. The school day will end at 3.25pm. The decision has been made in consultation with Old Basing Infant School. Please be aware however, that if government guidance for September requires us to keep staggered starts then we will let you know any new arrangements as soon as we know.

Summer Library Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national scheme run by the Reading Agency with the aim of keeping children reading over the six-week summer break. This year the challenge starts on Saturday 3rd July and finishes on Saturday 18th September. The theme this year is Wild World Heroes, with the aim of inspiring children to explore ways of helping to save the planet. The characters and landscape are illustrated by award-winning children's author and illustrator Heath McKenzie! This year the children will be able to join and complete the challenge both online and in one of our Hampshire Libraries.

St Mary's News - Our School Magazine

Hello!

The Summer 2 edition of our school magazine is out NOW! Follow this link to download your own copy

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+School+Magazine&pid=381&action=saved>

Happy reading everyone,
Miss Sherlock

Governor's Corner

It was a pleasure to be able to meet, albeit virtually, with Mr Gibbs, the Maths subject leader, to hear about the challenges and successes in the Maths' curriculum since Autumn. During the period of lockdown and home schooling from January to March some children had thrived, whether they had been in school or at home, but others had struggled. The school staff have adjusted their teaching in order to address the resulting gaps. They are also continuously assessing the children's learning and practising the key skills to ensure they will be ready to progress to the next stage. Booster sessions, led by teachers or teaching assistants, have also been used with specific children to address gaps. The mastery approach that was introduced last year, has continued to be developed and is paying dividends in allowing concepts to be embedded. I was encouraged that despite the massive impact of COVID-19 restrictions, every effort was being made to ensure that all children have been able to make progress in Maths.

Paul Skinner (Foundation Governor)

F.O.O.B.S. Update

Hello from F.O.O.B.S.! Tickets are still on sale at £1 each via www.foobs.weebly.com for the Summer Raffle. Please feel free to share the link with family and friends as the raffle is open to everyone and all funds raised will go to the schools, so it's a great cause! Tickets will be on sale until Sunday this week with the draw being held on Monday 12th July.

F.O.O.B.S is also looking forward to being able to hold some real-life events next year (Covid dependent) and is currently considering a fun run/family day, year group discos, another clothing collection and the usual seasonal events at Christmas and Easter, as well as the Summer Fair. All events are, of course, dependent on any Government restrictions at the time and adjustments may need to be made.

Serving Hampshire – Balancing the Budget Consultation

The Serving Hampshire Balancing the Budget consultation is open from Monday 7 June 2021 to 11:59pm on Sunday 18 July 2021.

Local authorities are required by law to deliver a balanced budget – which means they cannot spend more than is available.

However, growing demand for local services, particularly social care, and the absence of multi-year funding from the Government means that Hampshire County Council continues to face a total budget shortfall of at least £80 million over the next two years (2022/23 and 2023/24). One of the suggestions included in the consultation would be to end provision of crossing patrols across the county. As a school that definitely benefits from having a crossing patrol outside of our school, we are one of 177 schools in the county, I would urge you to consider a response to the consultation

Follow the link below to add your views to the consultation.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancing-the-budget>

Sports Day – results

Last week, we were able to run the traditional St Mary's Sports Day, which was a resounding success. Great sportsmanship was displayed and the children had a wonderful time taking part. Every child in the school competed in six activities, three team based and three individual, earning points for their team colour. In the morning, with the lower school competing, the Red team came out on top. In the afternoon, the upper school had their chance and Blue team scored the most points. After the team events, every year group had a team from each colour of selected athletes compete in either a short distance race, long distance race or the relay. At the end of the day, and with all the points totalled up the scores were so close, there were only 60 points between the teams out of a total of 6600.

1st place – Blue Team

2nd place – Red Team

3rd Place – Yellow Team

Please look at the news section of our website and the gallery for further details.

Additional Bank Holiday

Next year, there will be an additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This involves moving the late May Bank Holiday from the Monday to the end of that week making a long weekend. However, all of those dates are in the May half term holidays and so make no difference to staff and children. Hampshire County Council has made the decision to shorten the length of the school year by a day to take into account this extra holiday. **This means that the last day of the next academic year will be Thursday 21st July.**

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 your diary

19th July Calshot trip – Russell
20th July Calshot trip – Nightingale
21st July Calshot trip - Davies
22nd July Year 6 party/picnic

23rd July Last day of term

2nd Sept INSET DAY

3rd Sept INSET DAY

6th Sept First day of term

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