



No: 2 – September 2021

UNCRC Article 28 – All children have a right to an education

Dear Parents,

The last few weeks have been as busy as always! The children continue to show responsibility in school and they continue to show enthusiasm for their learning. It was lovely to see clubs resume last week after such a long time not being able to run them! Over 20 after school clubs are currently running and music clubs and choirs have restarted. We are also really excited to welcome back band and orchestra. Over 250 pupils have signed up to take part in an extracurricular club which is fantastic, and we are proud to offer such opportunities for all our pupils. After school clubs this term include, Science Club, Book Club, Football, Street Dance, Pottery, Chess and Mini Fencing to name just a few. Look out for further exciting opportunities coming in the Spring term!

Year 3 have started learning about the Stone Age and they enjoyed becoming cave men for the morning! They collected firewood, made shelters and created some cave art. Savage Saxons is the topic in Year 4 and we are looking forward to welcoming visitors from Oxenwood Education centre into school later in the half term for a day learning more about life in these times.

Year 5 have started their topic based around Old Basing house, later in the term they will visit the ruins to find out more about the significance of this historic site. They have enjoyed participating in a willow weaving workshop this week, they worked hard to create some interesting sculptures.

'Wild and Wondrous Weather' is the theme for Year 6 – they are already enjoying finding out natural disasters and how they affect people and landscapes. They visited the church this week for a year group act of worship, it was lovely to back in St Mary's after such a long break.

Please do check our website regularly for galleries of some of the activities going on in school.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=7&qcatid=55>

This week in our Act of Worships we have moved on to responsibility and discussed how Christian love is an unselfish act and how we can help others in our school and in our local community. Next week we will be continuing our theme of responsibility and finding out more about the work of the Basingstoke Foodbank. As part of our work on responsibility and the schools charity work, we will be collecting items for the foodbank. Further details will be sent out on

Monday, so you may want to gather some things this weekend. Donations can be brought into school from Tuesday 28th September. Thank you in advance for your support.

As we move further into Autumn please can you ensure your child has a rain coat with them each day, as we do endeavour to get the children outside whatever the weather!

Governors' Corner

I would like to say a belated welcome back. Last night we held our first full governing body meeting of the year. It was lovely to welcome our new governors, Andy Grayson, Tricia Williamson, Aude Jarrett and Rebecca Cummings and we look forward to working with them.

This first meeting included some safeguarding training for us which is vital for our work. It was the first time we have been able to meet in person for over 18 months and it was lovely for us all to be back in school.

We look forward to a less disrupted year and look forward to working with the staff and school community.

Michael Wright
Chair of Governors

Parents Evening

We hope you all received the link to watch the year group bringing videos last week. Feedback from parents has been that these were useful to keep you updated about what will lay ahead this year! Parents' Evenings (week beginning 11th October) are fast approaching and we are putting together a plan for how these will be booked and held this year as we will be offering both online and face to face meetings.

Open Afternoon and Morning for Year 2 Parents

Do you have a child due to start Year 3 in September 2022?

If so we would like to invite you to one of our sessions for current Year 2 parents on Monday 4th October, at 1:30pm or Wednesday 10th November at 9:15am.

This will be a chance for you to see the school in action and hear from members of the school community prior to making your application for a Year 3 place.

If you require any further information, please call the school office on 01256 465092. We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's CE Junior School.

Hampshire County Council School Crossing

Patrol Service: Important Information

Updated letter received from Hampshire County Council:

'You will recall that I wrote to you in June to advise that the County Council had begun a public consultation exercise on its proposed savings programme to balance its budgets from 2023 onwards, and that the consultation would give examples to illustrate potential savings areas. I am writing now to update you and I am able to confirm that the particular example relating to the school crossing patrol service will not be recommended for inclusion in the current programme of spending reductions. The recommendation not to take this particular proposal further has been shaped by a number of factors. Firstly, the pandemic has brought clear evidence of changing public behaviours with increased popularity for walking and cycling. The Government has subsequently made various policy announcements around promoting more active modes of travel and is providing funding to support these – including trips to and from schools. In addition, it is clear from the outcome of the public consultation exercise that there is strong public support for retaining a school crossing patrol service. If this recommendation is confirmed through the Council's democratic decision-making processes, it means that the current approach to school crossing patrols will be maintained with crossing patrols provided, and funded, based on the number of children crossing and the volume of traffic. It is important to note however that retaining existing frontline services, such as school crossing patrols, in accordance with Hampshire residents' priorities will depend very much on reducing future waste growth and encouraging businesses and households to embrace greater recycling in order to reduce waste volumes, and costs'

Safeguarding updates

As part of our annual review of our safeguarding procedures we have updated our Child Protection Policy and safeguarding Procedures. Both of these documents are on the policies page of our website.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies%26%23160%3B+%26amp%3B%26%23160%3B+Premiums&pid=22>

I'm worried about my child's eating habits (Action for Children)

Everyone has different eating habits. But if you're worried about your child's relationship with food or their body, it might be worth looking for some support. If your child's eating habits negatively affect their everyday life, they may have an eating disorder. This is when someone uses food to cope with certain situations or feelings. Teenagers between 13 and 17 are most at risk, but anyone can have an eating disorder. It can be helpful to know the signs and what to do if you're worried about your child.

Read more:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/mental-health-wellbeing/self-esteem/child-eating-habits-disorder/>

Drop off and Layby

Please can we remind parents that in the morning the layby should be used for dropping off and not parking. If even just one car is left parked it can create issues for others who cannot use it for a quick and safe drop off.

Messy Harvest – 2/10/21

All are invited to St Mary's Church Mini Messy Harvest on Saturday 2nd October from 3-5pm in which we shall be exploring Thankfulness through the story of the 10 Lepers. Drinks and cakes upon arrival. Please see attached for further information.

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from FOBS. Just a little reminder that the F.O.O.B.S. AGM will be held on Thursday 7th October at 7:30pm at the Infant School. This meeting is open to all parents and carers and it's a good opportunity to find out what we've been up to over the past year, what money has been raised and what it was spent on. As always, we would love to see you there.

Health and Safety

Please can we remind all parents that children should not be playing on the climbing equipment on the playground before or after school, this includes any siblings waiting to collect. Thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance

We are delighted that attendance continues to be high at St Mary's, despite what you hear in the news. If you are taking your child out of school for any reason please complete a blue leave of absence form which can be obtained by contacting the school office. Where absence warrants the issuing of a Penalty Notice, anyone with parental responsibility, or having day to day care of the child can be issued with one Penalty Notice for each of the children with unauthorised absence. If two parents have two children this may result in four Penalty Notices (2 Penalty Notices per parent).

Parent Helpers

If you would like to come in to help in your child's class in the future, or you maybe want to help on future trips, you will need to complete a volunteers' application form (which will include references) and a DBS check. Please contact the school office via email for details.

Help is at hand for families struggling with the utility bills

If you are having difficulties with the cost of energy bills, you may be eligible for a FREE fuel voucher from Citizens Advice to help pay for your utilities. For more details and to find local branch contact details visit the Citizens Advice website: <https://www.citahants.org/need-advice/local%2520ca%2520offices.html>

Earring Tape and Jewellery

If your child wears earrings to school, they should be able to remove them themselves for P.E. lessons and re-insert them at the end of lessons. If the earrings have only recently been fitted, then you need to provide tape for your child to cover the earrings during PE lessons.

Can we remind you that children should not be wearing any bracelets or necklaces in school unless these are for religious practice and in this case please contact the class teacher.

Parentmail

We will continue to use the FORMS section of Parentmail for most letters that require permission slips. The forms need to be completed on parentmail and responses will be sent straight back to school. This will stop the need for paper copies and provide us with electronic permission from parents. Please could you check your parentmail account regularly and ensure that your details are kept up to date.

If you experience any issues, please contact the office who will be happy to help you.

Dinner Money

If your child has regular school dinners payment should be paid in advance, and if possible using our online payment system. School dinners are currently £2.50 per day. Please note you are able to set up a balance alert on your SCOPAY account which will notify you when your balance falls below a specified amount.

Time to Shine Day – ‘Be Bright To Be Seen’ and Walk to School Week

On Sunday 31st October British Summer times ends and sadly those clocks will go back. On Monday 4th October we are having a ‘Be Bright to Be Seen’ day in school and we would like the children to come to school dressed as brightly as they possibly can – what would you need to wear to be seen safely out walking or cycling during the darker evenings? In school on this day each class will talk about and complete activities about keeping safe on the streets. We look forward to seeing St Mary’s full of colour – the brighter the better!

This will also coincide with walk to school week – can you walk every day that week? We acknowledge that many of our families already walk, cycle or scooter every day. Perhaps for those of you who drive this could be a great time to start parking a little further away from school and walking part of the way.

School office – various

We continue to collect lost property, please ensure everything is named including fruit pots and water bottles. We have had a number of school jumpers brought to the office without any name; if you use pen on the labels please make sure names have not washed off!

Can we please request that if you have any queries that you contact the office via email or phone before 4:30pm as the office closes at this time.

Dates for your Diary

30th Sept – Yr. 6 Calshot info mtg for parents 6pm
6, 7, 8th Oct – Oxenwood visit (in school grounds)
7th Oct – Yr.5 Church Act of worship 2:30pm
7th Oct – F.O.O.B.S AGM at infant school 7:30pm
11th Oct – Yr. 6 Bikeability Week
w/c 11th Oct – no after school clubs this week
12th, 13th Oct – Parents’ Evenings (date correction)
18th-22nd Oct – Yr. 6 Calshot Residential (no clubs this week)
18th Oct – Yr. 3 Iron Age Day
18th Oct – Yr. 5 trip to Old Basing House

25th – 29th October – half term

3rd Nov – Yrs 5/6 Eucharist (parents welcome) 10am
4th Nov – White Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
4th Nov – Calshot info evening for Yr. 5 Parents 6pm
5th Nov – Yr. 4 Viking Day
9th Nov – Yr. 5 Science Dome
1st Nov – Davies Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
15th-19th Nov - Friendship Week
18th Nov - Yr. 4 Church Act of worship 2:30pm
25th Nov – Brunel Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
26th Nov – Yrs 5/6 Disco (F.O.O.B.S)
1st Dec – Yr. 3 Science Museum Trip
2nd Dec – Whole School Flu Vaccine
3rd Dec – F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market
9th Dec –Nightingale Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
15th Dec – Christmas Carol Concert at Church 6pm
16th Dec – Christmas Parties all classes (pm)

17th Dec – Last Day of Term

4th Jan – INSET Day

5th Jan – First Day of new term

For even more news, updates and photos, don’t forget to visit our website:

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

And the Facebook page if you need to check events on the go.

For even more news, updates and photos, don’t forget to visit our website:

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

And the Facebook page if you need to check events on the go.

Caroline Welch
Headteacher