



No: 3 – October 2021

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

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of the first half term. I am not sure where the last few weeks have gone!

School has been as busy as always over the last two weeks. Monday morning saw a sea of colour in school as we thought about being bright to be seen. We talked in Act of Worship and in classes, about how we need to keep ourselves safe while out and about, especially as the evenings become darker.

This week Year have 4 welcomed in staff from the Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre who provided an incredible experience for our children in our own grounds, they enjoyed baking bread on open fires and have learnt a lot about life in Saxon Britain. Please read the news articles and see our photo gallery which should be up early next week to find out more.

Next week our Year 6 pupils will take part in Bikeability training. Bikeability cycle training equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing. This is always an enjoyable week for our pupils and we are sure this cohort will love it too. Hopefully we will have lots of dry autumn days for them!

Tuesday and Wednesday next week sees our first 'hybrid' parents' evenings with some parents coming in for a face to face meeting and others meeting virtually. Please bear with us as this is new for everyone and may feel a little strange at first! If you find that you need more time to discuss matters, teachers will be more than willing to book a follow up phone call, appointments at parents evening must stick to 10 minutes. Links to virtual appointments will be sent out from the office on Monday.

This week in AoW we have moved onto our value of Hope. We looked at how people in different bible stories showed hope and talked about hope being the belief that good things can happen. Next week we continue thinking about our value of hope.

Applying for a Place in Yr 3 or Yr 7

Please note that Year 3 applications can be made from 1st November 2021 and the closing date is **15th January 2022**.

We will be holding an open day for prospective Year 3 parents on Wednesday 10th November, between 9:15am and 10:30am. This is a chance for you to tour the school and meet members of the leadership team.

Year 7 applications are open and will **close on 31st October 2021**.

Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs

If your child has a medical condition that might affect their participation in curriculum activities or other activities in school e.g. asthma, you will have filled out, or recently been asked to fill out, an Individual Healthcare Plan as part of our work to ensure your child is supported as necessary. If anything has changed since you filled out your form or if your child develops any new medical conditions, please let the office know. Please note that we are not allowed to administer any ibuprofen based medicine in school.

Winter Uniform

After half term we move into winter uniform. This means that polo shirts and summer dresses will now have to be packed away. **Shirts and ties will need to be worn by all children**, as well as their sweatshirts. Please make sure that all ties are clearly marked with your child's name.

Christmas Cards

Thank you for returning orders for the Christmas Cards, the designs look wonderful! The deadline for all orders was today. We would like to thank all the members of the Friends of Old Basing Schools for their continued hard work.

Harvest Food Bank Collection

On behalf of the Basingstoke Food Bank we would like to say thank you for all of your kind donations. Without the continued efforts of people like yourselves, they would not be able to offer help to local people who are in financial crisis, especially at the moment. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Hannigan who helped transport our donations to the foodbank.

Ebooks and audiobooks

We are very excited to launch our school e-library in collaboration with the School Library Service. This is an exciting opportunity for pupils to borrow eBooks to read at home on tablets or other electronic devices. Furthermore, the children will have access to a range of audiobooks to listen to as well. Overall, there are around 4,500 titles aimed at KS2 or younger to be read. The children will also be able to access this resource in school as individuals or in small groups. Your child will be taking home a login with them next week (w/c 11/10) so please encourage them to log on and explore the titles available!

<http://stmarysjun-hantssls.eplatform.co/>

Times Tables!

Year 4 are currently working hard to learn all of their tables facts in Maths ready for their end of year multiplication tables check!

Although year 4 are really hitting their tables, it is important that every child across the school learns and then continues to practise their tables frequently. Learning one table makes it easier to learn others. By starting with basic tables and building up, children can learn number rules which will make learning other tables easier. For example, once you know your 2 times table, you can learn your 4 times table simply by doubling the answers! Tables help with mental arithmetic. Memorising tables makes it far quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. It can also help to develop the ability to internally add, subtract and divide! Tables can also help you understand other mathematical concepts. Knowing their times tables can also help your child more readily grasp other important aspects of maths, such as fractions, division and percentages. There are also plenty of online tools to help like 'Hit the Button' and 'Times Table Rock Stars' and your child will enjoy battling against others and trying to get a high score. Knowing your times tables increases confidence! Perhaps most importantly, memorising their tables will give your child confidence in their own skills – there's nothing more 'grown up' than not having to use your fingers to work out an answer! This confidence will also help them in SATs or other assessments, and ultimately, ease their move into secondary education.

Voluntary Contribution

If you have not yet paid your voluntary contribution of £30 we would ask that you please do so as soon as possible on SCOPay. This contribution pays for all the trips out, visitors into school and other enrichment opportunities that your child will experience throughout this year and without this contribution we would be unable to arrange such fantastic first hand experiences such as Basing House, Young Shakespeare and Oxenwood Education Centre that we have had over the last few weeks.

Governors Corner

My name is Tricia Williamson and I feel privileged to be a Foundation Governor at St Mary's Junior School. I am keen to support the school as three of my children attended both schools in Old Basing during the 1980's and 90's. St Mary's gave them a good grounding enabling them to go on and be successful in their work. At the time I was a single parent St Mary's staff were very supportive of us and I would like to give my support as Governor as a way of grateful thanks.

My family includes my husband, three children, two step-children and six grandchildren from ages 4 to 18. We are now a family group of 16. Over the lockdown periods, although it has been hard, it has also been fun to help with home schooling via Google Meet and have some insight into what our young folk are learning.

I have lived in Lychpit for over 40 years and intend to get more involved in village life. My background is PA/Administrator and I have worked in Secondary and Primary schools, commerce and lastly Social Services. I am now retired and a volunteer Chaplain, not ordained, with Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy and support staff in the shops in Festival Place. I am a regular attendee of St Mary's Eastrop Church and help present 'The Marriage Course' and other duties, however, not so recently due to the pandemic. My hobbies are going to the theatre, reading, gardening, travel and of course spending time with family and friends.

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S. We held our AGM yesterday, thank you to those who attended and welcome to our new committee members. If you missed the AGM but would like to get involved it's not too late! Email us at friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com for details. We are very excited to be hosting our first in-person event since March 2020 with the Year 2 disco next Friday. Tickets are still on sale via the website <https://foobs.weebly.com/> for £4.50. We will be announcing details of our ever popular Christmas events very soon so keep your eyes peeled!

PE Kit

It has been great to see the majority of our pupils coming into school in correct PE kit this half term (plain white t-shirt and green shorts) on PE days, along with tracksuit bottoms and their school sweatshirt or cardigan. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you of the following:

- No jewellery should be worn for any PE lessons. If children are unable to remove earrings because their ears have recently been pierced they must be covered by tape or plasters and we ask that this is provided by parents. All other earrings must be removed.
- We endeavour to get out for outdoor PE lessons whenever possible, so long as the weather doesn't pose any Health and Safety risk. If it is wet, teachers will adapt lessons as appropriate, for example by concentrating on throwing activities rather than any running. Therefore, we ask that all children have suitable warm outdoor PE kit or tracksuit trousers and tops. These should be plain green, black or dark blue.
- Like the rest of their uniform – PE kit should be clearly marked with your child's name.
- Shorts must be worn for indoor PE lessons so on cold days tracksuit bottoms should be worn over the top of shorts.

Sharing Assemblies, Church visits and other events

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that you are welcome to attend your child's class sharing assembly and year Group Church Act of Worships. Dates for these are advertised in our newsletters and take place throughout the year. Class Sharing Assemblies are held in the school starting at 2:45pm. Year Group Church visits, which you are also welcome to attend, take place at 2:30pm at St Mary's Church.

We also warmly invite any parents to join us for our termly Eucharist services held in school for pupils in Yr. 5 and 6 (parents from Yr. 3 and 4 are welcome to attend these too).

Attendance

At the end of September, the school's overall attendance stood at 97.8% which remains high. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance.

Absences

Just to remind you that if your child is absent from school you should phone in daily (unless the office have prior knowledge). You can also report your child's absence on Parentmail. In the present circumstances the reason for absence must be made clear so that we can differentiate between those absent due to COVID19 symptoms and/or self-isolating and other illnesses.

Dates for your Diary

11th Oct – Yr. 6 Bikeability Week
w/c 11th Oct – no after school clubs this week
12th, 13th Oct – Parents' Evenings
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.

Caroline Welch
Headteacher