



## No: 4 – October 2021

UNCRC Article 31 - All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of our first half term –the change in weather and darker evenings really make it feel like Autumn has arrived!

Teachers enjoyed meeting with you all during parents' evening and the offer of face to face and virtual appointments seemed to work well. If you have any feedback on this do let us know so we can consider options for our spring parent consultations.

Last week Year 6 enjoyed their Bikeability cycle training. It was lovely to see how they progressed. We had pupils starting the week being unable to ride a bike then making it out onto the road with the instructors towards the end of the week. Road safety is really important to us here at St Mary's and we appreciate your support in encouraging pupils to take responsibility for themselves when riding and scootering around the village by wearing their helmets. I frequently see children out and about with them hanging off their handle bars even though they know the danger.

This week they have been in Calshot for their residential, they have all had a great time learning new skills and pushing themselves out of their comfort zone. You will be able to see photos of their adventures on the website in our photo gallery. May I take this opportunity to thank the staff who accompanied them on this trip.

This week Year 3 enjoyed a visit from Iron Age Mat. They got to find out about the different weapons, the roles in a tribe, roundhouses and different materials. The children also had the opportunity to feel and look at animal skins, chain mail and antlers as well as watching flour being made on a grindstone. A great day was had by all.

Monday saw Year 5 venture out to Basing House to find out more about these significant ruins. They learnt more about the house, its owners and what now remains of this once great building. Many thanks to our parents who volunteered to accompany us and to the English Civil War Society for enriching our visit.

This week in AoW we have thought about our value of curiosity and how wonderful the world around us is. After half term we will be thinking about the value of compassion.

Have a great half-term holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**.

### Clocks go Back

Don't forget that the clocks go back during the night between the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October. Please remember to reset your clocks otherwise you will turn up for school an hour early!

This means that as well as dark mornings we will start to see the evenings getting darker as well. Our recent 'Be bright, Be Seen' Day reminded the children about being visible when out and about. As parents you may want to back this up with some further road safety work with your children over the holidays. Below are some links you may find useful:

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

### St Mary's News

This week, the children will have had the opportunity to read the first edition of St Mary's News 2021-2022, in their classroom. This is a chance for them to read articles about teacher's interests and the world around them, as well as look at some delicious recipes and book recommendations. They will see some wonderful written work from each class and have the chance to try some fun activities too! Please feel free to read/print your own copy from the school website.

Happy reading - From Mrs Gill.

### Food Bank

Thank you once again for all of your generous donations to the Foodbank. We are thrilled to say we donated an amazing 313.52kg of food equalling around 746 meals for people in our community.

Thank you once again to Mr and Mrs Hannigan who kindly transported all of our donations and thank you to all others who offered to help.

### 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 ties are clearly marked with your child's name.

**Please note that all skirts and trousers should be grey and not black.**

Please also make sure that children bring in a coat each day, we endeavour to get out whatever the weather so please make sure they are appropriately dressed!

### **Sporting Competitions**

It has been great to see pupils representing the school in inter school sporting competitions again after so long without them! We have had teams play in football and table tennis competitions this half term and they have all represented the school so well, the girls table tennis teams coming home with medals. We look forward to giving more pupils the opportunity to take part in external sporting events over the coming year.

### **Y6 Secondary School Application Deadline**

Don't forget the deadline for submitting your child's secondary school online application is **31<sup>st</sup> October**. Please inform the office if your child is moving onto private school or is going to be home educated.

### **Governors Corner**

It has been lovely to begin welcoming the children back to St Mary's Church for Year Group Acts of Worship. Each year group visits once per term on a Thursday afternoon, and it has been lovely to see parents and grandparents joining too. The worship is led by the teachers and children in the year group, and it is lovely to hear the children confidently read in church. The children are such a credit to the school and their families, and are respectful and engaged with the Act of Worship.

When Year 6 visited, they were thinking about responsibility. The children considered 3 different definitions for responsibility, and had a chance to vote (and justify!) which definition they felt was the best. There was also an opportunity to reflect on taking responsibility to forgive one another when things go wrong.

When Year 5 came down to the church they heard a story from the Bible about a Samaritan woman having a conversation with Jesus about water that refreshes. The Year 5 children shared some facts about water from around the world, and particularly the devastating impact lack of clean water has in bringing about serious illness and death. They then reflected on how fortunate we are to have clean water and the ways in which we can be careful about how much water we use, e.g. turning off the tap when brushing our teeth. In the final part of their Act of Worship they thought about the ways in which water brings refreshment, and what they can do to bring refreshment to themselves and others.

Year 3 came to visit the church this week and talked about curiosity. They asked questions about the church and about one another's favourite animals, and we listened to different animal sounds. At the end we heard a story about Jesus' curiosity as a child to learn more and more. The children have been encouraged to be curious about something over the half term break.

We hope you all have a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming Year 4 next half term!  
Reverend Heather, Foundation Governor

### **Friends of Old Basing Schools (F.O.O.B.S)**

F.O.O.B.S. has organised another unwanted clothing collection so here's your opportunity to have a big clear out over half term! Like the previous collection in April, please use your own bags for the items you'd like to donate (as Bag2School isn't providing their bags for us to use). We will have drop off points available during the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> November, more details to follow.

We accept the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE: Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), handbags, hats, bags, scarves and ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, household curtains, household towels and household bedding (bed sheets, pillowcases and duvet covers). We DO NOT accept: Duvets & blankets, pillows & cushions, carpets, rugs & mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats), soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing, school uniforms with & without logo, corporate clothing and workwear and textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material. Please, please don't bring anything not on the accepted list as it will leave our volunteers with the problem of disposing of it.

The Year 2 disco last week was a fantastic success! Thank you to all the children who attended and showed us their moves! We're excited for the other year group discos throughout the rest of the year. F.O.O.B.S. has plenty of pre-loved uniform items that are available for purchase – both grey uniform items and branded jumpers/cardigans for both schools. All items are £1 or £2. Please contact [friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com) with your requirements and we can check what is available.

With Christmas only just over 2 months away, we are already thinking about our festive events. We are pleased to announce that we will be running the Christmas Markets again this year for both schools as per the recent Parentmail. And following the success of the Letters to Santa event we held last year, we will be organising this again too, please look out for more information on this after half term.

Your F.O.O.B.S. committee

### **Online Safety**

With half term upon us I thought it relevant to share some handy tips for parents when it comes to children watching videos online. From animals doing funny things, to slime-making and game-tutorials, the internet has lots of fun videos for children to enjoy.

But the amount and availability of content online means that children may see something inappropriate. To understand what type of content might not be suitable and advice on how to help your child watch safely, watch this short [video guide](#).

The internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content. This can be fun and entertaining for children, but it does mean your child may see something that is intended for adults. Find out what to do if [you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or what to do [if they already have](#).

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Catherine Cosgrove – Computing Lead

### **Parenting Smart (Place2Be)**

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they can find themselves in with their children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?
- My child has trouble going to sleep
- My child says 'I hate you!'
- Cultural identity: who am I?

The Parenting Smart website can be found here:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

### **Attendance**

At the end of this half term, the school's overall attendance stood at 97.4%.

Please remember to fill in a leave of absence form, available from the office, if you need to take your child out of school for any reason. If the absence is unauthorised then, as set down by the department of Education, a Penalty Notice can be issued. In Hampshire, Penalty Notices are issued when a pupil has had 10 or more half-day sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence, in the last 10 school week period.

### **Get Heartsmart!**

The children have been learning to Get Heartsmart this half term! Get Heartsmart is about recognising that we have the power to choose well and what we put into our hearts will affect what we put our hearts into. It comes first because it sets the context for the five principals of HeartSmart. It's like a bookshelf that the five principles rest on. Get HeartSmart is about self-mastery and taking ownership of the decisions we make, which is foundational to becoming a powerful person.

Next half term, we will be moving on to the first principle which is 'Don't forget to let love in.' Don't forget to ask your children how they have been getting Heartsmart this term!

Natalie Eckett – RSHE Lead

### **Children In Need: Friday 19th November 2021**

We will be celebrating Children in Need 2021 this year – watch this space for our fundraising activities! School council will be meeting to share their ideas and we will let you know our plans after half term.

### **Remembrance**

As usual we will be supporting the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Children will be able to buy poppies and various other items from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Snap bands - £1.50  
Silicon wristbands - £1.00  
Poppy reflector keyring and zip pull – 50p

Children will be able to purchase one item initially (as we have limited stock) from their classrooms at lunchtime. Please send your child in with the correct money as no change can be given.

We will be arranging for representatives from our school to lay a wreath at St Mary's Church and at the War Memorial in town as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations.

As a school we will be marking Remembrance Day as usual on Thursday 11th November, when the whole school will come to a halt and observe a period of silence together at 11.00am.

### **Admissions 2023-24**

Our Admissions Policy for entry into Year 3 in 2023 is currently out for consultation until January. It can be found in the Policy section of our website. Any queries please contact the school through the office.

### **Dinner Money**

A reminder that dinner money should be paid in advance. The cost of school dinners is £2.50 per meal. Payments should now be made online through SCOPAY.

For those who pay in advance for the next half term, the amount is £87.50

Options for the first day back (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November) are as follows:

- Vegan spaghetti bolognese
- Pork sausage roll, served with diced potatoes and vegetables of the day

### **Vacancy in the kitchen - Catering Assistant**

Full details and applications can be found at <https://bit.ly/30GbBx8>

Or call Abigail Pateman, District Manager HC3S, on 07541612797

## **INSET DAYS 2021/2022**

4<sup>th</sup> January

28<sup>th</sup> February

27<sup>th</sup> May

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October – half term**

1<sup>st</sup> Nov – First day back

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Yrs 5/6 Eucharist (parents welcome) 10am

4<sup>th</sup> Nov – White Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

4<sup>th</sup> Nov – Calshot info evening for Yr. 5 Parents 6pm

5<sup>th</sup> Nov – Yr. 4 Viking Day

9<sup>th</sup> Nov – Yr. 5 Science Dome

1<sup>st</sup> Nov – Davies Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Nov - Friendship Week

18<sup>th</sup> Nov - Yr. 4 Church Act of worship 2:30pm

25<sup>th</sup> Nov – Brunel Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

26<sup>th</sup> Nov – Yrs 5/6 Disco (F.O.O.B.S)

1<sup>st</sup> Dec – Yr. 3 Science Museum Trip

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Whole School Flu Vaccine

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market

9<sup>th</sup> Dec –Nightingale Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

15<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Carol Concert at Church 6pm

16<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Parties all classes (pm)

### **17<sup>th</sup> Dec – Last Day of Term**

4<sup>th</sup> Jan – INSET Day

5<sup>th</sup> 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