



No: 5 - November 2021

Article 17 Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio, and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

Dear Parents

The children have returned to school this week following their half term break ready to learn. Year 3 are embarking on a new English led topic based around the book *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, they were most intrigued by items left strewn around the Year 3 area and the playground on Monday morning! Year 4 are finishing their work on the Saxon period and next week will be learning more about life in England when the Vikings invaded – over the half term they will be discovering if they were raiders or traders? *The Earth and Beyond* is the focus for Year 5, they are looking forward to spending time in the Space Dome later this half term to find out more about the solar system. Year 6 are continuing with their topic 'Weird and Wondrous Weather' this half term and they will then be looking at the work of Charles Dickens later in the term. This promises to be yet another productive half term at St Mary's.

It was lovely to see our first class sharing assembly for such a long time this week. White class did a great job of pulling together as a team to share what they have learnt over the last few months. We look forward to watching Davies class perform next week.

During Act of Worship on Monday we introduced the HeartSmart focus for this half term – 'Don't forget to let love in' this principle helps children to understand how important, valued and loved they are. The school value we are looking at in Act of Worship for the next two weeks is Compassion, this will link into our work on remembrance next week.

Friendship Week

The week commencing 15th November is our annual Friendship Week which coincides with National Anti-Bullying week. Pupils will take part in a wide range of activities including drama and role play, poetry writing, picture book studies and art. We will endeavour to share some of our work from next week in the photo gallery on the school website.

Children in Need Day

A reminder that Friday 19th November is the Children in Need appeal day. On this day we will join schools across the country in taking part in a non-uniform day – we would love pupils to come in as spotty as they can! It would be great if, at home, they could create their own 'spotty' t-shirt, hat, or just have some other piece of already spotty clothing to wear – maybe even their own Pudsey bear eyepatch! We want

school to be as 'spotty' as possible (but no face paint or sports shirts, please).

Donations for coming in non-uniform and to support this great charity can be made through the following just giving site:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-mary-s-ce-junior-school-old-basing2>

Remembrance Day

Next Thursday, following a special AoW, we will be joining the rest of the country in a two minutes' silence at 11:00am. As previously communicated, children have been able to purchase poppies and other items in school to help raise money for the British Legion Poppy Appeal, we thank you for your support with this fundraising.

Eucharist Service

This week we welcomed parents and members of St Mary's congregation to join Year 5 and 6 in our Autumn Eucharist services. It was lovely to hold this in school after such a long break. Reverend Heather led the service and the pupils responded and behaved impeccably.

It was lovely to receive this message from one of our parents following the service;

I just wanted to comment on how well behaved the children were in the year 5/6 Eucharist at the school today.

I was impressed at their level of calm and focus; and how engaged they all were with the service. It was particularly lovely to see the children running the slideshow and making the other contributions in the service.

It was a really peaceful hour and I'm grateful to have been able to attend this morning.

Thank you.

I think this message sums up the feelings of the staff who attended as well. Well done Year 5 and 6.

Online Safety

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) tells us that 'since the start of the pandemic, the amount of 'self-generated' child abuse imagery has increased dramatically. In 2020, the IWF confirmed 68,000 cases of such imagery, a rise of 77% on the year before. It accounts for nearly half (44%) the imagery we took action on last year. In 80% of these cases, the victims were 11- to 13-year-old girls.'

The IWF has created a resource to help parents and carers understand the risks of 'self-generated child sexual abuse imagery' using the acronym 'TALK'. To find out more, go to: <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/>

F.O.O.B.S. Update

F.O.O.B.S. are already thinking about Christmas, are you?! Please remember to send in the donations for the Christmas Markets with your children next week. More details about when the Letters to Santa kits will be on sale will be announced shortly and don't forget to continue collating all those unwanted items for the clothing collection at the end of November.

Don't forget you can continue to support F.O.O.B.S. through Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising. Follow this link to the FOOPS shopping page to find out how! <https://foobs.weebly.com/fundraising-as-you-shop.html>

And if you would like to purchase any pre-loved uniform for either school or join the F.O.O.B.S. Monthly Lotto, please email us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com

Attendance

At the end of October, the school's overall attendance stood at 97.3%. Congratulations to Conan Doyle with the highest attendance of 98.7%

Calshot October 2022 – current Year 5

The details of next year's residential trip to Calshot have been sent out this week to Yr. 5 parents as a virtual information meeting. This was an opportunity for you to find out more about the fantastic residential trip in preparation for next year. A letter with further details and information regarding payment will be sent out shortly.

Should you have any queries/questions regarding the Calshot trip for 2022 (current year 5) please email **Mr Gibbs (Yr 6 team Leader)** using **Calshot and your child's full name in the subject header of the email.**

A.Gibbs@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk

School Uniform

Please note we are now in winter uniform so could all children please wear a shirt and tie. Please can you check that your child's tie is clearly named, we already have a number of un-named ties in lost property.

With the changeable weather it is also important that children have warm, waterproof coats in school every day and that they are wearing suitable shoes with good grips.

A Message from the Governors

This week we have had visits from several members of our governing body. Reverend Heather met with Mrs Lillywhite to discuss Act of Worship and Ethos and Aude Jarrett, Foundation Governor, met with Mrs Quick about Modern Foreign Languages. Tricia Williamson has also been in to observe a music lesson with Yr. 6 and talk to Mrs Malone. These curriculum link visits are really important to ensure that Governors are aware of priorities for different subjects for the coming year.

Year 3 applications for September 2022

The application window for applications into Year 3 in September 2022 is now open. The deadline for applications is **15 January 2022**.

Please do see the school website for further information on applications and to see the virtual tour of our wonderful school.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/news/?pid=195&nid=2&storyid=551>

Inset Days 2021/22

4th January 2022

28th February 2022

27th May 2022

Dates for the Diary

11th Nov – Davies Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

11th Nov – Yr. 4 Parents in to see Art display 3:30pm

12th Nov – Yr. 4 Viking Day

15th-19th Nov - Friendship Week

18th Nov - Yr. 4 Church Act of worship 2:30pm

19th Nov – Children in Need appeal day

25th Nov – Brunel Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

26th Nov – Yrs 5/6 Disco (F.O.O.B.S)

30th Nov – Yr. 5 Science Dome (in hall)

1st Dec – Yr. 3 Science Museum Trip

2nd Dec – Whole School Flu Vaccine

3rd Dec – F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market (in hall)

9th Dec–Nightingale Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

13th-17th Dec – No after school clubs this week

15th Dec – Christmas Carol Concert at Church 6pm

16th Dec – Christmas Parties all classes (pm)

17th Dec – End of year Church visits (am)

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