



No: 6 - 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,

Further to my email last week after our visit from Ofsted, please can I take the opportunity to thank you again for all of your comments on Parentview and thank you to those of you who sent messages of support. As you know we have to wait for the report to be published, as it has to go through a number of quality control processes before it can be finalised. It has to be ready to be published no later than in 30 working days, we hope it will be ready before Christmas. As soon as it is published, we will share it with you.

This week has seen our annual Friendship week at St Mary's. Pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities including drama and role play activities, poetry writing, picture book studies and art. Please take a moment to look on our website next week for examples of some of the work from our Friendship week.

Last Friday Year 4 enjoyed their Viking Day, it was lovely to see all of their fantastic costumes and it was lovely to see parents in school on Thursday afternoon to view their Viking art gallery. Photographs of their work can be seen in the photo gallery section of our website.

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

Last Thursday the whole school stopped at 11:00am to participate in a two minute's silence for Remembrance Day. All of the pupils took part with respect, showing compassion for those who lost their lives in the two World Wars and conflicts since. Two families from our community attended services at St Mary's Church and in War Memorial Park to lay wreaths on behalf of the Old Basing Schools, photographs of these events can be seen on our website.

We enjoyed seeing Davies class perform their sharing assembly this week. To avoid large numbers gathering in the hall pupils got to watch their friends perform in a recording of their assembly. Well done Davies class!

Congratulations to our Year 6 Basketball team who competed against other Basingstoke schools on Monday. They performed amazingly coming second and bringing home a silver medal each. We look forward to seeing the Year 5/6 Tag Rugby team start their mini league campaign shortly!

This week our Act of Worships have focused on the value of respect and we will continue thinking about this next week.

Children in Need

Today, the children and staff of St Mary's came together to raise money for this worthwhile charity. The spots were out in force across the school! Have a look in our photo gallery for pictures of our 'spotty' children.

One of the changes we made this year was to ask you all to donate through our Just Giving site and I am pleased to tell you that so far we have raised over £600. This is a phenomenal amount, thank you everyone.

The site will remain open into next week if you would still like to make a donation:

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

Many thanks to all parents and others at home who helped prepare the children for the day and gave so generously.

COVID

Further to our Parentmail on Monday in regard to positive cases across the school please can we remind you to be vigilant of any symptoms that your child may be exhibiting and if necessary book a PCR test for them. Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping those within our community safe and well.

After School Clubs

Just a reminder that the last week of this term's after school clubs is w/c 6th December.

A Parentmail was sent out last week containing details of the clubs we will be offering for the Spring term. Please ensure any requests are sent in (via forms on Parentmail) by end of today, Friday 19th November. We will notify you once allocations are complete. We would welcome any feedback you have on our after school clubs (good or bad!) to help with our future club provision.

Road Safety

We are sure it is not members of our school community but we have had a couple of recent reports of drivers passing very closely to children on bikes. Could we remind everyone to drive safely and considerately around the village.

Online Safety

Part of the work children have done in school during Friendship week has touched on the issue of cyber bullying. The UK Safer Internet Centre website offers lots of advice for parents and children if they feel they are involved in any online bullying.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/cyberbullying-advice-parents-and-carers>

Christmas Events

A few dates for your diaries!

Please do read and take on board all of these dates and arrangements for our festive celebrations.

• **FO.O.B.S Christmas Market**

We are excited to once again hold the F.O.O.B.S Christmas market on **Friday 3rd December**, information has already come out about this from F.O.O.B.S. Thank you for all the donations made for this event.

• **Carol Concert**

We are currently working on putting together our annual Christmas Carol Concert which will be held in the church on **15th December** we look forward to welcoming you to this special service.

• **Christmas Cards**

The children at St Mary's have traditionally loved using the communal post boxes to post cards to friends and staff. The Christmas post boxes will be out from **Wednesday 1st December** from which cards can be brought in to post. Please make sure that envelopes are marked with full names and classes to help our Yr. 6 prefects distribute them!

• **Christmas Parties**

All classes will have their Christmas party during the **afternoon of Thursday 16th December**. We ask for children to bring in their own individual small box/bag of 'party food' for them to enjoy during the party. Please note this is in addition to their normal packed lunch or school dinner.

This day will also be a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day and we look forward to seeing lots of festive attire.

• **Christmas Dinner**

Finally, thank you for returning your children's Christmas dinner orders already. Our annual Christmas lunch will be held on **Friday 17th December**.

Christmas Tree Festival – St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church will still be holding a Christmas Tree Festival this year over the weekend of 11th and 12th December. Our school tree will be on display and the junior choir will be singing on the Saturday at 2pm.

LSA Vacancy

We are looking to increase the number of support staff in school and as such have placed an advert for a Learning Support Assistant on the Hampshire Education Job Vacancy page.

Further details can be found through this link:

<https://hampshire.education-jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/SearchResults>

F.O.O.B.S. Update

The Bag2School unwanted clothing collection is happening next week: F.O.O.B.S. volunteers will be on hand to take your unwanted clothing donations on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th November between 8:25am-8:55am. Drop off locations: the Infants' school car park and towards the rear of the carpark at the Royal British Legion (in front of the Cadet's hut). Please note, there will be no collection from the Junior school.

Please use your own bags to collect the unwanted items - Bag2School 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). They 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 work-wear and textile offcuts, yarns or threaded material. Please, please do not bring anything not on the accepted list as it will leave our volunteers with the problem of disposing of it.

Orders for Santa Letters Kits are coming in nicely and the kits will be on sale until 8pm on Sunday 21st November, so there's only a few days left to place your order! The kit will include a letter template, an envelope, a Christmas pencil and chocolate coins (dairy free equivalents are available, but you must state when ordering). Please complete all the questions asked at the end of the ordering process to ensure we have all the information to place your order.

We are also looking forward to feeling festive at the Christmas Markets in a couple of weeks' time – thank you to everyone who has donated items. Look out for a Parentmail telling you when to bring the money in for the children to buy their gifts. 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://foops.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

The school's overall attendance currently stands at 96%.

A Message from the Governors

Introducing one of the newer members of our governing body.

Hello, my name is Aude Jarrett and I know quite a few of you already! My eldest daughter Charlotte left St Mary's last July after 4 very happy and fulfilling years whilst Emilie is now in year 4. I am very proud to say I come from Saint- Malo in Brittany (practically Hampshire!) but I have studied and lived in England since 1995, and I have been living in Old Basing since 2009. I worked for the NHS for 21 years, in varied roles and initially as a Dietitian. My husband still works at Basingstoke Hospital while I have decided to focus on my family and our community. I look forward to gaining a greater understanding of the school and supporting the excellent work of the staff here.

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 see our website for our virtual tour and frequently asked questions about admissions.

<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

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

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

11th, 12th Dec – Christmas Tree Festival at Church

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