



No: 7 - December 2021

UNCRC Article 1 – Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the convention. We have the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Dear Parents

The last two weeks have been busy in school with all the children continuing to work hard and impress us all.

It was lovely to see so many parents come to watch Brunel class' sharing assembly last week; they entertained us with their play based on their current science topic. We were able to record this for the rest of the school to watch which I know they enjoyed.

Opportunities to enrich the curriculum at St Mary's through trips and visitors is important to us. This week we have seen many enrichment opportunities to help bring learning to life.

Year 6 have begun a unit of work based on the work of Charles Dickens. They enjoyed a visit from Hobgoblin Theatre who performed a version of A Christmas Carol to enrich their learning.

Year 5 have been busy learning more about the Earth and beyond, thoroughly enjoying their experience in the Space Dome on Tuesday.

Year 3 enjoyed a trip out of school this week to Winchester Science Centre to further develop their understanding of the concepts they have learnt this term.

Finally, thank you to the F.O.O.B.S committee and other volunteers for organising and running the Christmas market today. The children loved shopping and I am sure the teachers had lots of fun helping them wrap their purchases!

This week in our Act of Worships, we have introduced a Diocese project on Angels and we have thought about the theme of Advent. Advent is an important part of the Christian calendar. It means 'coming' and it is the period before Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus. Miss Cosgrove has made us a beautiful advent candle wreath, which will be lit and shared with the children at the start of each week, as we explore the theme further over the next few weeks. I am sure that at home you are all busy preparing for Christmas!

After School Clubs

Just a reminder that the last week of this term's after school clubs is next week. **There are no after school clubs during the last week of term.**

A Parentmail was sent out last week confirming details and dates for the Spring 2022 after school clubs. All clubs allocated are now available to pay on SCOPAY and should be paid by Wednesday 8th December. Please let the office know if your child no longer wants a club they have been allocated as we have waiting lists for many clubs.

Attendance

At the end of November, the school's overall attendance stood at 95.8%.

Congratulations to Austen class with the highest attendance of 98.3%.

Sporting News

Over the last few weeks many of our pupils in the upper school have represented the school in a sporting event. We have had a successful start to our league campaigns in Tag Rugby and Netball and our Basketball team played really well against other local teams in a tournament. Thank you to the teachers, and Mr Sargeant who have supported these teams and thank you also to the parents that have helped with coaching and transportation, without this support our attendance at some of these external events would not be possible. We now look forward to other upcoming league fixtures and to the indoor athletics competition.

School Uniform

Just a reminder that winter uniform should include a tie – please ensure your child has theirs on every day.

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>

Wellbeing

There has been lots of talk amongst the children this week about Christmas with advent calendars being opened and decorations starting to be put up. The lead up to Christmas is a fun and exciting time, but for some children it can be a very difficult time, and leave them feeling anxious, lonely or stressed. The

following article on the Young Minds website, has some tips and things to consider if Christmas makes your child anxious.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/how-to-help-your-child-if-christmas-makes-them-anxious/>

Christmas Events

A reminder from our last newsletter of our upcoming Christmas events.

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

• **Carol Concert – STOP PRESS**

With the continuing high numbers of cases of COVID in the local area and the limited space available in the church, we have had to make the difficult decision to move this event to a virtual one. Whilst it is sad that we will not all come together, what we do need to ensure is that all the staff, children and parents are able to enjoy this Christmas with family and friends. We are aiming for the recording to be available on **15th December** so that you can all watch it together as a family.

• **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 are out now. 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 Family Events & Services – St Mary's Church

Please find attached details of Christmas events taking place at St Mary's Church, please note pre booking is advised for services.

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. Timings are as follows:

- 2:25pm Year 3 Junior Choir perform to their parents (arrive 2:15)
- 2:50pm Year 4 Junior Choir perform to their parents (arrive 2:40)

A separate email has been sent from Mrs Malone outlining further arrangements for those taking part in the Choir performances.

F.O.O.B.S

Hello from F.O.O.B.S. A big thank you and well done to everyone who donated to the Bags2School collection. We collected a whopping 627kgs making us £188.10! The much anticipated Christmas markets have run in school this week. I wonder how many children will manage to keep the gifts a surprise until Christmas! This is such a popular event with the children so another big thank you to everyone who donated gifts or money and to those who volunteered in school on the market days. Our popular letters to santa kits will be handed out in school this week to those that purchased them so keep an eye out! And on the subject of Christmas, have you see our Old Basing Gin? Made in collaboration with Gorilla Spirits with £5 per bottle sold going to F.O.O.B.S., they make great Christmas presents! Head to www.gorillaspirits.co.uk/shop/old-basing-london-gin-dry to make your purchase. Finally, don't forget you can support F.O.O.B.S. at no cost to yourself by doing your shopping through Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile!

From the Governors

Last week I met with Mrs. Lillywhite to discuss the science curriculum at St Mary's and particularly to discuss the strengths of the subject and what the school wants to do to further improve the opportunities in science. We talked about how one focus of this year will be the application of maths and English skills, particularly reading, within the science curriculum as a way of applying these skills. We discussed how pupils across the school were able to plan and carry out their own scientific investigations and how pupils in the upper school are becoming increasingly independent in setting their own lines of enquiry. I look forward to meeting with Mrs. Lillywhite again in the Spring term and looking at some of the pupils work.

John Hammond – Local Authority Governor and Science link

Dinner Money

The office is spending an increasing amount of time chasing for unpaid dinner monies, please can you ensure that your child's account is up to date with payments.

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>

Break time Snacks

Just a reminder that the children should bring in a healthy fruity snack for break time.

Home Learning and Skills Cards

Don't forget that in addition to the work set on Google Classroom each week children can log into their Education City or Mathletics accounts at any time at home to practice their key skills. It is great fun playing live against other people too and this encourages speed and accuracy!

Some of you may have seen a 'skills card' sent home with your child. Please do not worry if your child has, or hasn't had one! These are provided to give pupils some additional practice of a concept that may have been covered that day or week in school. These are generally very short activities that can be completed quickly at home with the support of a parent.

Research has shown that quick intervention if a misconception has occurred can really help children's understanding and the use of these cards can also help build confidence and prepare children for the next step on their learning journey. If you have any questions or concerns about a skills card that has been sent home with your child, please do speak to their class teacher. We thank you all for your continued support with learning at home.

Play Safe, a new national safeguarding campaign (Football Association)

Recently, the Football Association and the NSPCC launched 'Play Safe', a national campaign to focus attention on the vital importance of safeguarding in football. At the heart of the campaign are three short films to emphasise the importance of safeguarding for key groups of people, crucially children themselves. One aspect of the campaign is prompting parents to ask questions:

- Do you know your child's club Welfare Officer?
- If so, do you have their tel no. in your 'phone, as well as that of the NSPCC?
- Are you up to speed with your child's club's safeguarding policies and procedures?
- Do you regularly check-in with your child to see what they are enjoying/not enjoying and why?

More information can be found

here: <https://www.thefa.com/PlaySafe>

Whilst this information has been provided by the Football Association, the suggested questions are relevant to ask at any club that your child might attend in the evenings and at weekends.

Is someone close becoming a stranger?

It can be hard to know what to do if you're worried someone close is expressing extreme views or even hatred, which could lead to them harming themselves or others. Working with other organisations, the police protect vulnerable people from being exploited

by extremists through a Home Office programme called Prevent. They have now developed a website to support both family and friends to raise concerns: <https://actearly.uk>

Inset Days 2021/22

4th January 2022

28th February 2022

27th May 2022

Dates for the Diary

9th Dec - Orchestra Christmas Concert 8.10am (parents invited)

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 - **virtual**

16th Dec - Christmas Parties all classes (pm) Non uniform/Christmas Jumper Day

17th Dec - Last Day of Term, normal pick up time 3:25

20th Dec-3rd Jan Christmas Holidays

4th Jan – INSET Day

5th Jan - First Day of new term

w/c 10th Jan - After School Clubs start this week

10th Jan -Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

11th Jan -Y5 Southampton Art Gallery visit – here

12th Jan -Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

13th Jan -Nelson Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

17th Jan -Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

19th Jan -Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

20th Jan- Russell Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

24th Jan -Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

26th Jan -Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

27th Jan -Y5 Church visit 2:30pm

28th Jan - F.O.O.B.S Disco Years 3 & 4

31st Jan - Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

2nd Feb – Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

3rd Feb - Paulet Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

7th Feb - Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

9th Feb - Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

10th Feb - Y6 Church visit 2:30pm

14th Feb - Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

16th Feb - Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00, details to follow

14th-18th Feb - Y3 Show Week

14th-18th Feb - No after school clubs this week

21st-25th Feb Half Term

28th Feb – INSET Day

1st-4th Mar - Book Week

10th Mar -Wellington Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

17th Mar - Y3 Church visit 2:30pm

24th Mar - Y4 Church visit 2:30pm

31st Mar - Dickens Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

1st Apr – F.O.O.B.S Easter Fair pm, details to follow

4th-8th Apr – No after school clubs this week

5th Apr – Parents Evening, details to follow

6th Apr – Parents Evening, details to follow

8th Apr – End of term Church Visits

8th Apr – Last Day of Term

11th-22nd Apr Easter Holidays

25th Apr – First Day of new term

21st Jul – Last Day of Summer 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