



No: 8 - December 2021

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

Dear Parents

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who took the time to write comments in the parents' questionnaire and talk to the inspectors, as well as sending in such lovely messages of congratulations to us following the inspection. The experience was particularly gruelling with the bar having been raised yet again since our last inspection, so we were delighted with the outstanding result.

Although we have still had to make some alterations due to on-going COVID restrictions, it has been lovely to see many of our usual activities now taking place again. I apologise for the length of this newsletter but we wanted to share the highlights of this term with you. So please find a comfortable chair and a warm drink and we wish you pleasant reading. For even more news, visit our news pages and photo galleries.

This week the children have enjoyed their Christmas parties – there were some fantastic festive outfits on display. We hope that you also enjoyed our virtual carol service on Wednesday night. If you have not had a chance to watch it yet, please follow the link below:

Link for Carol Service - <https://youtu.be/qb7gXUUCNis>

If you would still like to contribute to Shelter, our chosen charity, please use the just giving site below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-mary-s-ce-junior-school-old-basing3>

There will be no other homework set over the Christmas holidays but don't forget your child can log onto Mathletics, Education City and Times Tables Rock Stars anytime at home.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you all for the kind sentiments and generous gifts we have received this week.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you back on **Wednesday 5th January**.

Year 3 Applications for September 2022

The application window for applications into Year 3 in September 2022 is 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>

Safeguarding

At St Mary's we firmly believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. No single person can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action - this includes members of the public. You can contact Hampshire Children's Services by calling or emailing:
Phone 0300 555 1384

Email childrens.services@hants.gov.uk

There are also a range of other agencies you can contact for advice and support:

- [Hampshire Police](#) - for non-emergencies phone 101
- [NSPCC](#) - phone 0808 800 5000
- [Crimestoppers](#) can be contacted anonymously with any information about crime - phone 0800 555 111
- [Childline](#) - phone 0800 1111

The police have also developed the Safe4me website to support both schools and parents in keeping children safe when they are out and about. There are some really good ideas for starting the conversations with your child. As we begin to go out and about a little more and our older children develop more independence, it is never too early to broach some of these issues.

Follow the link below for the website:

<https://www.safe4me.co.uk/parents/>

The government has also just released the following guide for parents: Talking to your child about online sexual harassment

https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/?utm_source=16%20December%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Global Friends Book Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated books for our book sale and thank you to those who bought! We hope you are enjoying reading your new books. A huge well done to the Global Friends team and Mrs Stephens for organising this event. We are delighted to share that the book sale raised a tremendous £367.75, which will go a long way towards supporting our sponsored child with their education fees and costs. Thank you again to all involved.

Year 3

We would like to congratulate your children on a fantastic first term at St Mary's. We have been very impressed with their enthusiasm and hard-working attitude. This term has been packed full of different topics! We started off with our history led topic 'Sling Spear or Sword', where we investigated the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. We also had an Iron Age Day where Iron Age Matt taught us more about the Iron Age and brought in artefacts from this time period. After the half term, we moved onto our Iron Man topic and were outraged by the destruction the Iron Man caused at our school. For this topic, each child received their own copy of The Iron Man book and it was lovely to see them reading along and enjoying the story, whilst producing some fantastic written pieces of work! The children have also enjoyed getting stuck into our Science learning! They started off the year finding out more and investigating light followed by our learning around magnets this half term! We are so proud of our pupils; for the quality of their work and the progress, which they have made since being at St Mary's. Thank you also to the parents/carers for all of your hard work and support over the past term. Team 3 wish you all a Merry Christmas and we cannot wait to get started on the new term in January!

Year 4

What a start to the journey of Year 4!

We've had a time travelling Anglo-Saxon come to visit us and share his bread making, jewellery crafting, fire creating and battle training.

We've had a Viking day, wonderful costumes, thank you.

We've printed Viking Shields.

We've created clay masks in the style of the finds at Sutton Hoo ("The Dig" on Netflix is about this – suitable for parents, not for children).

We've learnt how underline with a ruler our titles in our exercise books but some are still not quite there.

We've washed or sanitised our hands over 210 times this term.

We've recreated the Viking attack upon Lindisfarne as well as starting to learn how to play football.

We've smiled and realised how awesome friendship is during Friendship week as well as made new friends throughout the term in our new classes.

We've dipped in the pond and found shrimps, snails and host of other wonderful aquatic creepy crawlies.

We've programmed an on screen toy using "scratch" where an input creates an output (ask your child if

this is lost on you!).

We've had Ofsted for a visit and they liked us, a lot, did you hear?

We've explored identity and seen what this means for Jewish people (Bar & Bat Mitzpah) as well as explored light as a symbol (don't tell any Sunderland Football fans – their stadium is called "the stadium of light" and is more a "stadium of fright" in recent years!).

We've started to explore our school grounds in a mindful way as part of the diocese 10:10 project thinking through how to have life and have it to the full.

We've tried to work as a team and discovered how hard that is but what we need to do to help make the team work (while there is no "I" in team, there is a "me"!).

We've been trying to achieve more together as One Family and we're very grateful for all of your support from home.

All in all, and there is much more we haven't put in there, it has been a rollercoaster of learning where we've done lots, learnt lots and had a good time at it nearly all the time.

What will the Spring term bring? We are holding out for another full term of delights and joys and learning as we explore our country and Europe from the comfort of our classroom.

Best wishes this Christmas season to you and your families,

Year 5

As a team, the teachers have been incredibly pleased with the Year 5 children. As a group, they work well together and support one another. This has been a consistent message in our Year group Act of Worship. Overall, Autumn term has been hugely successful.

As always, Autumn is an incredibly busy term.

Starting in September, the children began learning about the topic of 'What was the significance of Basing House', exploring the history of Old Basing. Early in the term, we visited Basing House itself on a school trip and we experienced a tour of the ruins and we had workshops organised by the English Civil War Society. The children were particularly excited to see how the soldiers used their Civil War weaponry. In Science, the children learned about the topic of forces and most recently space. Having the Science Dome visit our school really brought this learning to life and it was fantastic to see many 'wow' moments in the dome as children darted around our solar system, galaxy and universe!

There have been many opportunities for the children to develop their artistic abilities over the term too. The children created Coats of Arms using clay in the first half term. Moving into the second, the children explored perspective, sketching out landscapes that involved a vanishing point. Ultimately, the children created a watercolour of a Martian landscape. Through DT, the three classes made Mars rovers.

Each child created their own and in doing so, developed their skills of measuring, sawing and assembling the frames. Using Crumble (a software programme), the children programmed the motors to enable the rovers to move. Everyone found it enjoyable combining the learning in computing and DT to make something linked to our science learning!

In PE, the children have learned how to play netball and lacrosse. As the weather has become colder, it's been great for the children to play sports that get the heart pumping and the bodies warmed up! Many children in the year group haven't played either of these sports before so they had to use many of the school's values when developing their skills: lots of curiosity about the rules and perseverance when playing games!

We are encouraging the children to make sure they have a new reading book to enjoy over the winter break. Attitudes towards reading across the year group have improved and we want to build on that further over the holidays! We don't give 'normal' homework over the break – we want people to spend time together as a family and sharing a book together is a wonderful way of doing this.

Autumn has been a fantastic term and the staff at St. Mary's are looking forward to moving into Spring where we enter a brand new history-led topic: 'What is the legacy of the Ancient Greeks?'. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Please stay safe and enjoy whatever it is you are doing during the winter break.

Year 6

What a term it has been! As a team, the teachers have been incredibly pleased with what the children have accomplished. Despite the challenges that this half term has brought everyone, the children have proven themselves as resilient learners and a group that wants to achieve lots together. The children have continued to mature as the term has gone on and have impressed us with their understanding of our topics and things that are happening around the world.

As always, Autumn is an incredibly busy term. Starting in September, the children began to explore our school values in more detail than before. They were able to apply our values to themselves and understand how Year 6 is an important year. Then, we began our learning about the Geography-led topic of 'Weird and Wondrous Weathers', exploring weathers, natural disasters and Northern and Southern America. Our topic has led to some amazing writing based on natural disasters, alongside some great Geography learning. In Science, the children learned about the topic of light and conducted experiments in order to further their understanding. Over the course of the term, they have become far more meticulous, redesigning many of the experiments they have conducted in the past with more scientific rigour.

There have been many opportunities for the children to develop their artistic abilities over the term. The first half of Autumn was spent looking at examples of landscapes by Durer and Hockney. The children were able to explore different pencil lines and how to effectively draw natural disasters. Within P.E, the children have been creating gymnastic performance using partner balances and mirror images. They have put together complex routines, including a range of different movements, to showcase all they have learnt over the last 4 years. Calshot and Bikeability have been a particular highlight this term and these experiences have really taught the children the art of teamwork and being resilient.

This half-term, the children have worked hard in their English learning and have enjoyed topics such as Wonder and, most recently, A Christmas Carol. They were treated to a wonderful theatre performance, which has been used as a focus for their writing, and they have produced some excellent descriptive writing. Most recently, the children have been exploring electricity and circuits. They have applied this knowledge to the fairground rides they have been creating in DT – we could now set up our own St. Mary's theme park with the huge number of high-quality carousels and Ferris wheels we have in the Year 6 classrooms!

Autumn has been a fantastic term and the staff at St. Mary's are looking forward to moving into Spring where we enter a brand-new topic: 'Let Me Entertain you!' The children will immediately start to explore entertainment in the 20th century across a range of different topics; most notably, they will enjoy rock and roll dancing, Shakespeare and performance poetry.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Please stay safe and enjoy your winter break.

Maths News - *'Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers.'* – Shakuntala Devi

The quote above shows how important maths is as a subject and that it is used in our everyday lives. As the children continue their journey through school, they will build upon their maths knowledge and realise how maths all links. This half term, the children have worked incredibly hard in their maths journey and they should all be proud of their achievements. They have been working hard to solve difficult problems and build up their knowledge and skills on topics such as place value, multiplication and fractions. They need to continue to work hard next year and attached are a few resources that you can use to push your children on in their learning:

Hit the button - An online resource to help with times tables, doubling, halving, number bonds and more.

Education City and Mathletics - A variety of different activities and games that compliments what we teach in school.

Times Table Rock Stars - To practise times tables.

White Rose Maths - To explore tricky problems and push children in their learning, resources to help parents understand maths concepts and parent workbooks.

A huge well done to everyone this half term!
Have a lovely Christmas!
Mr Gibbs - Maths Leader

PE and Sport

Inside PE lessons, we have been enjoying gymnastics and dance, and we look forward to being able to perform in front of parents again. Outside, we have been learning about Rugby, Football, Lacrosse and Netball. Year 6 have learnt to ride their bikes with Bike Ability, gaining confidence to ride out on the road. The year group also went to Calshot and took part in a number of Adventurous Outdoor Activities.

In the New Year, as a school, we will be continuing exploring new sports and keeping the children active with dance lessons, orienteering, badminton and tennis as well as Year 5 & 6 starting their swimming lessons.

What an amazing start to sports this year, especially after the strange situation we have found ourselves in for the last year and a half.

We started the year off with a return to competitions, our first being Year 4/5 Football. After some close games we got through to the quarter finals. Our next competition was table tennis, and one of our teams came in second, earning silver medals. Next, Year 6 competed in the Basingstoke Basketball competition, coming in an amazing second place. Rugby and Netball tournaments have commenced and currently we are equal first in rugby and the netball team won their first match.

Mr Whincup - Physical Education coordinator

Music Update

Please find attached Music Newsletter from Mrs Malone.

Governor's Corner - Mike

I am sure by now you will have all seen the report, or heard the news, that St Mary's has been rated as Outstanding by Ofsted. This is a huge achievement during a time when the Ofsted inspection framework has changed and tightened such that a grade of Outstanding is now harder to achieve.

I would like to congratulate all the staff on this fantastic achievement I would also like to thank you, the parents and carers, for your unwavering support without which St Mary's could not be the outstanding school it is today. I would also like to thank the amazing pupils of St Mary's for the way that they have coped with and accepted the challenges of the last couple of years and continue to be a credit to the school.

This really have been an incredibly difficult and challenging time and I am sure that you will all join me in thanking the staff for their commitment, resilience, creativity and responsiveness to all that has been thrown at them. Their continued professionalism really has been an inspiration. They thoroughly deserve their well-earned break over the Christmas period.

This term we have welcomed 3 new governors to the governing body all of whom have brought a range of skills and experience that will help to ensure that we remain an effective governing body. Over the course of this term the governors have continued their various monitoring activities. All governors are assigned a small number of curriculum subjects, or activities to monitor and each will have met, in school or via zoom, their respective curriculum link teachers to understand the key objectives for the year ahead, monitor progress against objectives and report back to the governing body. I would like to thank all the governors for their continued help, time commitment and support.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Michael Wright
Chair of Governors

Online Safety

As Christmas quickly approaches, it is important to think about the prospect of children potentially receiving digital media as gifts - such as tablets, mobile phones or gaming consoles. It is important that you sit down and have a conversation with your child to remind them of the dangers and how to be responsible on the Internet. Topics like - what to do if an inappropriate message is received, cyberbullying and safe searching would build on what we talk about in school and is something that should be spoken about regularly anyway.

If you are unsure on how to broach this topic with your child, then look at the few websites below that can help start the conversation. There is also some helpful advice relating to this on Hampshire County Council's website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren/onlinesafety>. The Thinkuknow website is great to go through with your child and it also offers some great advice to staying safe online. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Google are also running a family internet safety challenge over the holidays, which is great way to start an open and honest discussion about internet usage with the whole family.

<https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/legendaryparent>

In addition to this, TikTok (a popular social media app) has introduced new parental controls, which allow parents to monitor their children's usage from distance. Whilst our children are not old enough to use the app, it is an app that has gained a lot of popularity during the pandemic and I am sure many children have had interactions with. This new feature

is a great way to keep your children safe online. <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>
Stay safe and have a lovely Christmas.

Miss Cosgrove – Computing Leader

Reading - General tips to keep children reading over Christmas

Reading in a safe way

We know that it is more challenging at the moment to get books from traditional sources. We would recommend you visit bookstores and libraries as much as possible in order to get a wide range of books for your children to read.

We are encouraging the children to make sure they have a new reading book to enjoy over the winter break. Attitudes towards reading across the year group have improved and we want to build on that further over the holidays! We don't give 'normal' homework over the break – we want people to spend time together as a family and sharing a book together is a wonderful way of doing this.

Make reading time fun

Reading is a wonderful thing to do in those moments where you need a little bit of downtime around Christmas. It can also be lovely to share books together at this time of year. At St. Mary's, we try to engage children by selecting the right environment for reading. At home, you have the added opportunity of sitting together, getting nice and cosy, and getting some snacks ready! Make reading as fun as possible! Physical copies of books have been taken home and we know that many of our children get books as presents at Christmas. Don't forget, however, that the ePlatform is available at all times. There are always books available to borrow and read at the click of a button so please make use of this resource wherever possible.

Talk about reading!

Lastly, please do consider making reading as entertaining as possible – children that are forced to read typically end up resenting what should be a relaxed, enjoyable experience. For children that are reluctant, short and sweet is best. Discuss the book your child is reading wherever possible. Read with them and enjoy the story too! Taking turns, one paragraph at a time, can really help children begin to read with more enthusiasm. Set up those reading dens in your homes with pillows and blankets and try to include reading as much as possible into your busy routines during the holidays. Have fun and enjoy some time for reading yourself as well!

Mr King

Attendance

At the end of term the school's overall attendance stood at 95.9%.

Congratulations to Austen Class with the highest attendance of 97.9%.

F.O.O.B.S.

Merry Christmas from F.O.O.B.S.! Thank you to everyone who has participated in our events and activities this term. We hope that you have enjoyed them as much as we have! Congratulations to the October and November lotto winners, tickets numbers 625 and 517, winning £161.25 and £160.75. If you don't currently have lotto tickets you can sign up through the F.O.O.B.S website <https://foobs.weebly.com>. While doing your last minute Christmas shopping, don't forget you can use Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising to earn cash for our school at no cost to yourself! We're looking forward to announcing more exciting events in the new year!

Dinner Money

The cost of meals for the spring term is £155.00 and £82.50 for the first half of the term.

COVID-19 - Updated government guidance in light of Omicron variant, including travel/quarantine and tracing contacts/isolation

Travel and quarantine

All travellers will need to take a PCR test prior to travelling back to the UK and then on arriving into the UK will need to isolate and get a PCR test by 'day two' after arrival. They may end their isolation once they receive a negative result. If the result is positive, they should continue to isolate and follow rules on isolation following a positive test. All Red list arrivals will enter quarantine.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly, required to self-isolate immediately, and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and will be provided with details about self-isolation.

Dates for the Diary

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