



No: 10 - January 2022

UNCRC Article 13: Children have the right and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Dear Parents,

This half term is already flying by! The last two weeks have been busy with everyone enjoying the start to their new topics.

Year 3 have 'Entered the Classics', embarking on an English led topic. I know they have enjoyed looking at the work of Roald Dahl and other authors so far. We look forward to seeing them start work on their production, which is planned for the end of half term. In Year 4, this half term's topic is 'Europe: different countries, different lives?' They will be comparing different localities around Europe to Old Basing, it will be interesting to see what they discover. Ancient Greece is the theme for Year 5 this term. They have enjoyed beginning to learn about this period of history and thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Southampton Art gallery last week to enrich their learning. Kate, our art guide came and shared with us the story of Perseus. The children then went on to make their own wire sculptures of Medusa - a real challenge!

Year 6 are looking at entertainment through the ages over the next few months, with a particular focus in English on the work of Shakespeare. They are looking forward to a visit from the Young Shakespeare Company later this month.

Year 5 and 6 have started their swimming sessions. This is usually done just in year 5 but we were able to book sessions for the year 6 cohort who missed out last year due to COVID closures. It was great to hear that even after the first session several non-swimmers were confidently jumping in and enjoying their first lessons.

The year group newsletters that you received last week will have more information about what each year group are learning about this term and details of year group specific events.

This week in Act of Worship we have introduced the value of responsibility, thinking about what we are responsible for. It was lovely to see our pupil led Stewardship Team plan and lead Act of Worship for the school on Wednesday.

Please remember to regularly check our website news pages and photo gallery to see what is happening in school.

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

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

Building resilience in children and teens (Family Lives)

The Family Lives charity aims to offer all parents somewhere to turn before they reach crisis point. Crisis support, provided for over 40 years through their helpline, has always been at the heart of what they do.

Family Lives also have an excellent website to help parents with the ups and downs of family life. One useful infographic is this one about building resilience in children and teens. You can download it here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/wellbeing/building-resilience-in-children-and-teens/>

The Family Lives parents' helpline is available Monday to Friday, 1.30 - 9pm on 0808 800 2222. The website can be found here: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

Voluntary Contributions

Thank you to everyone who has already paid the voluntary contribution this year. This money goes towards the enrichment opportunities in school and trips out offered to all pupils throughout the year. Last term Year 3 visited Winchester Science Museum and had an Iron Age workshop. Year 4 were visited by Oxenwood education centre and Year 5 visited Old Basing house. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their performance of a Christmas Carol in December. We also had the Space Dome in school. This term we have already had in Southampton Art gallery and The Young Shakespeare Company are booked in for the end of this month. We are looking forward to future trips out to The Gordon Brown centre and the Anvil, and visitors from Open the Box and the Treehouse theatre company are booked to come to us. Year group teams are busy planning further enrichment opportunities and trips for all pupils. Many of these additional opportunities would not be possible without this contribution. If you are yet to make your payment please contact the school office and pay or pay on Sco-Pay.

Contact Details – keeping up to date

Since the implementation of GDPR we no longer send out copies of the current details that we hold for you as a means of checking. It is vital therefore that if any of your details do change that you inform us

immediately – for example you may have had a new mobile phone over Christmas and changed your number. Please could we also ask that we have at least two contact numbers for your child in case of emergencies and that these numbers are readily available. For example, a work number could be a central reception contact for your place of work who can then get a message through to you.

Absence Reporting

Please remember to keep the office aware if your child is absent from school or has an appointment which means they will be in late or leaving early.

Parenting course

It is great to see so many of you signed up for our parenting workshop in February. Please do send back the forms slips sent out on Parent Mail this week if you are interested in attending.

COVID 19 Testing and Isolation Periods

A reminder that confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Please note that as LFD are for asymptomatic testing, anyone who has COVID symptoms must still get a PCR test.

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Holocaust

As a school we will be marking Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) as usual, which this year falls on the 27th January, although the theme will be introduced during the Monday act of worship and children will be doing related work throughout the week.

We do not look at the events of this period but rather focus on the rights that were taken away from people and the lack of respect that was shown for people's rights. This is centred on the Bible quote from Genesis: 'God created human beings in his own image.'

This year we will again be joining schools across the dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth in saying the HMD prayer as part of our Act of Worship.

The Powerpoint for the Monday act of worship will be posted in the news section of our website:

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

Governor's Corner

I hope you had as restful and relaxing Christmas break as these continuing COVID times allowed. Here we are in 2022 and the school is still having to manage the impact of COVID. However, the life of the school carries on. It is great to see the children back in school and in their classrooms. The Governors and school senior leadership continue to work hard ensuring that a high quality educational experience is being delivered by the school. We do this through our variety of committees and regular cycle of meetings, reviewing all aspects of the schools performance. This level of oversight came under close scrutiny in the recent Ofsted inspection and is highlighted as part of the Inspectors report and evaluation of the school. It is a reflection on the continuing commitment of the children, parents, staff and governors to support the activities of the school. And the work of the governors carries on in support of maintaining and improving the school.

Phil Jubin (Vice Chair)

Mobile Phones

Please can we remind you that if your child has to bring a mobile phone with them to school, these must be signed in at the office in the morning and then collected and signed out at the end of the day. The school is not responsible for any mobile phones that are not handed to the office at the beginning of the day.

Face Masks in School

Last week the government announced further easing of restrictions. From the 27.1.22 there is no longer a statutory requirement to wear masks in and around school. This now becomes a matter of choice, although I am sure that many shops etc. will still ask for your support in continuing to protect staff and would ask for your continued cooperation in this matter as well.

Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival – Creative

Writing competition

As a school, we would like to make parents aware of a creative writing competition organised by the Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival. There are opportunities for our children to submit poetry, short stories and letters they have written. In the past, we have had large numbers of children submit entries to the competition and ultimately be celebrated for their work. If your child is an aspiring writer or has a desire to enter, the entry details have been shared below.

http://79.170.40.162/basingstokemusicandarts.org.uk/?page_id=81

<https://basingstokemusicandartsfestival.runmyfestival.net/runMyFestival/security/welcome.jsf>

Ed King

Year 5 Team Leader and English Leader

Coats and shoes

It was great to see nearly every pupil in a coat last week, we were able to get out for fresh air despite the cold! As you know we endeavour to get out whenever we can for break time, PE and for learning opportunities outside the classroom so it is really important all pupils bring a coat to school with them.

Application for Year 3 places Sept 2022

Applications for Yr. 3 places for September 2022 have now closed. The notification date for on-time applicants is 19th April.

F.O.O.B.S.

Hi from F.O.O.B.S. We had our first committee meeting of the term last week and are very excited about the events and activities we are planning for the coming months such as the Easter fayre, discos and the Summer fayre! Keep your eyes peeled for details. We are looking forward to welcoming the Year 3 children at the disco next week, please look out for more information coming shortly regarding tickets. Our F.O.O.B.S. gin is still available through the Gorilla Gin website and as always don't forget you can contribute through no cost to yourself by shopping via easyfundraising and Amazon Smile. And last but not least, many thanks to Pete and Cheryl Matthews who raised an amazing £641.45 for F.O.O.B.S. over the Christmas period with their wonderful Workshop Illuminations festive lights display in Saxon Way.

Diary Dates

24th Jan -Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00
26th Jan -Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00
27th Jan -Y5 Church visit 2:30pm
27th January - Holocaust Memorial Day
28th Jan - F.O.O.B.S Disco Year 3 (Y4 to follow later in year)
31st Jan - Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00
2nd Feb – Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00
3rd Feb - Paulet Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
7th Feb - Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00
8th Feb - Safer Internet Day
9th Feb - Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00
10th Feb - Y6 Church visit 2:30pm
11th Feb - F.O.O.B.S Movie night Year 6
14th Feb - Y5 Swimming 10:30-12:00
14th-18th Feb - No after school clubs this week
15th Feb - Y3 Show Evening Performance 6:30pm
16th Feb - Y3 Show Matinee Performance 2:15pm
17th Feb - Y3 Show Evening Performance 6:30pm
16th Feb – Y6 Swimming 10:30-12:00
21st-25th Feb Half Term

28th Feb – INSET Day

1st-4th Mar - Book Week
2nd Mar – Ashes Service Yrs 5 & 6 10:00am
3rd Mar – Orchestra Unwrapped Concert at the Anvil Y3
10th Mar -Wellington Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
10th Mar - Y6 SRE Parents Briefing 3:30pm
12th Mar - Basingstoke Music Festival
17th Mar - Y3 Church visit 2:30pm
18th Mar - Red Nose Day
24th Mar - Y4 Church visit 2:30pm
25th Mar – F.O.O.B.S Disco Year 5
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

9th-13th May – SATS week

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