



No: 11 - February 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,

Last week we commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day. This year we used two picture books to help the children to, in some part, understand this difficult topic. Year 5 and 6 read *The Harmonica* and Year 3 and 4 read a book called *Star of Fear, Star of Hope*. The children have made some very sensitive and thoughtful comments during the week and we have some lovely new displays around school. In response to this year's theme of *One Day*, all the children have written a poem about how they could 'Be the Change' and these have formed the centrepiece of our big display in the Year 4 corridor for all children to read.

This week and next week we will be looking at our value of respect in terms of respect for traditions as the Christmas period formally came to a close this week, with the festival of Candlemas. Next week includes Safer Internet Day and we will be considering how we show respect for each other incorporating this year's theme 'All fun and games? when the children will explore respect and relationships online.

Last week Year 6 enjoyed a visit from the Young Shakespeare company who performed *A Midsummer's Night Dream* as part of their English work. With plenty of audience participation, the children gained a real insight into the story.

It was lovely to see so many parents attending our Parenting workshop with the Primary Behaviour Support Service last week, feedback from those that attended was really positive and we hope that it has helped those that attended realise they are not alone in their worries and hopefully everyone took something away from the session.

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&gcatid=55>

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. We are still getting a few parents who are emailing the class teacher and it is not always possible to pass on these messages prior to the office checking registers.

Parenting Course

We have had a really good response to the Parenting course that ran this week. If you were unable to attend and feel that you would still like to benefit from something similar could you let the office know and we will see if we have enough people in order to run a second course.

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.

Table Tennis

The Basingstoke U11 individual table tennis competition took place this week at The Costello School. Due to Covid restrictions each school was limited to entering 2 boys and 2 girls. Our children played exceptionally well, eventually losing out to St John's, which is no surprise given that their pupils had played at national level! Congratulations to Fin, Luke, Anya and Michaela who all played with real enthusiasm and sportsmanship and came away with well-deserved bronze medals.

It was lovely to see an ex St Mary's pupil who stayed to help, having qualified for the U13 County Final the day before – a real inspiration to our players.

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. However with the recent spike in numbers of COVID cases our staff have made the decision to continue to wear mask around school. We would ask that you continue to keep visits to school to a minimum and if for any reason you need to come in, for example to collect a child, that you do wear a face covering.

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

Calshot Oct 2022 (Current Year 5 pupils)

If you have chosen to pay for this residential trip by instalments, please note that the January payment should now have been made. You can pay any amount you wish at any time, but we do suggest a monthly payment of £50.

If you have any concerns regarding payments, please contact the office.

F.O.O.B.S.

Hi from F.O.O.B.S!

F.O.O.B.S has plenty of pre-loved uniform items that are available for purchase – both grey uniform items and branded jumpers/cardigans for both schools. All items are £1 or £2. Please contact friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com with your requirements and we can check what is available.

Scooters

At the end of a recent school day a fellow pavement user commented to one of the teaching staff how many children were responsible and considerate of other users of the footpaths and pavements. A few children on scooters, however, appear to show little awareness of other pavement users, especially heading towards the blind corner junction of Belle Vue Road, Church Lane and Milkingpen Lane. This has resulted in some collisions. If your child does use a scooter to come to and from school, please could you chat to them about awareness of other pedestrians and ensure that they show the respect for others that we expect.

Inset Days 2021/22

28th February 2022

27th May 2022

Inset Days 2022/23 (now agreed)

1st September 2022

2nd September 2022

31st October 2022

3rd January 2023

26th May 2023

Diary Dates

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

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

27th May – Inset Day

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