



## No: 14 - March 2022

**Article 2:** The Convention applies to everyone, whatever their race, religion, abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

Dear Parents,

With the sun out this week, it really does feel like Spring is finally here. It is lovely to see all the spring flowers out around the school grounds and great to see classes getting outside to enjoy learning outside the classroom. Please do continue to send your children with a lightweight waterproof coat so that we can still get outside if we experience any spring showers!

We continue to be incredibly busy both in and out of school. It was great to see so many of our pupils taking part in the Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival last weekend. After two years away, it was lovely to be able to celebrate the arts in Basingstoke once again. Please see Mrs Malone's report for details of our musical success. In addition, many of our pupils entered as individuals in various different classes with great success. Congratulations to the pupils who entered and came away with certificates and trophies!

This week year 4 have continued their trip around Europe cooking up Italian delights. There were some lovely smells filling the corridors. Year 5 have produced some lovely poetry based on a beautiful book called 'The Lost Words', it has been a pleasure to share some of their outcomes with them. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their Roman workshop on Wednesday, we always enjoy a visit from 'The Openbox Theatre Company', and the children really enjoyed the drama workshop, which brought the history to life. Thank you for all your support with costumes – they all looked great! Finally, yesterday we were entertained by Year 6 during their Poetry Slam. I think we have many pupils destined for the stage! It has been fantastic to see so many enrichment opportunities for our pupils around school over the last few weeks.

This week in AoW we have continued to look at the Christian Festival of Lent and our school value of perseverance. Year 3 had their year group AoW in Church last week, thank you to those parents who helped walk to church and those who joined us for the Act of Worship. This week year 4 headed down to St Mary's for their AoW, thank you again to those parents who joined them. Next week our focus moves onto compassion where we will look at God's Compassion for his people.

### **Basingstoke Music & Arts Festival – March 2022**

The annual Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival was a huge success for pupils at our school. Both individuals and groups entered the festival, some with school and some independently. The Ensembles day saw St Mary's being awarded many trophies and high marks. The school orchestra, brass band, ukulele group, string orchestra and senior choir all performed wonderfully to a very appreciative audience.

The adjudicator, Paul Harris commented "Very well done - keep up this really excellent work. A real model for others to aspire to" about the school orchestra and gave them a rare "outstanding" award (90/100). About the choir he said "A very musical and thoughtful performance".

On the same weekend, around 20 woodwind pupils performed at the BMAF woodwind section in solos and duets. On other weekends, pupils were performing in speech and drama, brass and creative writing. Full details and photos can be found in the news section of the school website.

Congratulations to the 100 or so children who participated and well done to you all for achieving the special "adjudicators cup" awarded to St Mary's for so much amazing music making in the festival. This award will go with the four others we came back to school with this year. This award will be given to us on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March when the brass band and choir perform once again at 2:30pm for the Gala Concert.

### **F.O.O.B.S. news**

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! It's disco time for Year 5! The disco will be tonight from 17.00 - 18.30 in the school hall. Please note this is a drop off event – drop off is at the main Reception via the office and the pick-up location is outside the year 3 classrooms. Various glow sticks and accessories will be available for sale on the night for between 25p and £2 each, so please send your child in with money if they would like to purchase these items.

With the weather brightening up, you might be thinking about summer uniform. We have stock of second hand summer dresses and grey shorts in various sizes for £1 per item. Please email [friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com) if you would like to purchase.

### **Governors' Corner**

It would be very easy for everyone involved with the school to sit back on our laurels and think that having achieved "Outstanding" in last term's Ofsted inspection, we can just continue as we are. But it is

really pleasing to know that that is not the case. There are always things that we can improve and make even better.

One of the roles of the Governors is to each have a link area, and to learn about that specific area and report back to the whole governing body. As a governor it is a fascinating task and a privilege to see how the staff teach and how the children learn.

I recently spent time with Mr King, the English lead teacher, seeing how writing is taught at St Mary's. It is taught very well, but even so the staff have identified areas where it could be even better. As the governor linked to Safeguarding, I also reviewed some of the practices and procedures with Mrs Lillywhite. Again, the standards are very high, and nothing is or should be taken for granted. Sometimes governors are in school with a member of staff, but other staff or pupils (or parents) may not know who they are. One very simple action from the governors' recent training together was to make a distinctive lanyard for governors to wear when visiting the school. I was the first visiting governor to wear the blue governor lanyard, and hopefully that will make identifying us easier!

Philip Hiorns, Governors

### **Global Friends book sale**

Thank you for all the support for the Global Friends book sale last week, the children were very pleased to be able to raise money to help people in Ukraine. It was fantastic to see parents and children able to come in to the school hall again and donate in return for some great books! We are delighted to say that the total of £365.19 has been donated to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Ukraine Fund which co-ordinates relief work in Ukraine.

### **Red Nose Day**

The school was awash with red last Friday! Well done to everyone for embracing the day, as well as creating such a wonderful atmosphere in school. Thank you for all your generous donations to this charity, we are thrilled to say that our current fundraising total stands at £571, well done St Mary's! Photographs from this day can be viewed on our website flowing this link:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=7&qcatid=55&albumid=552>

### **Breast Cancer – Bra Bank**

A bright pink bra bank will be held in the church reception area for the next few weeks – please donate any unwanted bras to help in the fight against breast cancer.

### **Clubs**

A reminder that next week, week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> March, is the final week for clubs this half term due to parents evening during the final week of term.

### **Attendance**

The school's overall attendance currently stands at 94.9%.

Thank you so much for working with us to ensure that every day of your child's education counts.

### **Parental Support**

Last week's coffee morning went really well and it was lovely to hear parents sharing their experiences and offering support to one another. We also hope that those of you who logged into the parental support workshop run by the Primary Behaviour Support Service on Tuesday evening found it useful. The next parental support coffee morning will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 9:30am. Please email the school office if you would like to attend.

[adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk)

### **Volunteers**

We are now welcoming volunteers and helpers into school. This week we have had support walking to the church and some help sewing in year 5! If you would like to help in school, please speak to the school office about the relevant application and DBS check. Thank you to all those who have already volunteered, we really do appreciate your support.

### **Calshot Residential Trip**

If you opted to pay for the balance of £300 monthly, please could you ensure that the March instalment of £50 is paid as soon as possible.

### **Dinner Money**

For those of you wishing to pay for school dinners weekly, the total per week is £12.50. Please ensure that your account is in credit.

### **Supporting your child with exams**

As we start to move towards the year 6 SATs in May, Young Minds have some good advice for parents about supporting their children. The website is mainly for older children taking GCSEs and A Levels, however below are some useful general tips you may find helpful.

Tips include:

- Encourage your child to take revision breaks and find a balance between studying and doing things they find enjoyable and relaxing.
- Make sure they are eating and drinking at regular intervals.
- Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them no matter what happens.
- Remain positive and hopeful!
- Let them know their feelings are valid and normal, but also offer support and solutions where possible.
- Anxiety is often worst at night and this means it is useful to encourage good bedtime routine

You can find out more here:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/exam-time/>

### **End of term church visits**

We will be going to church for an Act of Worship to mark the end of the Spring term on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

You are welcome to join us for these services.

**9:15am** – Davies, Mitchell, Nelson, Austen

**10:00am** – Nightingale, White, Paulet, Conan-Doyle

**11:00am** – Russel, Brunel, Wellington, Dickens

**20<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Leavers Service at Church 2.30pm**

**21<sup>st</sup> July - End of term church visit Yrs 3,4,5**

**21<sup>st</sup> July - Last Day of Summer term**

Caroline Welch

Headteacher

### **Diary Dates**

**25<sup>th</sup> Mar - F.O.O.B.S Disco Year 5 – 5-6:30pm**

**31<sup>st</sup> Mar - Dickens Sharing Assembly 2:45pm**

**1<sup>st</sup> Apr - F.O.O.B.S Easter Fair 3.30pm**

**4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Apr - No after school clubs this week**

**5<sup>th</sup> Apr - Parents Evening 3:30-7pm**

**6<sup>th</sup> Apr - Parents Evening 3:30-7pm**

**6<sup>th</sup> Apr - School Band Concert Christ Church  
Chineham, 6:30pm**

**8<sup>th</sup> Apr - End of term Church Visits am**

**8<sup>th</sup> Apr - Last Day of Term**

**11<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Apr Easter Holidays**

**25<sup>th</sup> Apr - First Day of new term**

**27<sup>th</sup> Apr - Parental Support Coffee Morning 9:30**

**28<sup>th</sup> Apr - Y5 Safari Pete**

**3<sup>rd</sup> May - Y5 Gordon Brown Centre (White)**

**4<sup>th</sup> May - Y4 Inventions Day**

**5<sup>th</sup> May - Y5 Gordon Brown Centre (Brunel)**

**6<sup>th</sup> May - Y5 Gordon Brown Centre (Mitchell)**

**6<sup>th</sup> May - F.O.O.B.S. Disco Y3**

**9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May - SATS week**

**12<sup>th</sup> May - Yr 5 Church Visit 2.30pm**

**16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> May - Walk to School Week**

**16<sup>th</sup> May - Y6 Space Dome**

**18<sup>th</sup> May - Yrs 5 & 6 Eucharist Service 10 am**

**19<sup>th</sup> May - Conan Doyle Sharing Assembly 2.45pm**

**23<sup>rd</sup> May - Summer Music Concert**

**26<sup>th</sup> May - Y6 Church Visit 2.30pm**

**27<sup>th</sup> May - Inset Day**

**30<sup>th</sup> May-3<sup>rd</sup> June - Half Term holiday**

**7<sup>th</sup> June - Southampton Art Gallery here (Y6)**

**9<sup>th</sup> June - Mitchell Sharing Assembly 2.45pm**

**15<sup>th</sup> June – Class/Group Photos**

**16<sup>th</sup> June - Austen Sharing Assembly 2.45pm**

**16<sup>th</sup> June - Y6 Leavers Service & day at  
Winchester Cathedral**

**17<sup>th</sup> June - F.O.O.B.S Movie night Y6 (anyone at the  
BPSM rehearsals during the day will be able  
to attend as it is after school)**

**20<sup>th</sup> June - Y4 Egyptian Drama Day**

**21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June - BPSM Evening Concert**

**23<sup>rd</sup> June - Y4 Church Visit 2.30pm**

**28<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day**

**5<sup>th</sup> July - Reserve Sports Day**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July - F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair**

**7<sup>th</sup> July - Y3 Church Visit**

**w/c 11<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Show week**

**15<sup>th</sup> July - Shuffle Up Afternoon**

**18<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Pilgrimage Day at Church**

**19<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Picnic and Party**

For further detail and updates please see;  
School website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk>

and also our Facebook page

@stmarysjuniorsoldbasing