



No: 15 – April 2022

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

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of a busy term it is lovely to reflect on the successes of this spring.

We were so proud of our musicians throughout the Basingstoke Festival - both our groups, who went on to also perform at the Gala, and those individuals and small groups who entered other classes. As you know, as a school we came home with a number of trophies and I am really pleased to inform you that after the Gala performance we came back with another one as the adjudicator's choice. This trophy is normally given to a single group but the adjudicator was so impressed with the standard of all of our groups that he awarded it to the school as a whole.

Our sports teams have continued to excel. On Wednesday 30th March we participated in an Athletics qualifier event at the Costello school. The team did amazingly well and came first overall with a combined total of 380 points. We have now qualified for the district finals. On Thursday 31st March we participated in the Netball district finals for Basingstoke competing against 12 other schools. They did really well and played some brilliant netball finishing a very respectable fourth within the group.

This term Year 3 have been busy learning about the Romans, I think the highlight was Roman day and making Roman helmets with papier mache! Year 4 have come to the end of their European adventures. They particularly enjoyed cooking and trying different foods. In the upper school, Year 5 have been learning about life in Ancient Greece, this culminated in a Greek Olympics this week which they really enjoyed. Each class became an Ancient Greek city state, each competitor earning points for their class city state. Each child took part in throwing, jumping, running and wrestling (non-contact tag-rugby style!) events. Finally, Year 6 have completed their Entertainment Topic, they are now looking forward to learning more about the 'Wise World' in their next topic based around the golden age of Islam.

We have lots to look forward to next term, including the Gordon Brown Centre, Safari Pete, Egyptian Workshops and the Space Dome, to name but a few. As well as all of these, we will also have our own Sports Day and many children will be performing at the Anvil as part of the BPSM. The summer term looks set to be an exciting, but busy one!

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at St Mary's, I would like to wish you and all your family a very happy and safe Easter. We look forward to seeing you all back in school on **Monday 25th April**.

Volunteers

If you have now completed the application process and DBS checks we would love to welcome you into school to support our younger readers in Year 3 and 4. If you have some free time please let the office know and we can allocate you to a class. We would welcome parents of children from any year group to support us with this important task.

Queen's Jubilee Celebration

The week commencing 23rd May will be a whole school Focus Week when activities will be related to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which will be celebrated by the whole country during half-term. As part of this we will be having a whole school picnic on the field during our normal lunch break to which parents will be invited. Please look out for further details.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's concern. As a professional body we work with many agencies to safeguard our pupils. As a member of the public if you have any concerns about members of the community, a friend or relative, you can report concerns or seek advice from Hampshire Children's Services. Contact details can be found on the Hampshire County Council Website.
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren>

Easter Home Learning

There will be some Home Learning for children to complete over the Easter holidays. We want everyone to enjoy the break, but it is also important for all of the children to continue to practice their basic skills in order to build on their current learning in order to make a really positive start to the summer term. The work will be posted on Google classrooms, or distributed in paper form, and little and often is the key.

School Dinners

After half term, we will start the new summer menu. Please see details on ParentMail and [link to HC3S'](#). School dinner prices will increase to £2.60 as of 25th April. If you wish to pay for the first half of the term in advance, it will be £59.80. Where possible, all payments should be made via SCOPAY. Should you have any issues with payment please contact the school office

E-safety

As we go into the Easter break, children have the opportunity to spend more time online. We would ask that you spend a little time with your child reinforcing the messages that we teach in school to ensure that they keep themselves safe. It might be useful to go back over any rules and boundaries in place around online activity and reinforce the parameters around Internet usage. More information can be found on our website in the parents section, which includes links to some useful websites and activities that can be completed together with the whole family.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+safety&pid=68>

HeartSmart

Next half term we will start to look at our fourth HeartSmart principle – Fake is a Mistake. Work around this will include unpacking how to bravely communicate truth and be proud of who we are. We want the children to know and understand that we do not need to pretend to be something we're not. We're all amazing and unique in different ways.

Miss Eckett – PSHE Leader

Attendance

Attendance at the end of March was 94.8%. Well done to Wellington class with the highest attendance of 95.7%.

Whilst our attendance remains high in comparison to national levels, it is 3% lower than in non-pandemic years. The vast majority of absence has been COVID related during the year.

As the summer term approaches I would remind parents that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods and that I will not authorise any holidays in term time. Only absences for very exceptional circumstances will be authorised.

Summer uniform

Summer uniform can be worn after the Easter holidays. This consists of green checked dresses, grey shorts and white polo shirts or short sleeved shirts, without ties. Sensible footwear, please – no flip-flops or open-toed sandals.

Previously, a large number of pupils continued to wear shirts, and in fact ties, through the summer months, and commented that they found them more comfortable than polo shirts. This is something we continue to look into for future years. If you have any thoughts on the subject, please let us know.

Uniform remains the same for days when your child has PE lessons.

PE Kit

Please can we remind you that pupils must wear shorts under their tracksuit bottoms on PE days, or bring a pair in their bag to change into, as they cannot take part in indoor PE session in long trousers for health and safety reasons. We appreciate your support with this.

Summer Fair – Sunday 3rd July

It is fantastic that we are able to run a Summer Fair this year. The F.O.O.B.S committee are working hard on plans and preparations for this great event.

Without support from parents these events are really difficult to run. After Easter, teachers will start to look for volunteers to help run the class stalls, please do offer your services even if it for just half an hour – many hands make light work!

Also, we will be collecting filled jars for the Jolly Jars stall between 6th-10th June, so you may wish to start collecting your used jars and lids now! These jars can be filled with any small toys, sweets (no chocolate in case it melts) or stationery items suitable for children to win on the stall!

Hampshire Kitchen Heroes

Calling all Hampshire residents! A new scheme is launching to reward you for saving waste, saving money and saving the planet. Take part in over 20 food-themed activities that will help you reduce the amount of food that ends up in your household bin and could help you save up to £60 a month! There's also the chance to win £20 vouchers whilst competing with other residents from across Hampshire. So what are you waiting for? Be a Hampshire Kitchen Hero! Sign up now at: <https://www.hampshirekitchenheroes.co.uk/>

F.O.O.B.S

A big thank you to everyone who helped and attended our Easter fair, it was a huge success.

COVID Guidance Updates

The updated guidance advises:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend

- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

Be 'Tick Aware'

Hampshire County Council is stepping up its advice to residents to be 'tick aware' while enjoying time outside or working outdoors. Please see the link below for some useful information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-publishes-new-tick-leaflets-to-remind-people-to-be-tick-aware>

Medical Appointments and Medicines

In line with our Attendance Policy, could we ask that you avoid taking your child out of school for non-urgent medical or dental appointments. If your child is prescribed medicines that require three doses, these can be administered at home, if they require four doses then we are happy to administer.

Governors Corner

It was lovely to welcome Aude Jarret, Foundation Governor, into school last week to join a Year 6 class for an AoW. Her visit was summarised with these lovely words. *'A lovely AoW, relaxed and calm with children fully engaged and taking in the message of forgiveness and compassion.'*

Inset Days 2021/22

27th May 2022

Inset Days 2022/23

1st September 2022
2nd September 2022
31st October 2022
3rd January 2023
26th May 2023

Dates for the diary

11th-22nd Apr Easter Holidays

25th Apr - First Day of new term
25th Apr - After School Clubs start this week
27th Apr - Parental Support Coffee Morning 9:30
28th Apr - Y5 Safari Pete
3rd May - Y5 Gordon Brown Centre (White)
4th May - Y4 Inventions Day
5th May - Y5 Gordon Brown Centre (Brunel)
6th May - Y5 Gordon Brown Centre (Mitchell)
6th May - F.O.O.B.S. Disco Y3
9th-13th May - SATS week
12th May - Yr 5 Church Visit 2.30pm
16th-20th May - Walk to School Week
16th May - Y6 Space Dome
18th May - Yrs 5 & 6 Eucharist Service 10 am
19th May - Conan Doyle Sharing Assembly 2.45pm
23rd May - Summer Music Concert
25th May - Y6 Church Visit 2.30pm
26th May - Platinum Jubilee Picnic

27th May - Inset Day

30th May-3rd June - Half Term holiday
6th - 10th June - Jam Jar collection for Summer Fair
9th June - Toys, Books and Uniform collection for Summer Fair
7th June - Southampton Art Gallery here (Y6)
9th June - Mitchell Sharing Assembly 2.45pm
15th June - Class/Group Photos
16th June - Austen Sharing Assembly 2.45pm
16th June - Y6 Leavers Service & day at Winchester Cathedral
17th 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)
20th June - Y4 Egyptian Drama Day
21st & 22nd June - BPSM Evening Concert
23rd June - Y4 Church Visit 2.30pm
28th June - Sports Day
5th July - Reserve Sports Day
3rd July - F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair
7th July - Y3 Church Visit
12th-14th July - Y6 Show evening performances
15th July - Shuffle Up Afternoon
18th July - Y6 Pilgrimage Day at Church
19th July - Y6 Picnic and Party

For even more news, updates and photos, don't forget to visit our website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/news>
and the St Mary's Facebook page if you need to check events on the go.

Caroline Welch
Headteacher