



No: 2 – September 2022

UNCRC Article 28 – All children have a right to an education

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last few weeks have been as busy as always! The children continue to show responsibility in school and a real enthusiasm for their learning. It was lovely to see clubs resume last week. Over 20 after school clubs are currently running and music clubs, orchestra, band and choirs have also restarted. After school clubs this term include: Book Club, Table Tennis, Football, Street Dance, Pottery, Chess and judo to name just a few. Look out for further exciting opportunities coming in the spring term!

Year 3 have started learning about the Stone Age and they enjoyed becoming cave men for the morning! They collected firewood, made shelters and created some cave art. Savage Saxons is the topic in Year 4 and we are looking forward to welcoming visitors from Oxenwood Education centre into school later in the half term for a day learning more about life in these times.

Year 5 have started their topic based around Old Basing House, next week they will visit the ruins to find out more about the significance of this historic site.

'Weird and Wondrous Earth' is the theme for Year 6 – they are already enjoying finding out natural disasters and how they affect people and landscapes.

Please do check our website regularly for galleries of some of the activities going on in school.
<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=7&qcatid=55>

This week in our Acts of Worship we have moved on to responsibility and discussed how Christian love is an unselfish act and how we can help others in our school and in our local community. Next week we will be continuing our theme of responsibility and finding out more about the work of the Basingstoke Foodbank. As part of our work on responsibility and the schools charity work, we will be collecting items for the foodbank. Further details will be sent out on Monday, so you may want to gather some things this weekend. Donations can be brought into school from Tuesday 27th September. Thank you in advance for your support.

As we move further into Autumn please can you ensure your child has a rain coat with them each day, as we do endeavour to get the children outside whatever the weather!

What does a SENCo do?

If the children come home and mention a lady in the Rainbow Room... it is probably me! I have been so fortunate to work at St. Mary's for 5 years now, and have met so many wonderful children and parents. It is such a privilege to be here. My best days are ones when I get to be with children and not filling in paperwork!

The main area of my work is focused on making sure any of our pupils with any Special Education Needs or Disabilities receive their full education. I work alongside the teachers and LSAs, as well as outside experts such as Educational Psychologists, to help the pupils' progress in their learning. If you have any concerns regarding the progress of your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance, and they will pass on the information if my help is needed.

The emotional impact of the last few years cannot be underestimated. Sadly, we cannot offer therapeutic support, neither are we trained as counsellors, but I work with teachers to ensure they are very mindful of the well-being of our pupils. We are always here to listen and we can help to sign post you to the right place. Take a look at the well-being section of our website, which we try to update regularly

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Emotional+Well%2Dbeing&pid=326>

Each half term we have a Coffee Morning. They have been a great place to share experiences as parents and to support each other. The Primary Behaviour Service attend to offer practical parenting advice. Please join us – I always make sure there are good biscuits! Our first one for this year is on the 5th October at 9am.

Jenny Bunkle (Inclusion Manager)

Parent Briefing Meetings

All year groups have now held their curriculum briefing meetings. It was lovely to see so many of you attend. Information from these meetings can be found in the relevant year group section of the 'Our Curriculum' area on the school website which can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Curriculum&pid=28>

If you have any questions about the curriculum, or arrangements for your child this year, please contact their class teacher.

Parent Helpers

If you would like to come in to help in your child's class in the future, or you maybe want to help on future trips, you will need to complete a volunteers' application form (which will include references) and a DBS check. Please contact the school office via email for details.

Earring Tape and Jewellery

If your child wears earrings to school, they should be able to remove them themselves for P.E. lessons and re-insert them at the end of lessons. If the earrings have only recently been fitted, then you need to provide tape for your child to cover the earrings during PE lessons.

Can we remind you that children should not be wearing any bracelets or necklaces in school unless these are for religious practice and in this case please contact the class teacher.

Parentmail

We will continue to use the FORMS section of Parentmail for most letters that require permission slips. The forms need to be completed on parentmail and responses will be sent straight back to school. This will stop the need for paper copies and provide us with electronic permission from parents.

Please could you check your parentmail account regularly and ensure that your details are kept up to date.

If you experience any issues, please contact the office who will be happy to help you.

Dinner Money

If your child has regular school dinners payment should be paid in advance using our online payment system. School dinners are currently £2.60 per day. Please note you are able to set up a balance alert on your SCOPAY account which will notify you when your balance falls below a specified amount.

Time to Shine Day – 'Be Bright To Be Seen'

On Sunday 30th October British Summer times ends and sadly those clocks will go back. On Friday 14th October we are having a 'Be Bright to Be Seen' day in school and we would like the children to come to school dressed as brightly as they possibly can – what would you need to wear to be seen safely out walking or cycling during the darker evenings? In school on this day each class will talk about and complete activities about keeping safe on the streets. We look forward to seeing St Mary's full of colour – the brighter the better!

Dates for your Diary

27th September - Yr. 6 Calshot Info Mtg 6:00pm
29th September - White Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
3rd-7th October - Yr. 6 Bikeability
4th October - Yr. 3 Church visit 2:30pm
4th October - F.O.O.B.S AGM @ infant school 7:30pm
5th October -Yr. 4 Oxenwood visit into school (Nelson)
6th October - Yr. 4 Oxenwood visit into school (Wellington)
7th October - Yr. 4 Oxenwood visit into school (Paulet)
9th October - F.O.O.B.S Fun Run
12th October - Yr. 3 Iron Age Day
12th October - Parents' Evenings (no clubs)
13th October - Parents' Evening (no clubs)
13th October - Open Day for New Yr 3 Parents (2023) 9:30-11:00am
14th October - 'Be Bright to Be Seen' Day
17th-21st October - Yr. 6 Calshot Residential trip
18th October - Yr. 4 Church visit 2:30pm
20th October - Paulet Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

24th – 28th October – half term

31st October - INSET DAY

7th November – Open Day for New Yr.3 Parents (2023) 1:30-3pm

8th November – Yr. 5 Space Dome – here

8th November – Yr. 6 Church visit 2:30pm

8th November – Yr. 5 Parents Calshot mtg 6pm

10th November – Yr. 4 Viking Day - here

16th December – Last day of 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.

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Caroline Welch
Headteacher