



## No: 3 – October 2022

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of the first half term. I am not sure where the last few weeks have gone!

School has been as busy as always over the last two weeks. This week our Year 6 pupils have taken part in Bikeability training. Bikeability cycle training equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing.

Next Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October will hopefully see school convert into a sea of colour as we hold our annual 'Be Bright to be Seen Day'. We will be talking both as a whole school and in classes, about how we need to keep ourselves safe while out and about, especially as the evenings become darker.

This week in AoW we have moved onto our value of Perseverance. As part of this we have considered how we can learn from our mistakes and persevere in terms of being the best person we can be. Next week we continue thinking about our value of perseverance.

### Applying for a Secondary School place Yr 7

Year 7 applications have been open for a while now and you need to get your application in by **31<sup>st</sup> October**.

### Open Afternoon and Morning for Year 2 Parents

Do you or do you know someone who has a child due to start Year 3 in September 2023? We will be holding two Open Days in the autumn term for prospective new parents. These will give you the opportunity to tour the school and see us in action, as well as finding out more about what you and your child can expect from St Mary's.

This year's dates are:

13th October 2022 starting at 9.30am and finishing around 11.00am

7th November 2022 starting at 1.30pm and finishing around 3.00pm

If for any reason you are unable to make one of these dates, please contact the school office on 01256 465092 or [adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk), and we will try our best to arrange an alternative date. Please note that applications for places will need to be completed online through the Hampshire admissions website and applications close in January 2023.

### Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs

If your child has a medical condition that might affect their participation in curriculum activities or other activities in school e.g. asthma, you will have filled out, or recently been asked to fill out, an Individual Healthcare Plan as part of our work to ensure that your child is supported as necessary. If anything has changed since you filled out your form or if your child develops any new medical conditions, please let the office know. Please note that we are not allowed to administer any ibuprofen based medicine in school.

### Winter Uniform

After half term we move into winter uniform. This means that polo shirts and summer dresses will now have to be packed away. **Shirts and ties will need to be worn by all children**, as well as their sweatshirts. Please make sure that all ties are clearly marked with your child's name.

### Christmas Cards

Thank you for returning orders for the Christmas Cards, the designs look wonderful! The deadline for all orders was today. We would like to thank all the members of the Friends of Old Basing Schools for their continued hard work.

### Harvest Food Bank Collection

On behalf of the Basingstoke Food Bank we would like to say thank you for all of your kind donations. Without the continued efforts of people like yourselves, they would not be able to offer help to local people who are in financial crisis, especially at the moment. We are delighted to share that our school community donated an amazing 225.4kg of food and toiletry items! Thank you to Mrs Antrobus and Mrs Baldwin who helped transport our donations to the foodbank and thank you to the other parents who offered help.

### Times Tables!

Year 4 are currently working hard to learn all of their tables' facts in Maths ready for their end of year multiplication tables check!

Although Year 4 are really hitting their tables, it is important that every child across the school learns and then continues to practise their tables frequently. Learning one table makes it easier to learn others. By starting with basic tables and building up, children can learn number rules which will make learning other tables easier. For example, once you know your 2 times table, you can learn your 4 times table simply

by doubling the answers! Tables help with mental arithmetic. Memorising tables makes it far quicker and easier for children to work out maths problems in their heads. It can also help to develop the ability to internally add, subtract and divide! Tables can also help you understand other mathematical concepts. Knowing their times tables can also help your child more readily grasp other important aspects of maths, such as fractions, division and percentages. There are also plenty of online tools to help like 'Hit the Button' and 'Times Table Rock Stars' and your child will enjoy battling against others and trying to get a high score. Knowing your times tables increases confidence! Perhaps most importantly, memorising their tables will give your child confidence in their own skills – there's nothing more 'grown up' than not having to use your fingers to work out an answer! This confidence will also help them in SATs or other assessments, and ultimately, ease their move into secondary education.

### **Governors Corner**

As you may be aware one of the many responsibilities of the vicar of St. Mary's Church in Old Basing is to be a governor of the school. Heather Leppard, who recently left the position, made a huge contribution to the governing team and the school in general. The church is currently in the process of recruiting a new vicar however, as far as governor responsibilities go, I am very pleased to be able to welcome Andree McLean back to the governing body. Andree, who is a member of the church PCC, will be joining us on a temporary basis, and as a previous Chair of Governors at St. Marys brings a wealth of experience to the team.

You should recently have received an email from me explaining the importance of your voluntary contributions to help fund the fantastic range of activities that the school offers pupils in order to enrich their learning experience. At a time when schools are facing ever tighter budgets your contributions are more important than ever. I would like to thank all who have contributed but if you have not yet contributed yet, and can afford to, please do so. The £30 contribution works out at less than £1 a week over the course of each term and, considering the range of activities, offers outstanding value.

Michael Wright  
Chair of Governors

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

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! And a big thank you to everyone who attended the AGM and a warm welcome to our new members. We were very pleased to present the Junior School with a cheque for £10987 which Ms Welch will put towards the cost of the playground upgrades. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed money and/or time to enable us to make this fantastic donation!

This Sunday sees the return of the F.O.O.B.S trail and fun runs! Online entries are open until 23:00 on Friday but we will also be accepting entries on the day so there's still plenty of time to get yourself and your children signed up! Dare I say, the weather is looking OK for this weekend so we are quietly optimistic that it won't be the mud bath we've enjoyed in previous years! If anyone would like to donate cakes, either made or bought, for the refreshments stall they can be brought down to the tea room at the Rec on the day.

### **PE Kit**

It has been great to see the majority of our pupils coming into school in correct PE kit this half term (plain white t-shirt and green shorts) on PE days, along with tracksuit bottoms and their school sweatshirt or cardigan. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you of the following:

- No jewellery should be worn for any PE lessons. If children are unable to remove earrings because their ears have recently been pierced they must be covered by tape or plasters and we ask that this is provided by parents. All other earrings must be removed.
- We endeavour to get out for outdoor PE lessons whenever possible, so long as the weather doesn't pose any Health and Safety risk. If it is wet, teachers will adapt lessons as appropriate, for example by concentrating on throwing activities rather than any running. Therefore, we ask that all children have suitable warm outdoor PE kit or tracksuit trousers and tops. These should be plain green, black or dark blue..
- Shorts must be worn for indoor PE lessons so on cold days tracksuit bottoms should be worn over the top of shorts.

### **Sharing Assemblies, Church visits and other events**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that you are welcome to attend your child's class sharing assembly and year Group Church Act of Worships. Dates for these are advertised in our newsletters and take place throughout the year. Class Sharing Assemblies are held in the school starting at 2:45pm. Year Group Church visits, which you are also welcome to attend, take place at 2:30pm at St Mary's Church.

We also warmly invite any parents to join us for our termly Eucharist services held in school for pupils in Yr. 5 and 6 (parents from Yr. 3 and 4 are welcome to attend these too).

### **Attendance**

At the end of September, the school's overall attendance stood at 97.8% which remains high. Austen and Paulet class jointly had the highest attendance rate of 99.4%. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance and punctuality.

## **Absences**

As we move into the winter months the prevalence of coughs and sneezes etc. is likely to increase. Please follow the link below for the government's updated guidance on respiratory illnesses including COVID19.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#what-to-do-if-you-have-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19-and-have-not-taken-a-covid-19-test>

## **Head Lice**

There have been a few cases of head lice in school recently and we would like to draw your attention to the following link which offers some useful guidance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

## **Sports Xtra October Half Term Holiday Camp**

Please find attached details of Sports Xtra's October Half Term Holiday Camp at Everest.

## **Dates for your Diary**

9th October - F.O.O.B.S Fun Run  
w/c 10<sup>th</sup> October - No after school clubs this week  
12th October - Yr.3 Iron Age Day  
12th October - Parents' Evenings  
13th October - Parents' Evening  
13th October - Open Day for New Yr.3 Parents (2023) 9:30-11:00am  
14<sup>th</sup> October - 'Be Bright to Be Seen' Day  
w/c 17<sup>th</sup> October - No after school clubs this week  
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

2<sup>nd</sup> November - Yr.4 Oxenwood visit into school (Nelson)

3<sup>rd</sup> November -Yr.4 Oxenwood visit into school (Wellington)

4<sup>th</sup> November - Yr.4 Oxenwood visit into school (Paulet)

7<sup>th</sup> November - Open Day for New Yr.3 Parents (2023) 1:30-3pm

8<sup>th</sup> November - Yr.5 Space Dome – here

8<sup>th</sup> November - Yr.6 Church visit 2:30pm

8<sup>th</sup> November - Yr.5 Parents Calshot mtg 6pm

10<sup>th</sup> November - Yr.4 Viking Day – here

14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November - Friendship week

14<sup>th</sup> November - Odd Socks Day

14<sup>th</sup> November - Yr.5 Orchestra concert, Winchester College

18<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need Day

21<sup>st</sup> November - Whole School Flu Vaccinations

22<sup>nd</sup> November - Yr.5 Church visit 2:30pm

24<sup>th</sup> November - Davies Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

30<sup>th</sup> November - Yr.6 Christmas Carol Workshop

2<sup>nd</sup> December - F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market

8<sup>th</sup> December - Brunel Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

w/c 12<sup>th</sup> December - No after school clubs this week

14<sup>th</sup> December - School Carol Concert at Church 6pm

15<sup>th</sup> December - Class Christmas Parties pm

16<sup>th</sup> December – End of term Church visits, further details to follow

16th December – Last day of term

3<sup>rd</sup> Jan – INSET Day

4<sup>th</sup> Jan – First Day of new 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