



No: 6 - November 2022

Article 17 Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio, and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week has seen our annual Friendship week at St Mary's. Pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities including drama and role play activities, poetry writing, picture book studies and art.

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we also introduced the concept of Ubuntu, which is best explained to children as believing that we are all connected. No matter where we are from, what we like to do, or who we are, a person is a person through their connection with other people. Almost everything we do affects other people. By learning and thinking about Ubuntu we can celebrate friendship and kindness and the many ways in which we are all one.

On Monday 14th November, Year 5 travelled down to Winchester to attend a special concert given by Winchester College Symphony Orchestra. Learning about how the different instruments and sections combine to create the "symphony orchestra sound", Year 5 enjoyed the performance of Dvorak Symphony No 8. It was a really special trip out.

Last Friday, the school turned spotty to fundraise for Children in Need. Thank you to those of you who helped find the spottiest possible clothing in the wardrobe and to those who got creative with stickers, pom-poms and pens! We are thrilled to share that our fundraising total for this great charity currently stands at an amazing £848 – well done St Mary's!

This week we had our termly Eucharist Service for Years 5 and 6. Richard Wharton from the diocesan education team took the service, on the theme of respect. The children behaved beautifully during the service and were a credit to you all.

Next week in our Act of Worship's we will start to think about the season of Advent – that seems to have come around very quickly!

The reverend Jo Mulliner was welcomed into the St Mary's family. She was installed as vicar of St Mary's Church on Tuesday and we hope to be able to invite her into school on a regular basis, including leading our Wednesday Acts of Worship. I am sure that if you spot her you will make her feel welcome to the parish as part of St Mary's 'One Family'.

Congratulations to our Year 6 Basketball team who competed last week. They performed amazingly coming first and bringing home a gold medal each.

Finally, congratulations to the children who represented the school in the first round of this year's Tag Rugby competition. Some fine playing resulted in a win and a draw with four further fixtures still to play. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Wheeler and Mr White, who have been coming into school to coach our Tag Rugby team.

After School Clubs

Just a reminder that the last week of this term's after school clubs is w/c 5th December.

You will be notified shortly about club allocations for the Spring term. Payment for these will be required by 7th December.

Forms and Reply Slips

The office staff are having to spend an increasing amount of time chasing responses to forms and letters across the school, despite sending out timely reminders. Please reply to any forms by the deadlines on the letters, as it is time consuming for staff to have to chase late replies and orders.

BASINGSTOKE GENERAL HOSPITAL CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Hi everyone,

It's that time of year again that we ask for your help, for the past 2 years we've done a collection for Basingstoke Hospital following on from my son, Harrison, being diagnosed with Leukaemia in 2020. We were so so grateful, as were the hospital, for all the amazing donations and both times it's been a huge success so we've decided to do it again.

The idea is to get Christmas gifts and crafts for the children at Basingstoke General Hospital. The majority of Harrison's treatment is now at Basingstoke and they have been fantastic, but they can't do it all without the help and support from us. If you would like to help us spread a little joy this Christmas we'd be so very grateful. The impact gifts or crafty things make while children are in hospital are huge. Harrison has struggled with lots of procedures along this journey and sometimes all he talks about after is the small toy received which is amazing.

We're going to do things a little bit differently this year, there's now 3 ways to donate.

Amazon Wishlist - As in previous years I've pulled together an Amazon wishlist. Click on https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3AXSH1A1WUN3U?ref=wl_share pick the gift from the list and it gets delivered directly to us (just make sure you select gift registry address and Amazon do the rest). Happy to add anything to the list if you find something else you'd like to buy.

In person – if you would like to buy something personally or you have a new gift at home that's suitable for a child 0-18 then I'll be arranging a couple of collection dates and some drop off points around the Old Basing schools too.

PayPal – a donation is perfect for bulk buys and vouchers for the older kids <https://www.paypal.me/julesharrisonmya> (please make sure you select friends and family)

We still need to be careful with all bugs and Harrison, covid etc so please be mindful of that if you're donating in person.

DONATION CUT OFF 09/12/2020

If you can help, we'd very much appreciate it. We know times are tough so if you can't afford anything right now then please share if you know anyone that might be able to help.

Thank you so much in advance
Jules, Matthew, Harrison & Mya xxx

Emergency Contact Details

Please can we ask all parents to ensure that you update the office with any changes to emergency contact details and please ensure that the school has at least two emergency contact names and numbers for your child.

News from the Rainbow Room

Are you a parent of a neuro-diverse child (diagnosed or not)?

On Tuesday 6th December, Andy Reddy, has offered to run two sessions to support parents, one at 9am and another at 4pm.

Andy has an MSc in psychology, is a qualified SENCO and has an in-depth understanding of mental health and special education needs. He has run a school in an NHS Tier 4 CAMHS acute psychiatric hospital, as well as Special Educational Needs departments in schools.

In his personal life Andy has an autistic son who has been through special education, and he himself has dyslexia. Subsequently, Andy has lived experience of his own struggles with dyslexia and has experienced the real struggle of 'trying to get it right' supporting his own autistic child... In his spare time Andy is a trustee of Autism Hampshire and an Includability and Autism ambassador.

Andy would like to offer his expertise to help parents who are on the same journey he has been on, to discuss in an open atmosphere the challenges and positives of parenting a neuro-diverse child.

If you have any questions about the session, feel free to email Miss Bunkle directly.

Please let the Office know by 30.11.22, if you can attend so we can plan for numbers.

Message from the council's public health team

This is the first winter without pandemic restrictions in two years. While children and young people have been able to attend school throughout most of the pandemic, wider social events and holidays are now occurring and more will be planned over the winter. Mixing will be inside, increasing the chance of infection spreading.

Winter illnesses such as influenza and respiratory viruses in adults and children are on the increase and are returning to pre-pandemic levels. Younger children, especially those just starting school will not have been exposed to many infections and will have less natural immunity. The seasonal flu vaccination is being offered now to all children aged 2 to 11 years and some children in secondary school. There are also many adults eligible for a free flu vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccination enabled the gradual and safe removal of restrictions on everyday life and remains key to living with the virus in the future. Many adults are eligible for an Autumn booster and the vaccine for children is still available.

Routine childhood vaccination uptake has been negatively impacted by the pandemic and is not yet back to rates that provide the community with robust protection to prevent infectious disease incidents and outbreaks. These can impact on school attendance and learning. Limiting any further disruption to children, who have already missed time at school due to the pandemic, is vitally important.

Please find below links to some information sources:

Childhood Illnesses

- The [Healthier Together](#) website is a good place to go for advice and guidance for a wide range of concerns around children's health and well-being.
- Advice around specific infections and school attendance can be found here. [Is-my-child-too-ill-for-school?](#)
- This [blog](#) is aimed at the health of children under 5 years old but contains some useful information applicable to children of any age.

Vaccinations

- Vaccination is the best defence against severe illness and infections. A full list of the vaccines on offer can be found here. [NHS vaccinations and when to have them](#) You can check if your child is up to date by contacting your GP or checking their red book.
- More information can be found about flu and COVID-19 vaccinations via the following links:
- [Child flu vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination for children - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Safeguarding Awareness for Parents & Carers (Football Association)

Every week millions of children play football, many of them in organised clubs and organisations. As part of its safeguarding response, the Football Association has created a safeguarding course for parents.

The course is designed to help parents make informed choices about the football settings where they enrol their children. The course helps parents recognise best practice and see where there may be concerns, so that they can report them quickly and effectively.

This free course can be found

here: <https://learn.EnglandFootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

Christmas Events

A few dates for your diaries!

Please do read and take on board all of these dates and arrangements for our festive celebrations.

- **FO.O.B.S Christmas Market**

We are excited to once again hold the F.O.O.B.S Christmas market on **Friday 2nd December**, information has already come out about this from F.O.O.B.S. Thank you for all the donations made for this event.

- **Carol Concert**

We are currently working on putting together our annual Christmas Carol Concert which will be held in the church on **Wednesday 15th December**, we look forward to welcoming you to this special service.

- **Christmas Cards**

The children at St Mary's have traditionally loved using the communal post boxes to post cards to friends and staff. The Christmas post boxes will be out from **Thursday 1st December** from which cards can be brought in to post. Please make sure that envelopes are marked with full names and classes to help our Yr. 6 prefects distribute them!

- **Christmas Parties**

All classes will have their Christmas party during the **afternoon of Thursday 15th December**. We ask for children to bring in their own individual small box/bag of 'party food' for them to enjoy during the party. Please note this is in addition to their normal packed lunch or school dinner.

This day will also be a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day and we look forward to seeing lots of festive attire.

- **Christmas Dinner**

Finally, thank you for returning your children's Christmas dinner orders already. Our annual Christmas lunch will be held on **Friday 16th December**.

Winchester Christmas Market

Our senior choir will again be singing at the Christmas market in Winchester. This year the event will be on **Saturday 3rd December at 2.00pm**. If you are in the area please do come along and support them.

End of Term Church Services

All Classes will visit the church on Friday 16th December at the following service times:

9:15am – Davies, Mitchell, Nelson, Conan Doyle
10:00am – Nightingale, Brunel, Paulet, Dickens
11:00am – Russell, White, Wellington, Austen

If you are able to help walk the children to church for the morning church visits on Friday 16th December please let your child's class teacher know.

Christmas Tree Festival – St Mary's Church

St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival, The Twelve Days of Christmas, is now just two weeks away!

We start the Festival on Friday 9th December at 7pm with a Christmas Singalong amongst the trees singing a mixture of both traditional Christmas carols and popular Christmas songs (Festival jumpers optional!) Tickets available from Debbie admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk, tel. 07541 698235 (£5 adults, £2.50 children, family ticket (up to 4 children))

The Festival then continues over the weekend (11am – 4pm) with activities for all the family. Come along and see the church lit up with beautiful Christmas trees entered by local groups and families. Take a look in the Parish Room where we shall be holding a Christmas market. Hot food and refreshments available, including a BBQ on Saturday.

The school tree will be on display and the junior choir will be singing on **Saturday 10th December at 2pm**.

F.O.O.B.S. Update

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations of gifts and money for the F.O.O.B.S. Christmas Markets - we are really excited for the children to come and select gifts for their loved ones. The Christmas Market is on Friday 2nd December, your child will be able to buy two gifts at £2 per gift for their loved ones. Please send money into school with your child on the day of the market.

For those who have ordered Letter to Santa kits, please keep an eye out as these will be sent out in class next week.

Also just a reminder that we have a good stock of second hand uniform if you find yourself short of any branded or grey items. Please contact us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com with your requirements.

Attendance

The school's overall attendance currently stands at 97.6%.

A Message from the Governors

It has been a pleasure to welcome the various classes to St. Mary's Church for Year Group Acts of Worship this term. Year 6 visited recently, during a week when they were considering the value of compassion. I was impressed with the maturity with which they were able to answer the question 'Is compassion different in Year 6?' Through role play, they explored how they could use words to support others who were feeling low. Altogether, I found the Act of Worship engaged us all and made us think about why and how we can show compassion to others.

Paul Skinner
Foundation Governor

Year 3 applications for September 2023

The application window for applications into Year 3 in September 2023 is now open. The deadline for applications is 15 January 2023.

Please do see the school website for further information on applications and to see the virtual tour of our wonderful school.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/news/?pid=195&nid=2&storyid=551>

Inset Days 2022/23

3rd January 2023
26th May 2023

Dates for the Diary

30th November – Yr.3 trip to Winchester Science Museum
30th November - Yr.6 Christmas Carol Workshop
2nd December - F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market
3rd Dec - Winchester Christmas Market (Senior Choir 2pm)
8th Dec - Brunel Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
10th Dec- Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church (Junior Choir 2pm)
w/c 12th Dec - No after school clubs this week
13th Dec - Christmas Concert to parents 5pm (Orchestra, Band & Recorders)
14th Dec- School Carol Concert at Church 6pm
15th Dec - Class Christmas Parties pm (non-uniform/Christmas jumper day)
16th Dec - End of term Church visits:
• 9:15 - Davies, Mitchell, Nelson, CD
• 10:00 - Nightingale, Brunel, Paulet, Dickens
• 11:00 - Russell, White, Wellington, Austen
16th Dec - Christmas Dinner
16th Dec - Last day of term
19th December-2nd January – Christmas Holidays

3rd Jan - INSET Day

4th Jan - First Day of new term
5th Jan - Y6 Weighing & Measuring
w/c 9th Jan - After school clubs start this week
9th Jan - Y5 Swimming QMC, further details to follow
12th Jan - Russell Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

12th Jan - Y3 Disco 5:00-6:30pm
17th Jan - Y6 Church visit 1:45 pm
23rd Jan - Y5 Swimming QMC, further details to follow
26th Jan - Nightingale Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
27th Jan - Y6 Movie night, details to follow
30th Jan - Y5 Swimming QMC, further details to follow
31st Jan - Y4 Church visit 1:45pm
31st Jan - Y6 SAT's info evening 6:00pm

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