



No: 7 - December 2022

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

Dear Parents and Carers

For the first time in three years we have been able to do the full St Mary's Christmas experience. The two choirs performed at the Winchester Christmas market and the St Mary's Christmas tree festival. Both performed amazingly well and really got everyone into the Christmas spirit. Of particular note was the spontaneous round of applause, from an adult choir, that greeted the senior choir as they came off the stage in Winchester.

After three years of virtual carol concerts, it was lovely to see everyone back in the church. Well done to everyone who came along and virtually raised the roof! A special mention goes to senior choir and of course our soloist. Thank you for your kind donations – we have made a generous donation of £331.72 to Shelter.

This week the children have enjoyed their Christmas parties – there were some fantastic festive outfits on display.

There will be no other homework set over the Christmas holidays but don't forget your child can log onto Mathletics, Education City and Times Tables Rock Stars anytime at home.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you all for the kind sentiments and generous gifts we have received this week.

Thank you also to everyone who has donated to our various charities this year, culminating in the Spotlight toy appeal. In these difficult times these donations will make a huge difference to the lives of many people.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Wednesday 4th January**.

Governor Corner

My most recent visit to St. Mary's, as Link Governor for History, involved meeting with the subject lead to see examples of the children's' work and to catch up with progress against targets.

Ms Stephens showed me wonderful examples of the ways in which the children have been engaging with the curriculum and demonstrated how they continue to respond positively to the exciting way in which the subject is taught. St. Mary's is not resting on its laurels after being ranked outstanding during the recent Ofsted inspection!

It is always a pleasure to see the professionalism, dedication and talents that go into making the school such an outstanding place to learn.

Sefton Lucas (Vice Chair) Foundation Governor

Year 3 Applications for September 2023

The application window for applications into Year 3 in September 2023 is open. The deadline for applications is 15 January 2023. Please see our website for our virtual tour and frequently asked questions about admissions.

Safeguarding

At St Mary's we firmly believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. No single person can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action - this includes members of the public. You can contact Hampshire Children's Services by calling or emailing: **Phone 0300 555 1384**

Email childrens.services@hants.gov.uk

There are also a range of other agencies you can contact for advice and support:

- [Hampshire Police](#) - for non-emergencies phone 101
- [NSPCC](#) - phone 0808 800 5000
- [Crimestoppers](#) can be contacted anonymously with any information about crime - phone 0800 555 111
- [Childline](#) - phone 0800 1111

The police have also developed the Safe4me website to support both schools and parents in keeping children safe when they are out and about. There are some really good ideas for starting the conversations with your child. As we begin to go out and about a little more and our older children develop more independence, it is never too early to broach some of these issues. Follow the link below for the website:

<https://www.safe4me.co.uk/parents/>

Warm Welcome Space

Lychpit Hall will be opening its doors as a 'Warm Welcome Space' 12-3pm every Thursday until the end of March. There is no charge to come and use the warmth of the Hall, where refreshments will also

be available free of charge. Please pass this information onto anyone in our community who you may think would benefit from this.

Spotlight Toy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated a toy for the Spotlight appeal. We were pleased to hand over several donations that will make a difference to many children in our community this Christmas.

St Mary's News

The Autumn edition of St Marys News is hot off the press! Thank you to Mrs Gill for collating the content. Copies are available for pupils to read in each classroom and you can also find a copy on our website using the link below. Within it you will find some fabulous examples of writing from across the school, quizzes, a recipe and much more!

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/news/?pid=195&nid=2&storyid=735>

Trading Cards

Please can we ask that children do not bring trading cards of any sort into school, as I am sure you can imagine this can cause lots of problems amongst the children. We appreciate your support in this.

Year 3

We would like to congratulate your children on a fantastic first term at St Mary's. We have been very impressed with their enthusiasm and hard-working attitude. This term has been packed full of different topics! We started off with our history led topic 'Sling Spear or Sword', where we investigated the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. We also had an Iron Age Day where Iron Age Matt taught us more about the Iron Age and brought in artefacts from this time period. After the half term, we moved onto our Iron Man topic and were outraged by the destruction the Iron Man caused in our classrooms!. For this topic, we explored The Iron Man book and it was lovely to see them reading along and enjoying the story, whilst producing some fantastic written pieces of work! The children also enjoyed our trip to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium where they became programmers, astronauts and scientists for the day. We are so proud of our pupils; for the quality of their work and the progress they have made since being at St Mary's. Thank you also to the parents/carers for all of your hard work and support over the past term. Team 3 wish you all a Merry Christmas and we cannot wait to get started on the new term in January!

Year 4

What a start to the journey of Year 4! We've had a time travelling Anglo-Saxon come to visit us and share his bread making, jewellery crafting, fire creating and battle training. We've had a Viking day, wonderful costumes, thank you. We've printed Viking shields. We've created clay masks in the style of the finds at Sutton Hoo ("The Dig" on Netflix is about this – suitable for parents, not for children). We've learnt how to underline with a ruler

our titles in our exercise books but some are still not quite there. We've recreated the Viking attack upon Lindisfarne as well as starting to learn how to play football. We've smiled and realised how awesome friendship is during Friendship week as well as made new friends throughout the term in our new classes. We've dipped in the pond and found shrimps, newts, axolotls and host of other wonderful aquatic creepy crawlies. We've explored how we could record our own audio book and how we can edit and change images in our computing. We've explored identity and seen what this means for Jewish people (Bar & Bat Mitzpah) as well as explored light as a symbol. We've tried to work as a team and discovered how hard that is but what we need to do to help make the team work (while there is no "I" in team, there is a "me"!). We've been trying to achieve more together as One Family and we're very grateful for all of your support from home.

All in all, and there is much more we haven't put in there, it has been a rollercoaster of learning where we've done lots, learnt lots and had a good time (nearly all the time).

What will the Spring term bring? We are holding out for another full term of delights and joys and learning as we explore our country and Europe from the comfort of our classroom.

Best wishes this Christmas season to you and your families.

Year 5

As always, the Autumn term is a busy one. Starting in September, the children began learning about the topic of 'What was the significance of Basing House?', exploring the history of Old Basing. Early in the term, we visited Basing House itself on a school trip and we experienced a tour of the ruins and we had workshops organised by the English Civil War Society. The children were particularly excited to see how the soldiers used their Civil War weaponry. In Science, the children learned about the topic of forces and most recently space. Having the Science Dome visit our school really brought this learning to life and it was fantastic to see many 'wow' moments in the dome as children darted around our solar system, galaxy and universe!

There have been many opportunities for the children to develop their artistic abilities over the term too. The children printed their own personal Coats of Arms in the first half term. Moving into the second half of the term, the children explored perspective, sketching out landscapes that involved a vanishing point.

Ultimately, the children created a watercolour of a Martian landscape. Through DT, the three classes made Mars rovers. In Computing, the children programmed our school rovers to move in a sequence.

In PE, the children have learned how to play netball and lacrosse in outdoor PE whilst creating paired gymnastic routines and taking part in inclusive sports for indoor PE. Watching the children take on sports they haven't necessarily played before was fantastic. The overall attitude toward sport and competition in the year group is positive.

We are encouraging the children to make sure they have a new reading book to enjoy over the winter break. Attitudes towards reading across the year group have improved and we want to build on that further over the holidays! We don't give 'normal' homework over the break – we want people to spend time together as a family and sharing a book together is a wonderful way of doing this.

Autumn has been a fantastic term and the Year 5 team are looking forward to moving into Spring where we enter a brand new history-led topic: 'What is the legacy of the Ancient Greeks?'. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Please stay safe and enjoy whatever it is you are doing during the winter break.

Year 6

What a term it has been! As a team, we have been incredibly pleased with what the children have accomplished. Resilience has been a key theme this half term and the children have proven themselves as resilient learners and a group that wants to achieve lots together. The children have continued to mature as the term has gone on and have impressed us with their understanding of our topics and things that are happening around the world.

As always, Autumn is an incredibly busy term. Starting in September, the children began to explore our school values in more detail than before. They were able to apply our values to themselves and understand how Year 6 is an important year. Then, we began our learning about the Geography-led topic of 'Weird and Wondrous Earth', exploring weathers, natural disasters and Northern and Southern America. Our topic has led to some amazing writing based on natural disasters, alongside some great Geography learning. In Science, the children learned about the topic of light and conducted experiments in order to further their understanding. Over the course of the term, they have become far more meticulous, redesigning many of the experiments they have conducted in the past with more scientific rigour.

There have been many opportunities for the children to develop their artistic abilities over the term. The first half of Autumn was spent looking at examples of landscapes by Durer and Hockney. The children were able to explore different pencil lines and how to effectively draw natural disasters. Within PE, the children have been creating gymnastic performance using partner balances and mirror images. They have put together complex routines, including a range of different movements, to showcase all they have learnt over the last 4 years. Calshot and Bikeability have been a particular highlight this term and these experiences have really taught the children the art of teamwork and being resilient.

This half-term, the children have worked hard in their English learning and have enjoyed topics such as Wonder and, most recently, A Christmas Carol. They were treated to a wonderful theatre performance, which has been used as a focus for their writing, and they have produced some excellent descriptive writing. Most recently, the children have been exploring electricity and circuits. They have applied this knowledge to the fairground rides they have been creating in DT – we could now set up our own St. Mary's theme park with the huge number of high-quality carousels and Ferris wheels we have in the Year 6 classrooms!

Autumn has been a fantastic term and the staff at St. Mary's are looking forward to moving into Spring where we enter a brand-new topic: 'Let Me Entertain you!' The children will immediately start to explore entertainment in the 20th century across a range of different topics; most notably, they will enjoy rock and roll dancing, Shakespeare and performance poetry. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Please stay safe and enjoy your winter break.

Maths News

'Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers.' –Shakuntala Devi

The quote above shows how important maths is as a subject and that it is used in our everyday lives. As the children continue their journey through school, they will build upon their maths knowledge and realise how maths is interlinked in a lot of what we do. This half term, the children have worked incredibly hard in their maths journey and they should all be proud of their achievements. They have been working hard to solve difficult problems and build up their knowledge and skills on topics such as place value, multiplication and fractions. To help continue their learning, there are a few activities below that you could use during your Christmas break.

Hit the button - An online resource to help with times tables, doubling, halving, number bonds and more.

Education City and Mathletics - A variety of different activities and games that compliments what we teach in school.

Times Table Rock Stars - To practise times tables.

White Rose Maths - To explore tricky problems and push children in their learning, resources to help parents understand maths concepts and parent workbooks.

A huge well done to everyone this half term!

Have a lovely Christmas!

Mr Gibbs - Maths Leader

PE and Sport

During the autumn term PE lessons, we have been learning about gymnastics and dance, and have been excited to perform to other people. In our outdoor lessons we have been learning about Tennis, Football, Lacrosse and Netball. Year 6 have been learning how to ride their bikes safely and gaining

confidence to ride out on the road. Year 6 also took on the adventure of Calshot, taking part in many activities and developing their skills to work as part of a team.

Next year, we will be continuing exploring new sports and keeping the children active with dance lessons, orienteering, badminton and tennis. Year 5 will soon be taking the plunge into learning how to swim. What an amazing start to sports this year, especially after the strange situation we have found ourselves in for the last year and a half. This year we have been involved in a number of competitions. In table tennis, we achieved a silver and bronze medal in the Basingstoke competition. Our Basketball team achieved great success as winner of Basingstoke and Deane competition. The netball and rugby season has started with our teams taking part in a league with local schools.

Mr Whincup - Physical Education coordinator

Music Update

Please find attached Music Newsletter from Mrs Malone.

Online Safety

As Christmas quickly approaches, it is important to think about the prospect of children potentially receiving digital media as gifts - such as tablets, mobile phones or gaming consoles. It is important that you sit down and have a conversation with your child to remind them of the dangers and how to be responsible on the Internet. Topics like - what to do if an inappropriate message is received, cyberbullying and safe searching would build on what we talk about in school and is something that should be spoken about regularly anyway.

If you are unsure on how to broach this topic with your child, then look at the few websites below that can help start the conversation. There is also some helpful advice relating to this on Hampshire County Council's website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren/onlinesafety>. The Thinkuknow website is great to go through with your child and it also offers some great advice to staying safe online. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Google are also running a family internet safety challenge over the holidays, which is great way to start an open and honest discussion about internet usage with the whole family. <https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/legendaryparent>

In addition to this, TikTok (a popular social media app) has introduced new parental controls, which allow parents to monitor their children's usage from distance. Whilst our children are not old enough to

use the app, it is an app that has gained a lot of popularity and is regularly spoken about in the general public and in the media. This new feature is a great way to keep your children safe online. <https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parental-controls-with-family-pairing-feature/>

Stay safe and have a lovely Christmas.

Mrs Butler – Computing Lead

Reading - General tips to keep children reading over Christmas

Reading is a wonderful thing to do in those moments where you need a little bit of downtime around Christmas. It can also be lovely to share books together at this time of year. At St. Mary's, we try to engage children by selecting the right environment for reading. At home, you have the added opportunity of sitting together, getting nice and cosy, and getting some snacks ready! Make reading as fun as possible and try to encourage it to become a natural part of the daily routine rather than forcing it. Physical copies of books have been taken home and we know that many of our children get books as presents at Christmas. Don't forget, however, that Sora is available at all times. There are plenty of amazing ebooks, audiobooks, comics and other forms of reading media on there. There is certainly something for everyone.

Lastly, please do consider making reading as entertaining as possible – children that are told to read typically end up showing less enthusiasm for what should be a relaxed, enjoyable experience. At school, we try and ensure that reading is completed in a manner which is calming. Play music in the background, get cosy and discuss the reading that is completed. Typically, when an adult shows interest in the books a child is reading, the more engagement the child will show. Ask questions, read along and share your opinions about what's happening in the book. Read aloud with your child whatever their age! An 11-year-old should still be reading aloud with a parent and this can still be as magical an experience as it is when children are developing their early reading.

If your child is particularly reluctant to read, then ensure that it is short and sweet. Turn taking can be a great way of reducing the pressure of reading chapter books. Take a paragraph each or perhaps a page. Reading just a few pages and discussing the events of the book is much more effective than slogging through 20+ pages at a time if a child is not engaged with the story. Try and enjoy some reading time for yourself as well. Being a positive reading role model for your child can be a significant factor in encouraging them to read!

Mr King

Is your child too poorly for school or nursery?

New advice will help you decide

It is always a worry when a child becomes unwell, but it is not always obvious how to care for them and whether you should keep them at home. You can now find handy NHS guidance in one place online that will help you identify a possible condition, so you can decide whether to send your child to school or nursery.

On the website is a list of common childhood illnesses and conditions from conjunctivitis to head lice, as well as symptoms such as a high temperature and a sore throat and what these might mean. There is advice about what to do and when a child should return to education after being treated.

Visit the [Should your child go to school/nursery today?](https://what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool) website at [https://what0-](https://what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool)

[18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool](https://what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool) or go online and search for '0-18 should child go to school'. Please bookmark this website so it is easy to find if ever your child becomes unwell.

If you are unsure about a child's wellbeing, please talk to your local pharmacist, call the NHS helpline on 111, or contact your GP.

(The guidance has been created by the County Council, with the NHS and local authority partners through the [Healthier Together](#) initiative, which aims to improve the health of children and young people in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.)

Attendance

At the end of term the school's overall attendance stood at 96.7%

Congratulations to Paulet Class with the highest attendance of 98.3%.

F.O.O.B.S.

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! Thank you for all of your support for our Christmas events. The children really seemed to have a great time! Some dates for your diary for 2023, the Year 3 Disco is Thursday 12th January and the Year 6 movie night is on Friday 27th January. We will be holding a Quiz Night at Old Basing Village Hall on Saturday 4th Feb, more details will follow in January. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dates for the Diary

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

13th-17th Feb – Half term

3rd-14th April – Easter Holidays

26th May – INSET Day

29th May-2nd June – Half term

21st July – 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.

Caroline Welch
Headteacher