



No: 8 - January 2023

UNCRC Article 13: Children have the right and to share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Dear Parents & Carers,

May I first of all wish you a rather belated Happy New Year. The term has started on a really positive note, despite all the doom and gloom we read about or watch on the news.

Our recent acts of worship on "Hope" have also added to the positive outlook and this year all the children have thought about how their hopes for the future in terms of hopes for themselves, others and the world. Next week we will be continuing on with this theme of Hope. Over the next two weeks our theme will change to responsibility which will include us marking Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) as usual, which this year falls on the 27th January. We do not look at the events of this period but rather focus on the rights that were taken away from people and the lack of respect that was shown for people's rights. This is centred on the Bible quote from Genesis: 'God created human beings in his own image.' This year we will again be joining schools across the dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth in marking this important day.

This week Year 5 started their swimming lessons as part of their PE curriculum. It was lovely to hear that those who had never swam before, or were apprehensive, had a great first session with some not wanting to get out! We also enjoyed watching Russel class's sharing assembly this week. Finally, Year 3 enjoyed their first St Mary's Disco last night – there were many interesting dance moves! We are looking forward to another busy and fun filled term.

As I am sure that most of you will have read by now, I will be leaving St Mary's at the end of this academic year. It is with a heavy heart that I have made this decision, but feel that after 17 years as a headteacher, twelve at St Mary's, it is time for me to explore new avenues outside of education.

Heartsmart

This half term we are focusing on the second HeartSmart principle - 'Too Much Selfie Isn't Healthy'. Whereas last half term we looked at loving ourselves and letting love in, this principle is about loving others. It is about realising that although we're 1 in a million, there's another 7.3 billion people in the world and it's not all about me, it's about we. Selfies are fun, especially if it's not just us in the frame but sometimes we need to lift our eyes from our phones, flip the camera round and consider the world beyond us. It's about learning that it's better to give than to get.

Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a parent governor which we need to fill as soon as possible. St Mary's CE Junior school has always aimed for a partnership with parents which undoubtedly brings great benefits to the children. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a parent governor.

The governing body's main tasks are:

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- to hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the governing body is aware of the views of parents and the local community. We feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance. In looking to fill this vacancy the governors of the school have identified the following skills, experience and attributes that they feel would help strengthen the governing body:

- Experience of being a board member in another sector or a governor/trustee in another school;
- Links with the community or local business;
- Working or volunteering with young people;
- Ability to analyse data;
- Willingness to commit time and energy to make governance work to the benefit of the school.

Training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training.

If you feel you can help in this capacity please request an application form from the school office. This will need to be completed and returned to the school by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 18th January. The guidelines giving full details about how vacancies are filled can be found in the information for prospective governors on the Hampshire County Council website – see link below.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors/volunteer>

You will find video, e-learning and written information on the site and all of these will provide you with further details about the role.

Please note that for the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to an identity check.

If there are more applications than vacancies, we will hold an election. Further details of this will be sent out should an election be necessary.

Ms C Welch/Mr M Wright
Headteacher/Chair of Governors

Governor Corner

As part of my role as Health and Safety Governor, I have visited the school to ensure policies for Health and Safety (H&S) are in place and to check they are implemented in practice. This is an important role for the governing body to ensure your child is kept safe in a safe and healthy environment.

At the end of last half term, I accompanied Mrs Lillywhite on a monthly H&S walk around the premises and site. This ensures that the physical environment is safe for all pupils, staff and visitors and helps to identify any possible hazards or risks that need to be addressed. I also carried out an audit of staff training in relation to H&S and monitored the record keeping for this.

I have also met with the Mr Bushnell, the school site manager, to discuss his role in Health and Safety in the school.

The Resources Committee meet regularly and as part of this meeting Health and Safety is discussed to ensure that governors have an awareness of priorities, policies and any areas of concern. During these meetings we also monitor accident and incident reports and first aid records. This helps the school to spot any trends or areas that may need to be addressed.

The school works closely with the H&S team at Hampshire County Council to ensure all aspects of H&S are covered.

It is good to see that all members of staff view H&S as important, as it is the responsibility of everyone.

Tricia Williamson, Foundation Governor

Contact Details – keeping up to date

Since the implementation of GDPR we no longer send out copies of the current details that we hold for you as a means of checking. It is vital therefore that if any of your details do change that you inform us immediately – for example you may have had a new mobile phone over Christmas and changed your number. Please could we also ask that we have at least two contact numbers for your child in case of emergencies and that these numbers are readily available. For example, a work number could be a central reception contact for your place of work who can then get a message through to you.

Life Skills

Incorporated into our curriculum are many opportunities for children to develop skills that will

support them throughout their lives. An important one of these is being punctual and well prepared for appointments and of course for work. To help with this we do ask that children arrive at school by 8.45am, so that they are ready to start their work at 8.50am. We continue to have a significant number of children being dropped off after 8.45am making it difficult for them to settle in the classroom ready to work by 8.50am. We would ask that you work with your child to ensure that you arrive at school in good time so that they can have a successful start to the day.

Coats and shoes

Throughout the year we aim for all children to enjoy active breaks and lunchtimes. We continue to incorporate the daily mile into our day in addition to PE lessons, to increase still further the amount of regular exercise all pupils are involved in. It is therefore important that all children bring in a coat every day, as we still go outside when it is raining. It is also vital that their shoes are suitable to run around safely in. Some girls' shoes in particular are not suitable for this. There are a small number of children still wearing pumps with no straps and very little grip and also some in boots. If your child does wear boots to school, as some do in particularly cold or rainy weather, they will need a pair of shoes to change into.

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://what0-18.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.)

Contact Lenses

We are aware of a few older children wearing contact lenses to school. If your child is wearing contact lenses, please ensure the school office is aware.

Trading Cards

Whilst we understand that many children enjoy sharing their trading cards (Pokémon, Match Attacks etc.) it can lead to a lot of upset in school. We ask that you do not allow your child to bring these cards into school. If they are found in school they will be confiscated and kept at the office until the end of the school day.

Year 3 Applications for September 2023 deadline

Just a reminder that the national deadline for applications to Year 3 in September 2022 is almost upon us - **Sunday 15 January 2023**. Please see our website for our virtual tour and frequently asked questions about admissions.

Calshot Oct 2023 (Current Year 5 pupils)

Just a reminder that all deposits should now have been paid. If you have chosen to pay for the remainder by instalments, please note that the January payment is now due. You can pay any amount you wish at any time, but we do suggest a monthly payment of £60.

If you have any concerns regarding payments, please contact the office.

F.O.O.B.S

Happy New Year from F.O.O.B.S. We hope everyone had a good festive break.

We hope the Year 3s enjoyed their disco yesterday! Coming up this month, we will be holding a Movie Night for the Year 6s on Friday 27th January, more details to follow.

We will also be holding a Quiz Night at Old Basing Village Hall on Saturday 4th Feb, tickets will be on sale very soon. Please do save the date!

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

Diary Dates

16th Jan - Y5 Swimming QMC
17th Jan - Y6 Church visit 1:45 pm
23rd Jan - Y5 Swimming QMC
26th Jan - Nightingale Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
27th Jan - Holocaust Memorial Day
27th Jan - Y6 Movie night, details to follow
30th Jan - Y5 Swimming QMC
31st Jan - Y4 Church visit 1:45pm
31st Jan - Y6 SAT's info evening 6:00pm
1st Feb - Y6 Woking Mosque visit
w/c 6th Feb - No clubs this week
6th Feb - Y5 Swimming QMC
7th Feb - Y3 afternoon show
8th Feb - Y3 evening show

13th-17th Feb - Half term

20th Feb - Y5 Swimming QMC
21st Feb - Y4 French café in hall
21st Feb - Y3 Church visit 1:45pm
23rd Feb - Nelson Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
23rd Feb - Global Friends Cake Sale 3:25pm
24th Feb - Southampton Art Gallery visiting Y5
2nd Mar - Y6 SRE meeting to parents 3:30pm
7th Mar - Y5 Church visit 1:45pm
9th Mar - Y5 Disco 5:00-6:30pm
w/c 13th Mar - No clubs this week
15th Mar - Parents evening, details to follow
16th Mar - Parents evening, details to follow
17th Mar - Red Nose Day
21st Mar - Y6 Young Shakespeare company in hall
23rd Mar - Mitchell Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
25th Mar - F.O.O.B.S Easter Fair
31st Mar - End of term Church visits

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