



No: 10 - February 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,

As usual this half term has been packed with lots of exciting opportunities for our children and the half term was rounded off with the Year 3 production of Jack and the Beanstalk. The singing was amazing, well done to all the children and staff in year 3!

Last week year 4 enjoyed a day trip to Venice as part of their Geography topic, the smells from their food tasting were lovely!

Year 5 have almost finished their swimming lessons, with their last session straight after half term. It has been good to hear how many of those who were non-swimmers at the start of half term, can now swim and to hear about the improvement in stroke technique others have made.

We have ended this half term looking at the value of Respect in our Act of Worships. We have thought about showing respect for traditions both in our own country and others, as well as considering the importance of respecting all people whatever their circumstances and have looked at the example of Mother Teresa's work in India. When we return after half term, we will be thinking about the Christian season of Lent, which will begin on Wednesday 22nd February when we will be having our Ash Wednesday Service for pupils in Year 5 and 6. The service will be held in school at 10.00am on Wednesday 22nd February. Children will be invited to have the ashes placed on their forehead if they wish to do so. All parents and other family members are welcome to join us for this service along with members of the St Mary's congregation.

When we return after the half term break we will be having 'Book Week' in school, which will coincide with World Book Day on the 2nd March. During this week each class will complete work related to a specific picture book. This year we will also be having a sponsored read to raise money for much needed replacement books in our library. Look out for further details about this event from Mr King.

Do look regularly at the news pages and photo galleries on the website for things that have been going on in school.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=7&gcatid=55>

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

Finally, we wish you an enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 20th February.

Year 3 Production – Jack and the Beanstalk

This week, Year 3 performed their production of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes: Jack and the Beanstalk. The children were so excited for the performance and have worked so hard this half term to bring the production together. We were blown away with how mature the Year 3's were; the whole production was run by them, right down to the props and lighting.

It was great to see so many parents and family members in the audience with big smiles on their faces as the children performed. A big thank you to everyone who supported the children in learning their lines and sourcing their costumes. The Year 6 production will certainly have a lot to live up to now!

Online Safety Day

On Tuesday 7th February, we joined schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2023. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on children and young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to help to create a better internet. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school, and celebrating Safer Internet Day was a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. The children took part in a national assembly delivered by Google and continued the discussion in their classes completing a variety of activities to celebrate the occasion. We would be delighted if you could extend the celebrations by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre have created some free activities and information for parents and carers which are available at: saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers. Whether you have 5 minutes to start a conversation or hours to spare, there are top tips, quizzes and films which you can use at home with your child. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher. Mrs Butler
Computing Lead

Attendance

As at today the school's overall attendance stands at 96.6%. Congratulations to Paulet Class with the highest attendance of 98.2 %.

Good attendance is defined by the DfE as over 95%. Research shows that when attendance slips below this it has a significant effect on children's learning.

Just Giving – Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

Through discussions with our School Council, the children have indicated that they would like to support the charities involved in providing support for the many, many people affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. In response to this we have set up a 'JustGiving' site that you may wish to use to make a donation. We fully understand that many of you may have already made a donation or have a preferred charity that you wish to directly donate to.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1675953331331?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=one_page&utm_content=page/st-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1675953331331&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=fa19d617c6bf4b4aac0fef747ec06e4d

Comic Relief – Friday 17th March

Comic relief is coming on Friday 17th March and people across the UK will be raising money to support this great charity. All year-round, the money donated to Comic Relief works hard to support some incredible projects making a change to people's lives across the UK and around the world. In fact, over the past two years, Comic Relief funding has helped to support 11.7 million people!

St Mary's will be joining the cause. Once again we will be raising money for Comic Relief by taking part in a 'dress-down day' wearing non-school uniform clothes. Furthermore, **it will include a chance for pupils to wear red apparel to school. Please no face paint, dyed hair or football shirts.** Year 4 and Year 6 children will need to wear clothes that are still suitable for their PE lessons, including trainers. A just giving site has been set up to enable you to make your donation – see the link below.

In advance you might like to know that for 2023, Comic Relief proudly presents the new Red Nose, exclusively designed by Sir Jony Ive (the designer for the iPhone and all things Apple).

The magically transforming Red Nose starts as a tiny, flat crescent and springs into a beautiful honeycomb-paper sphere. It proves that the littlest of things can make a huge difference. Because when you buy one, you're helping people going through the toughest times of their lives. Buy @ amazon or comicroelief.com

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Isabelle (Chair of School Council) and Alfie (Vice-Chair of School Councillor).

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-mary-s-ce-junior-school-old-basing6?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=st-mary-s-ce-junior-school-old-basing6&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=1ae36ef8373947ccb1f8a053575ddafa

Governor Corner

After a few years where Educational Visits and Offsite activities were not possible or very restricted, it is good to see again a full programme of activities. The pupils I'm sure appreciate and enjoy the opportunities that they have to learn in lots of different settings. These range from local activities in and around Old Basing, to visits further away including Winchester, Woking and the year 6 Residential at Calshot in October.

St Mary's Junior School written policy on such visits and activities sets out responsibilities for the Headteacher and staff, as well as the pupils. The Governors also have a duty to have an overview of all visits taking place within the school, and the visit's place in the curriculum.

I recently looked at various aspects relating to these visits or activities including general safety and safeguarding. Mrs Lillywhite is the Education Visits Coordinator for the school. I was pleased to see good care taken in planning and undertaking these visits. It is also good to see how provision is made so that all pupils can be included, and how specific medical needs of those on a visit are met.

Philip Hiorns (Foundation Governor)

Half Term Activities

Stuck for something to do next week? The following website has some ideas of attractions and events in the local area. Maybe there is somewhere you hadn't thought of.

<https://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/whats-on/february-half-term-events>

Calshot Residential Trip (Current Y5 pupils)

If you opted to pay for the balance of this trip monthly, please note that the next instalment of £60 is due this month.

F.O.O.B.S

Thanks for your support at the F.O.O.B.S. Quiz night at the beginning of the month, it was a great success! Although we don't have the final fundraising total for the event yet, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we've received good feedback.

We hope the children have enjoyed the Dare to be Different Day being held today in school, the children all seem quite excited about it!

Please note a save the date for the F.O.O.B.S. Easter Fair – Saturday 25th March. It was an incredibly popular event last year and we sold out in record time. Therefore, this year there will be an increase of tickets available across 2 sessions on the Saturday. Please see attached a poster with more information.

After School Clubs

After school clubs will resume after half term during the w/c 20th February and will then run until week beginning 31st March. Please note there will be no clubs w/c 13th March due to Parents Evening. Please keep a look out after half term for information and application forms for the summer term clubs, we are currently working on putting the summer term clubs list together.

Sporting News

The U11 individual table tennis county final took place on 1st February in Southampton with one of our team representing St Mary's, having been placed runner up in the Basingstoke girls' competition last week. We are delighted to report that she played amazingly well and finished runner up, winning another silver medal. Huge well done, this is a fantastic achievement considering this was for the whole of Hampshire!

On Monday 6th February, we took two Year 5 & 6 Badminton teams to Costello. Our team A came in first place, putting them through to the county finals. However, with great resilience and determination our Team B went and beat both of Park View's team A & B claiming a silver medal after a close thought final set of games.

Last week, our girls' football team enjoyed competing against three other schools. I can report that our team managed two wins and a loss, a good result against some tough opposition. We will be competing against St Bede's after half term.

Finally, this half term saw 37 of our pupils entering the Basingstoke Schools Cross Country competition at Down Grange Sports Complex. All of the children persevered well, showing true grit and determination, in some quite challenging conditions. We had three children in Year 4 coming in the top ten of their competition, and a 13th and 19th in a highly competitive Year 5/6 race.

Mr Whincup & Mr Sargeant

Final Inset Day 2022/23

26th May 2023

Inset Days 2023/24

The following INSET days have already been agreed with the infant school. There are still two more to book.

1st September 2023

30th October 2023

24th May 2024

Diary Dates *

13th-17th Feb - Half term

20th Feb - Y5 Swimming QMC (last one)

21st Feb - Y4 French café in hall

21st Feb - Y3 Church visit 1:45pm

22nd Feb - Ash Wednesday Service (Yr 5/6) all welcome

23rd Feb - Nelson Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

24th Feb - Southampton Art Gallery visiting Y5

27th Feb-3rd Mar - Book Week

2nd Mar - Y6 SRE meeting to parents 3:30pm

4th Mar - Music Festival (am) timings to follow

4th Mar – Anvil Concert (senior choir) 7:30pm

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 - Comic Relief Day

21st Mar - Y6 Young Shakespeare company in hall

22nd Mar - Parents Coffee morning 9:00am (see attached)

23rd Mar - Mitchell Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

25th Mar - F.O.O.B.S Easter Fair (poster attached)

31st Mar - End of term Church visits am

3rd-14th April - Easter Holidays

19th April - Y4 Inventions Day in hall

19th April - HMS Inset Day (no music lessons)

27th April - Wellington Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

3rd May – Y5 trip to Gordon Brown Centre (White)

4th May – Y5 trip to Gordon Brown Centre (Brunel)

5th May – Y5 trip to Gordon Brown Centre (Mitchell)

5th May – Red, White & Blue Day for Coronation

8th May - Bank Holiday (for King's Coronation)

9th-12th May - SAT's week

9th May - Y4 Church visit 1:45pm

15th-19th May - Walk to School week

17th May - Parents Coffee morning 9:00am

17th May - Eucharist

18th May - Y6 Weighing & Measuring (here)

18th May - Conan Doyle Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

18th May - Y4 Disco 5:00-6:30pm

23rd May - Y6 Church visit 1:45pm

26th May - INSET Day

29th May-2nd June - Half term

6th-13th June - Book Fair
6th June - Y3 Church visit 1:45pm
8th June - Austen Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
13th June - Sports Day
14th June - Class/Whole Year 6 photos
16th June - Y6 Leavers Service, Winchester Cathedral
16th June - BPSM Rehearsal all day @ Christ Church, Chineham
19th June - Y4 Treehouse Theatre Egyptian Day (hall)
20th June - BPSM Rehearsal all day @ Anvil
20th June - BPSM Performance @ Anvil 7pm
21st June - BPSM Performance @ Anvil 7pm
22nd June - Reserve Sports Day
27th June - Y5 Church visit 2:45pm
28th June - Parents Coffee morning 9:00am
2nd July - F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair
10th-14th July - Y6 Show week
17th July - HMS Inset Day (no music lessons)
18th July - Y6 Pilgrimage Day @ Church
19th July - Y6 Leavers Service 2:30pm @ Church
20th July - Y6 Picnic & Party pm
21st July – End of term Church visits am

21st July - Last Day of term

*** Please note dates may be subject to change**

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