



No: 12 - March 2023

Article 2: The Convention applies to everyone, whatever their race, religion, abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

Dear Parents & Carers,

Despite it technically now being spring, we have experienced some very mixed weather recently. Please do ensure that you to send your children in with coat and suitable shoes so that we can still get outside as much as possible.

We continue to be incredibly busy both in and out of school. It was great to see so many of our pupils taking part in the Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival and the Mayor's concert at the Anvil. They were wonderful celebrations of music across Basingstoke. Please see Mrs Malone's report for details of our musical success. In addition, many of our pupils entered as individuals in various different classes with great success. Congratulations to the pupils who entered and came away with certificates and trophies!

Last week we had our talent shows across all year groups. Well done to the Year 6 pupils who organised all of this as well as providing feedback to the competitors. I am delighted to report that they have raised £134 which will be going to their chosen charities: Cancer Research and MIND. Also last week, the School Council had a visit from the mayor, who was very impressed with the variety of their questions and their interest in the role of the mayor.

This week Year 4 have continued their trip around Europe studying the work of the Parisian artist Seurat and his technique of pointillism. Year 5 have produced some lovely poetry based on a beautiful book called 'The Lost Words', it has been a pleasure to share some of their outcomes with them. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their Roman workshop on Wednesday, we always enjoy a visit from 'The Openbox Theatre Company', and the children really enjoyed the drama workshop, which brought the history to life. Thank you for all your support with costumes – they all looked great! Finally, yesterday we were entertained by Year 6 during their Poetry Slam. I think we have many pupils destined for the stage! It has been fantastic to see so many enrichment opportunities for our pupils around school over the last few weeks.

This week in AoW we have continued to look at the Christian Festival of Lent and our school value of perseverance. Year 5 had their year group AoW in Church last week, thank you to those parents who helped walk to church and those who joined us for the Act of Worship.

Next week our focus moves onto compassion where we will look at God's Compassion for his people.

Basingstoke Music & Arts Festival – March 2023

One hundred children from St Mary's performed at the annual Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival on Saturday 4th March at Queen Mary's College. Although this is a competition, we enter the festival because this is such a great opportunity for the children to perform on stage to an audience and for them to share with their families what they have been doing in music clubs. Saying that, we came home with 2 cups and a trophy!

Well done to the orchestra, strings orchestra, ukulele band and the junior choir. Please see our news section on the website for full details:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/news/?pid=195&nid=2&storyid=752>

Anvil Concert

On Saturday the 4th March, members of the Senior Choir joined adult choirs from around Basingstoke to perform a charity concert in aid of the Pink Place (incorporating the Blue Space) and Tough Enough to Care.

It was an honour to be invited to perform and the Senior Choir certainly made the most of the opportunity with a great performance. Starting in darkness and using glow sticks, the choir performed "Fireflies" by Owl City with beautiful choreography. They then sang the song "Ubuntu" which links with the Winchester Diocese year of Ubuntu project. Their singing was powerful and the dynamics (volume) they used was incredibly effective. The choir finished their set with a favourite song with 2 parts and lots of choreography as well as humour, "Whisper". This they performed confidently and the choreography was crisp and went down very well with the audience. Also in the concert, the children joined the Heritage Light Orchestra with a creative rendition of "Those Magnificent Men on their Flying Machines" and enjoyed the finale songs of "Sweet Caroline" and an Abba medley.

Sponsored Read

Well done to all of the children who took part in our reading challenge during book week and to those of you at home who played along with our masked reader challenge! How many did you guess correctly? We are so pleased to share that these fundraising events have raised £1948.50 so far which will be used to purchase new books for the school and class libraries. We thank you all for your support.

F.O.O.B.S. news

We are really looking forward to the F.O.O.B.S. Easter Extravaganza that will be held next Saturday (25th March) at the Infant School. It's another sell out event, which is fantastic! Many thanks for all the donations for the Chocolate Tombola this week and a reminder that if you are able to bake/purchase any cakes for us to sell at the refreshment stall, please drop them into the Infant School office on Friday 24th March.

At the Easter Fair we will have second hand uniforms available to purchase. If you have any spare cardigans or jumpers that your children have grown out of which you would like to donate ahead of the sale, please email us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com to obtain the address for drop off.

And just to let you all know that thanks to everyone who attended the F.O.O.B.S. Quiz night back in February, we raised a great £736. And we will be planning another Quiz in the future!

Governors' Corner

The children excelled themselves at the 'Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival' last weekend on a very busy day of musical performances. It was great to see so many St. Mary's children taking part and so many parents there to support them. While the emphasis was very much on the event being a festival and opportunity for the children to perform in front of an audience, points were awarded and cups were handed out! The brilliant orchestra won their group as did the ukulele band. The brass band not only won their group but won a shield and were placed higher than the Hampshire training band! There did appear to be a small administrative mix up in the choir section when the fantastic junior choir were only placed joint second...I am sure appeals will be lodged and those responsible held to account. A huge thank you must go to Mrs. Malone for her efforts and commitment to music at the school. It was a particularly long day for her and Ms. Welch who did it all again in the evening at the Anvil where, by all accounts, St Mary's were equally as brilliant.

Andy Grayson (Parent Governor)

Kindness Online

During our RSHE this term the children, especially in the upper school, have been considering how we talk to each other online, what we might say about other people online and how this may affect people in different ways. They have thought about how we can gauge a person's reaction to something face-face from not only their verbal response but also from their body language, whereas you cannot do this while communicating online.

We were so proud of the children's mature response to this work:

"If someone is struggling, it helps to compliment them online."

"If it turns nasty, I would leave the group and tell an adult."

"People don't realise how much it hurts to hear horrible things online."

"We should still be kind online, especially as we didn't realise it stays around forever."

As adults we all need to model this to the next generation in our own behaviours online.

Red Nose Day

The school was awash with red today! Well done to everyone for embracing the day, as well as creating such a wonderful atmosphere in school. Thank you for all your generous donations to this charity, we are thrilled to say that our current fundraising total stands at £510 - well done St Mary's!

Photographs from this day can be viewed on our website flowing this link:

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

After School Clubs

A reminder that this term clubs continue on to the last week of term - week beginning 27th March.

Please note payment for summer term clubs is due by 22nd March. Please let the school office know if your child no longer requires a club they have been allocated.

Attendance

The school's overall attendance currently stands at 96.5%. Thank you so much for working with us to ensure that every day of your child's education counts.

Parental Support

The next parental support coffee morning will be on Wednesday 22nd March from 9:00am – 10.30am. Please email the school office if you would like to attend.

adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk

Calshot Residential Trip

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

Dinner Money

Please ensure your child's dinner money account is in credit at all times.

Supporting your child with exams

As we start to move towards the year 6 SATs in May, Young Minds have some good advice for parents about supporting their children. The website is mainly for older children taking GCSEs and A Levels, however below are some useful general tips you may find helpful.

Tips include:

- Encourage your child to take revision breaks and find a balance between studying and doing things they find enjoyable and relaxing.
- Make sure they are eating and drinking at regular intervals.
- Reassure them – reinforce that you are and will be proud of them no matter what happens.
- Remain positive and hopeful!
- Let them know their feelings are valid and normal, but also offer support and solutions where possible.
- Anxiety is often worst at night and this means it is useful to encourage good bedtime routine

You can find out more here:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/exam-time/>

End of term church visits

We will be going to church for an Act of Worship to mark the end of the spring term **on Friday 31st**

March. You are welcome to join us for these services.

9:15am – Davies, Mitchell, Nelson, Conan Doyle

10:00am – Nightingale, Brunel, Paulet, Dickens

11:00am – Russel, White, Wellington, Austen

Final Inset Day 2022/23

26th May 2023

Inset Days 2023/24

1st September 2023

30th October 2023

2nd January 2024

19th February 2024

24th May 2024

Diary Dates

21st Mar - Y6 Young Shakespeare company in hall

22nd Mar - Parents Coffee morning 9:00am

23rd Mar - Mitchell Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

25th Mar - F.O.O.B.S Easter Fair

30th Mar - Austen Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

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 10am (Yr 5/6) all welcome

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 - Dickens 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

2nd July - F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair

5th July - Parents Coffee morning 9:00am

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

Caroline Welch

Headteacher

For further detail and updates please see;

School website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk>

and also our Facebook page

@stmarysjuniorsoldbasing