



## No: 13 – March 2023

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

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy term it is lovely to reflect on the successes of this spring. Please read the year group, sports and music (see attachment) summaries to find out all about what has been going on.

We have lots to look forward to next term, including: Inventions Day, the Gordon Brown Centre and Egyptian Workshops to name but a few. As well as all of these, we will also have our own Sports Day and many children will be performing at the Anvil as part of the BPSM. The summer term looks set to be an exciting, but busy one!

For those of you who may have missed the earlier communication from our Chair of Governors, I am pleased to announce that my deputy Mrs Gemma Lillywhite will be taking over from me in September.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at St Mary's, I would like to wish you and all your family a very happy and safe Easter. We look forward to seeing you all back in school on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April**.

### King Charles' Coronation

We will be holding a red, white and blue day on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the King's coronation on the following day. We would love to see the children in some really imaginative and royal costumes incorporating our national colours.

### St Mary's News

In this edition of St Mary's News, you will find a delicious Easter recipe to try, a Royal Quiz you can do together and examples of all the great writing that has been going on around the school this term. Mrs Candy has written an article about a recent event around the world and we have some super book recommendations to keep you busy during the holidays. In 'Teacher Talk', you can read all about one of the teacher's hobbies and interests outside of school. Enjoy reading this edition with your families and have a lovely Easter break.

Mrs Gill

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2872&type=pdf>

### Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's concern. As a professional body we work with many agencies to safeguard our pupils. As a member of the public if

you have any concerns about members of the community, a friend or relative, you can report concerns or seek advice from Hampshire Children's Services. Contact details can be found on the Hampshire County Council Website.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren>

### Easter Home Learning and Project

There will be some Home Learning for children to complete over the Easter holidays. We want everyone to enjoy the break, but it is also important for all of the children to continue to practice their basic skills in order to build on their current learning in order to make a really positive start to the summer term. The work will be posted on Google classrooms, or distributed in paper form, and little and often is the key.

We have also set the children a project linked to our work on Ubuntu – see the attached information and your child should also have come home with all of the information. **This project is due back in school by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April.**

### Curriculum Summaries

#### Year 3

We cannot believe that it is the Easter Holidays already! What a term we have all had!

During the first half term, we really enjoyed delving deeper into classic texts in our topic 'Enter the Classics!' In this topic, we spent time exploring The Wizard of Oz and the infamous Roald Dahl. With this, we then created our own stories in the style of The Wizard of Oz. Dorothy ended up meeting some interesting characters along The Yellow Brick Road! Of course, we cannot forget the children's magnificent performances in our production of Roald Dahl's Jack and the Beanstalk.

More recently, we have gone back in time to when the Romans invaded Britannia and were able to enjoy an amazing workshop put on by The Open Box Theatre Company. The children were taken back in time on a historical journey and used their teamwork and drama skills to conquer the mysterious, misty island – Britannia. We are so proud of all you have achieved so far, Year 3! Keep going!

#### **Year 4**

To think that 12 weeks ago we were about to embark upon a journey around Europe! What an adventure we have had in year 4. Fieldwork around Old Basing was super fun as we learnt about what our human and physical features are. We flew to Venice and had a great day exploring the city with the help of the live web-cams. Our sleeper train to Paris was a journey of luxury with plenty of freebies in the carriage to ensure we arrived in Paris fresh and alert for our next city break. Comparing the three locations showed how much we have that is similar and the unique features that each place has to offer. Who said Geography was just colouring in maps! Now, we have not just studied Geography, our two European artists of Salvador Dali and George Seurat helped us learn to use our imagination in both art and writing. In DT, our sewing had us persevering whilst we constructed our bookmarks of the three national flags that we visited. Finally, we have grown in our abilities to get on when we make mistakes through our HeartSmart. It was here that we thought about forgiveness through, "Don't rub it in, rub it out". What next? Roll on the Summer term where we will be exploring some ancient civilizations! Thank you for all your support from home with ensuring your child is doing their regular practice at TTRS and capturing ideas in their reading records.

#### **Year 5**

Year 5's Spring term has absolutely flown by! Though it's been a whirlwind, it's important to look back and reflect on what has been an outstanding term. We look now at a year group that have matured immensely since starting Year 5. Representing St. Mary's as an upper-school role model can be challenging though this year group do this well.

This term started all the way back in January when the children started their 'What is the legacy of the Ancient Greeks?' topic. Moving on from local history, we jumped back over 2,000 years to explore what life was like as a Greek in those times and over the course of the term we learnt about the many facets of the Ancient Greek civilisation. More recently, we have summarised all of that learning in our efforts to answer that overall question about the legacy of the Greeks. Throughout the term, we have had a visit from the Southampton Art Gallery who taught us about Greek myths and supported our creation of wire sandals inspired by a Greek tale. We have started and finished our swimming at QMC which was a roaring success with all of the children who swam making excellent progress. During this term the children have explored properties of materials in science, developing their understanding of dissolving and evaporation through experimentation. As we closed off the term, the Year 5s have finished their paper and paste beasts and they are looking forward to bringing these home to explore their new habitats!

We look forward to an exciting Summer term where we can keep moving forward with this year group in preparation for Year 6!

#### **Year 6**

As Year 6 prepare for SATs, I think it is important to recap all the wonderful work and learning they have produced this term. Their topic of 'Let me Entertain You' has been at the centre of our learning and learning about entertainment throughout history has made them appreciate technology today! From learning about Shakespeare, to watching a wonderful performance from The Young Shakespeare Company, to creating their own hybrid pets, they have enjoyed many aspects of their learning. They have worked incredibly hard on other areas of the curriculum like creating their own website in Computing, making sculptures out of clay and enjoying lots of French and Music opportunities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and hard work this term and wish you all a Happy Easter.

Year 6 Team

#### **Sports Update**

What an amazing start to the New Year, we have been very busy with sporting events.

We started the term with athletics where we came second in the district final. Next, in the district table tennis, we achieved a Silver medal and 2 bronze medals. One of our children went on to represent the school at the county championships, and gained a silver medal at Solent University.

The badminton team, competed at the district finals, coming 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and continued on to the county finals where they achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Our girls' football team reached the quarter final of the district championship at St Mary's. We have also competed in cross-country, hockey, netball and girls' tag rugby.

It really has been a busy term for sports. Next term we will be finishing the district tag rugby league and will be taking part in cricket competitions at May's Bounty, the Basingstoke tennis festival, and Quad Kids athletics competition.

Adam Whincup  
Physical Education Coordinator

#### **School Dinners**

After the Easter holidays, we will start the new summer menu which will include a picnic bag option. Further details will be sent out over the Easter break.

Please ensure your dinner money account is in credit at all times as the office are spending a considerable amount of time chasing payments.

#### **E-safety**

As we go into the Easter break, children have the opportunity to spend more time online. We would ask that you spend a little time with your child reinforcing the messages that we teach in school to ensure that they keep themselves safe. It might be useful to go back over any rules and boundaries in place around online activity and reinforce the parameters around Internet usage. It is really easy to lose track of time

when we are online, Internet Matters have some great tips on managing our own time and our children's time online. <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/5-top-tips-to-manage-children-screen-time/>

As children start to communicate more online, they will start to become familiar with 'Group Chats'. a great guide for children and parents to navigate group chats can be found on our website along with further information in the parents section, which includes links to some useful websites and activities that can be completed together with the whole family. <https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+safety&pid=68>

### **HeartSmart**

Next half term we will start to look at our fourth HeartSmart principle – Fake is a Mistake. Work around this will include unpacking how to bravely communicate truth and be proud of who we are. We want the children to know and understand that we do not need to pretend to be something we're not. We're all amazing and unique in different ways.  
Miss Eckett – RSHE Leader

### **Attendance**

Attendance at the end of March is 96.4%. Well done to Paulet class with the highest attendance of 98.3%.

As the summer term approaches I would remind parents that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods and that I will not authorise any holidays in term time. Only absences for very exceptional circumstances will be authorised.

### **Summer uniform**

Summer uniform can be worn after the Easter holidays. This consists of green checked dresses, grey shorts and white polo shirts or short sleeved shirts, without ties. Sensible footwear, please – no flip-flops or open-toed sandals.

Uniform remains the same for days when your child has PE lessons.

### **PE Kit**

Please can we remind you that pupils must wear shorts under their tracksuit bottoms on PE days, or bring a pair in their bag to change into, as they cannot take part in indoor PE session in long trousers for health and safety reasons. We appreciate your support with this.

### **F.O.O.B.S**

Thanks for all your support at the F.O.O.B.S Easter Extravaganza held last weekend. All the children certainly looked like they were having fun and we were bowled over by the generosity of the schools' families with the chocolate tombola and the cake

donations. All winners of the games held at the Fair have been contacted and now have their prizes. All in all you helped us raise an amazing £1800! As per the recent Parentmail, F.O.O.B.S. has organised another unwanted clothing collection for the end of April - so here's your opportunity to have a big clear out over the Easter Holidays! We will have drop off points available on Sunday 23rd April and Tuesday 25th April. We are also excited after the successful return of the F.O.O.B.S. Summer Fair last year, that plans are well under way for this year's Summer Fair on Sunday 2nd July. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we need your help! Please see attached some further information regarding the various key dates to be aware of - collection details for Toys, Books and Uniform donations, Pick a Jar and both the general & bottle tombolas.

### **Be 'Tick Aware'**

Hampshire County Council is stepping up its advice to residents to be 'tick aware' while enjoying time outside or working outdoors. Please see the link below for some useful information <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-publishes-new-tick-leaflets-to-remind-people-to-be-tick-aware>

### **Medical Appointments and Medicines**

In line with our Attendance Policy, could we ask that you avoid taking your child out of school for non-urgent medical or dental appointments. If your child is prescribed medicines that require three doses, these can be administered at home, if they require four doses then we are happy to administer.

### **Governors' Corner**

One of the many privileges of being part of the church and school community are the many interactions with all folk connected to our schools. I particularly enjoyed World Book Day a couple of weeks ago as this involved a great many conversations stretching well into the following week – and the excitement of both children and adults was very real. In the last few weeks I have been able to discuss snakes as potential pets, unicorns (I'm assuming not as potential pets...), the best snow for snowmen, cake (a regular topic in my world!) and much more. Human beings are all about encounter – something which God made us for in our uniqueness and which we too often scurry through life avoiding. In taking time to chat and listen, to engage and wonder together, we are discovering something of God and the world around us and we are learning to grow more into the individuals we are created to be – one humanity made up of many wonderful parts. So, as we journey closer towards Easter let us take our Lenten learning of working to be the best 'you' and the best 'me' forwards into the time to come and use this to make the world a happier, more positive place, one human being at a time.  
Reverend Jo  
Ex-Officio Governor

**Inset Days 2022/23**  
**26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Inset Days 2022/23**  
**1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**  
**30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**  
**19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**24<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Diary Dates**

3<sup>rd</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays  
17<sup>th</sup> April – First day of new term  
19<sup>th</sup> April - Y4 Inventions Day in hall  
19<sup>th</sup> April - HMS Inset Day (no music lessons)  
w/c 24<sup>th</sup> April - Summer after school clubs start this week  
27<sup>th</sup> April - Wellington Sharing Assembly 2:45pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> May - Y5 trip to Gordon Brown Centre (White)  
4<sup>th</sup> May - Y5 trip to Gordon Brown Centre (Brunel)  
5<sup>th</sup> May – Y5 trip to Gordon Brown Centre (Mitchell)  
5<sup>th</sup> May - Red, White & Blue Day for Coronation  
8<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday (for King's Coronation)  
9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May - SAT's week  
9<sup>th</sup> May - Y4 Church visit 1:45pm  
15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May - Walk to School week  
17<sup>th</sup> May - Parents Coffee morning 9:00am  
17<sup>th</sup> May - Eucharist 10am (Yr 5/6) all welcome  
18<sup>th</sup> May - Y6 Weighing & Measuring (here)  
18<sup>th</sup> May - Conan Doyle Sharing Assembly 2:45pm  
18<sup>th</sup> May - Y4 Disco 5:00-6:30pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> May - Y6 Church visit 1:45pm  
  
26<sup>th</sup> May - INSET Day  
  
29<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June - Half term  
  
6<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June - Book Fair  
6<sup>th</sup> June - Y3 Church visit 1:45pm  
8<sup>th</sup> June - Dickens Sharing Assembly 2:45pm  
13<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day  
14<sup>th</sup> June - Class/Whole Year 6 photos  
16<sup>th</sup> June - Y6 Leavers Service, Winchester Cathedral  
16<sup>th</sup> June - BPSM Rehearsal all day @ Christ Church, Chineham  
19<sup>th</sup> June - Y4 Treehouse Theatre Egyptian Day (hall)  
20<sup>th</sup> June - BPSM Rehearsal all day @ Anvil  
20<sup>th</sup> June - BPSM Performance @ Anvil 7pm  
21<sup>st</sup> June - BPSM Performance @ Anvil 7pm  
22<sup>nd</sup> June - Reserve Sports Day  
27<sup>th</sup> June - Y5 Church visit 2:45pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> July - F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair  
5<sup>th</sup> July - Parents Coffee morning 9:00am  
10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Show week  
17<sup>th</sup> July - HMS Inset Day (no music lessons)  
18<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Pilgrimage Day @ Church  
19<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Leavers Service 2:30pm @ Church  
20<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Picnic & Party pm  
21<sup>st</sup> July - End of term Church visits am  
21<sup>st</sup> 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/news>  
and the St Mary's Facebook page if you need to check events on the go.

Caroline Welch  
Headteacher