



No. 15 May 2023

UNCRC Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Dear Parents and Carers

Well done to all of the year 6 children who demonstrated our school values in bucket loads during their SATs tests.

It was lovely to see all the children in their red, white and blue outfits last Friday as we joined in the national build up to the king's coronation.

Year 5 visited the Gordon Brown Centre last week as part of their topic based on the Rainforest and the different biomes of the world - great fun was had by all. Images of their trip can be found in the photo gallery on our website.

Over the last two weeks, year 4 have been in full score production mode, with the resulting cream teas looking delicious. I hope that some of the children felt inspired to make a few more for your coronation weekend celebrations.

Over the last two weeks, we have been looking at our values of Compassion and Curiosity (which will continue into next week). As part of our look at Compassion children have also been reminded about this term's Heartsmart focus of 'Fake is a Mistake' and thinking about how to show compassion to themselves as well as others.

Eucharist

On Wednesday 17th May we will be having our termly Eucharist Service led by Rev Jo. Although the service is for Year 5 and 6 children only, all parents and parishioners are welcome to join us for the service which starts at 10.00am.

Governors' Corner

I recently attended an afternoon assembly, known as Act of Worship. As a Foundation Governor I attend the services from time to time on behalf of the Diocese of Winchester to ensure that the Christian ethos is maintained in the school.

The whole school attended, and I was very impressed how the pupils all filed in and out of the hall in a quiet and orderly fashion. Some pupils acknowledged me with a smile and this made me feel very welcome.

Mrs Malone was leading the Act of Worship and the theme was 'hope'. There was much involvement with the pupils such as questions and discussion about hope. She also talked about Doubting Thomas and

Jesus. Again, there was discussion involving the pupils about doubt and when is it good to doubt things especially those things we cannot see. There were prayers and the Act of Worship led into hymn practice with all singing the songs enthusiastically.

I enjoyed attending the Act of Worship, it was good to see the whole school coming together, and I look forward to the next time.

Tricia Williamson, Foundation Governor

Leave of Absence during term

Recently we have noticed a significant increase in requests for leave of absence during term time. Here at St Mary's Junior School we want to ensure every child has the best chance to be successful and we therefore value high attendance. Good school attendance habits are best started early. Children learn from those around them and you as parents/carers set the standards and expectations for your child. Showing your child the importance of attending school every day not only helps your child to settle quickly when starting school but helps them to keep and maintain friendships and enjoy the school environment. We would therefore ask you to think carefully before taking your child out of school during term time, unless it is a very exceptional circumstance

Below is an excerpt from our attendance policy which outlines the regulations in place around leave of absence from school:

Amendments to school attendance regulations were updated and enforced from September 2013: (Pupil registration) (England) regulations state that **Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.** It is important to note that Head Teachers can determine the length of the authorised absence as well as whether absence is authorised at all. The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are rare, significant, or unavoidable which means the event could not reasonably be scheduled at another time. There are no rules on this as circumstances vary from school to school and family to family. **There is however, no legal entitlement for time off in school time to go on holiday and in the vast majority of cases holiday will not be authorised.** Parents/Carers wishing to apply for leave of absence need to fill in an application form available from the school office in advance and before making any travel arrangements.

If term time leave is taken without prior permission from the school, the absence will **be unauthorised** and if the number of sessions absent hits the thresholds set down in Hampshire's Code of Conduct parent/carers will be issued with a fixed-penalty fine, or other legal action in accordance the code.

The full policy can be found in the policies section of the website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies%26%23160%3B+%26amp%3B%26%23160%3BPremiums&pid=22>

Choosing out of school child care provision or clubs

The government website has a guidance document aimed at parents. The DfE guidance refers to Out of School Settings (OOSS) which includes 'community and youth centres, sports clubs, and places of worship, to individuals offering tuition in their own home, or providing one to one coaching at a playing field or local park. Fees may or may not be charged. Some settings may be run as businesses.'

The parent guidance contains:

- questions you may wish to ask a provider
- examples of the types of good answers you should expect
- warning signs you may wish to look out for when choosing a provider

The guidance can be read

here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-safeguarding-children-in-out-of-school-settings/keeping-children-safe-during-community-activities-after-school-clubs-and-tuition-questions-to-help-parents-and-carers-choose-out-of-school-settings>

Walk to School Week 15th- 19th May

Next week is our annual Walk to School Week. Please see the attached poster, which contains more information.

Walking has so many benefits from physical to mental wellbeing, aiding concentration, creativity and creating safer, less polluted and more welcoming streets. All that makes for a happy, healthy child set up for success in and out of the classroom.

Whilst we hope as many parents as possible leave their cars at home, we appreciate that many cannot avoid driving. To include as many children as possible, we would encourage these parents to park safely away from the school and walk the remaining distance.

Calshot Residential Trip – October 2023

If you opted to pay for the balance of £360 monthly, please note that the May instalment of £60 is now due.

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>

Return of Library Books

Could we please urge all of you to have a really good look at home for any school library books that you might have forgotten about. Every year we have to write off a significant number of books that have been lost. These include a number that are not owned by us, but are on loan from the Schools' Library Service.

Tackling Child Abuse (HM Government/DfE)

The government has launched a campaign called 'Together we can tackle child abuse'. The resources are aimed at everyone in the community and includes four short videos about the four different types of abuse. The simple mnemonic, ABC, is used to remind everyone that we should look out for changes in appearance, behaviour or communication. Through the search engine you will also find out how and where to report concerns.

<https://tacklechildabuse.campaign.gov.uk>

Online Safety

London Grid for Learning (LGfL) continues to add new resources to their website. As well as our own website, this is a really good go to website for all sorts of advice including explanations about new apps that you may not have heard of.

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

Pink Ribbon Walk 2023

On Saturday 13th May Mrs O'Beirne will be taking part in Pink Ribbon Walk to help Breast Cancer Now fund their world-class research and life-changing care for anyone affected by breast cancer. If you are able to support her in her fundraising for this great cause, please use the link below. Good luck Mrs O'Beirne!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pinkribbonwalk2023blenheimpalace-clareo-beirne>

Attendance

Attendance for the whole school is currently at 96.5%. Well done to Paulet class with the highest attendance of 98.1%.

Half Term Holiday Camps

Please find attached details of the Sports Xtra and Totally Tennis May half term holiday camps.

F.O.O.B.S. Update

Planning for the F.O.O.B.S. Summer Fair on Sunday 2nd July is well underway now and things are coming together nicely. We will be sending out a separate parentmail with lots more information next week, please keep an eye out!

And remember, the Year 2s have recently received their Junior school places for next year. If you have any outgrown uniform that you would like to donate (especially jumpers / cardigans), please contact us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com for the drop off location. I'm sure we will have lots of requests in the coming weeks. Similarly, we have some summer dresses and uniform shorts if you are still in need of uniform for this term. £2 for logoed items, £1 for non-logoed items.

Inset Days 2022/23

26th May 2023

Inset Days 2023/24

1st September 2023

30th October 2023

2nd January 2024

19th February 2024

24th May 2024

Dates for the Diary

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

w/c 5th June - Pick a Jar collection week F.O.O.B.S

6th-13th June - Book Fair

6th June - Y3 Church visit 1:45pm

8th June - Dickens Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

9th June - Summer Fair toys, books & uniform

donation drop off day, details to follow

13th June - Sports Day - Am Yr 3/4 Pm Yr 5/6

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 - F.O.O.B.S Non uniform day, details to follow

21st June - BPSM Performance @ Anvil 7pm

22nd June - Reserve Sports Day

23rd June - Y5 Trip to Costello

27th June - Y5 Church visit 2:45pm

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

3rd July - Southampton Art Gallery visiting Y6

4th July - Y3 Trip Primary Prom @ The Anvil

5th July - Parents Coffee morning 9:00am

11th-13th July - Y6 Show evening performances

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

**For further detail and updates please see;
School website:**

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

and also our Facebook page

@stmarysjuniorsoldbasing

Caroline Welch

Headteacher