



No. 16 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 where did that half-term go? Fingers crossed that the good weather that we have had this week, will continue into half term and we can all relax in the sunshine. Now that the sun has arrived could you please ensure that your child applies sunscreen each morning and brings in a hat to protect them from the sun.

Last week Year 3 ventured down to the River Loddon to enrich their Geography topic. From talking to them, the highlight appears to have been getting into the shallow parts to see what organisms were living in the river.

Year 4 entertained each other last Monday with a Maypole dancing workshop, they really enjoyed this traditional ceremonial folk dance performed around a tall pole garlanded with ribbons – very few got in a tangle! Look out for more of this at the Summer Fair.

This week children across the school have enjoyed learning about different careers and identifying their own strengths and personal qualities. Pupils have written their own CV's and personal statements and have had a chance to research future job aspirations. Thank you to all parents and relations who responded to our plea for visitors, sorry we were unable to invite everyone into school. Thank you for your ongoing support.

On Wednesday evening, it was lovely to see so many of our individual musicians and small ensembles perform at the summer concert at Christ Church Chineham. They all performed wonderfully and should be very proud of themselves.

Last week in AoW we have looked at our value of curiosity and learnt about Ascension Day which is traditionally celebrated on the sixth Thursday after Easter Sunday, it was lovely to welcome Rev. Jo to lead an Aow with the lower school and this term's Eucharist with the upper school. This week we have been revisiting our central value of Love, in terms of the concept of One Family. In particular, we looked at the Christian festival of Pentecost – the birthday of the Church.

Reminder that tomorrow, **Friday 26th is an INSET day**. I wish you all a good break next week and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **Monday 5th June**.

Governor's Corner

The end of the school year feels very close once we reach the May half term and Year 6 have finished their SATs. These national tests cover key areas of the curriculum such as English, Maths and Science but it is important to note that they are just one measure of a student's academic progress and should not be the sole focus of a child's education. Thankfully, St Mary's put a strong emphasis on creating a well-rounded curriculum that includes (amongst other subjects) Art, Music, P-E and French.

Each non staff member of the governing body is allocated one or two curriculum subjects to ensure quality and depth of the education our children receive. I am monitoring Art and Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), meeting twice a year with the subject leaders Mr Rundle and Mrs Quick respectively.

Art education helps children develop creativity, imagination, and critical thinking skills. Through art, children learn to express themselves, communicate ideas, and understand the world around them. In addition, art education has been shown to improve academic performance and social skills. On the other hand, MFL education provides children with the opportunity to learn a new language and culture. This is important in today's globalised world where communication and understanding between different cultures is essential. Learning a second language at a young age also has cognitive benefits, such as improved memory and problem-solving skills. Both Art and MFL education provide children with valuable skills and knowledge that will benefit them in their personal and professional lives.

I am always very impressed with the passion, dedication and high competence of the teachers who can show me incredibly detailed plans and evidence of the children's attainment and progress. I think we can feel very proud of our school's achievements and confident about the quality of education our children receive in these domains.

Aude Jarrett, foundation governor

Size of bags

It has been noted that larger bags are gradually creeping back in. The amount of 'stuff' that children need to bring in is minimal and we would appreciate you continuing to keep bags as small as possible. We have had some situations where the bag is so heavy that it pulled the peg straight out of the wall.

Reports

The change in the date for SATs has had a knock on effect on collection dates for the papers and therefore the date results will be published. For us this means that **Year 6 reports will not go out until the 11th July.**

All other reports – Years 3, 4 & 5 will go out at our usual time, which this year is the 7th July.

F.O.O.B.S. Update

Hello from F.O.O.B.S!

Volunteer sign up sheets for the Summer Fair are now with the school and we would be very grateful if you could sign up for your preferred time slot on your class stall. If you are happy to volunteer for longer on the day or would be available in the morning for set up or later in the afternoon to help clear away, please contact foobssummerfair@gmail.com

Please refer to the separate parentmail sent last week with the key dates for Summer Fair but importantly during the first week back after half term it's the Pick a Jar collection and the donation day for the Toys, Books and Uniform stall on Friday 9th June.

Filled Jar Competition - F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair

We will be collecting filled jars for the F.O.O.B.S. Summer Fair week beginning 5th June; the competition closes on Friday 9th June. There will be a prize for the class that collects the greatest number of jars! All you need to do is find an empty jar and fill it with anything you think someone would like to win – these could be for children or adults. Examples in the past have included sweets, pens, crayons and small toys. Please avoid chocolate in case it melts! How many jars can you fill over the half term holiday?

Return of Library Books

We still have a significant number of books that have not been returned to school. Could we please urge all of you to have another look over the holidays 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.

E-safety

As we go into the half term 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 and use the Internet responsibly e.g. not sharing personal information with anyone, saying anything to another person that is in any way unkind or disrespectful and not posting images of themselves, without parental permission. More information can be found on our website in the parents' section, which includes links to some useful websites. Please see the link below.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+safety&pid=68>

Attendance

At the end of this half term the school's overall attendance stood at 96.4%. Congratulations to Paulet class with the highest attendance of 98%.

Inset Days 2023/24

1st September 2023
30th October 2023
2nd January 2024
19th February 2024
24th May 2024

Dates for the Diary

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 1:45pm

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

14th July - Shuffle up afternoon

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