



No: 18 - June 2023

Article 6: All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children develop healthily.

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last two weeks have continued to be jam-packed with music, sports and enrichment activities.

Year 4 had a wonderful day dressed as Egyptians and learned even more about this ancient civilisation through the Treehouse Company. Year 3 have also been out and about in the village in order to complete their local study.

Sporting highlights have included the Tennis Festival and Cricket for both the boys' and girls' teams. In the cricket both teams went through to the county finals with the boys team narrowly coming second – only losing by two runs, which was an amazing achievement.

One of the many highlights of the year for me is always the chance to attend the BPSM performance at the Anvil. This year's theme was 'The Joy of Music' and this was clearly demonstrated by the children with their amazing singing, playing and dancing. The concert was of a very high standard and all of the children, both from our school and all of the others from schools in and around Basingstoke, should be commended for their performance. Having the chance to perform in such an amazing setting, with such a large audience was a wonderful opportunity.

Following on from this, it was the chance for the lower school Choir to wow audiences at the St Mary's Church Summer Festival.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday at the annual F.O.O.B.S summer fair. This is always a great community event and of course the biggest fundraiser for both schools.

Strike Action

School will be open as normal on the 5th and 7th July. All children are expected to attend as usual.

Winchester Cathedral Leavers' Service

One of the many exciting things about being a Vicar in a village with a church school is the opportunity to join Yr.6 on their Cathedral trip. This day of activities, worship and general fun marks the end of life in Junior School and the point where our young folk step into a whole new world of adventure. Whilst being daunting to anyone, this is also a time of reflection and looking forward - taking learning from the time in the juniors into whatever the new world might be.

I travelled to Winchester separately as it meant that I could multi task and tick a few other boxes that day too. I thought that this might have been a mistake when I tried to find our young folk in the Cathedral! I need not have feared - the 'one family' of St. Mary's had no intention of letting one of their own drift around alone! I was soon reconnected with the help of heart-warming cries of, "Rev Jo!" I was delighted!

We soon set about our cathedral wanderings - enjoying the peace, history and spirituality of the place - including a sculpture trail at the end of the old pilgrim route. It was really beautiful to see the familiar through the eyes of the young and to be challenged to explain so much about faith, belief and history - all bundled into one!

The children also took part in a prayer workshop with the Reverend Richard, and singing practice with Assistant Organist, Claudia Gimmell. It was a joy to see the quiet, reflective and the lively combining in worship and thanksgiving. Claudia had an amazing amount of patience with us adults trying to sing in the round...the children were fine!

The day ended with a lively, but profound act of worship led by Canon Gary and Bishop David - with Reverend Mike and his wonderful drums thrown in for good measure! The theme was exploring the Ubuntu wisdom tradition - which the children have had woven through their worship all year. A saying from this tradition is "***I am because we are***"

Bishop David bravely illustrated this with audience participation - very effective in the Cathedral! He illustrated isolation and exclusion by getting us all to shout out in response to scenarios - "***No, you're not welcome here!***"

And, later, turned it all around..... by retelling the story with a different response.... "***Yes - come on in!***"

Indeed! 'Come on in - you are welcome here' is at the heart of the message of Ubuntu - quite literally "humanity" - just as "I am because we are" is the responsibility which Jesus Christ asks us to take for each other - no exceptions.

As Reverend Mike and all the drummers (each school had their own beat and message which we shared joyfully - together!) shared in the Cathedral - we can walk to different beats - and be together!

As our Year 6 travel on to the next stage of their life journeys, they take with them all that they have been with us, becoming ever more themselves as they grow into their lives. What an absolute privilege to walk with these amazing human beings.

Love and Blessings,
Rev Jo

Mityana Charity – sponsor a child

Through our links with Uganda, the school, parents and parishioners are now involved in supporting children to attend school. Unlike our children, children in Uganda have to pay to attend school and many families just cannot afford to do this. Thank you so much, on behalf of the charity, to those of you who are already involved. If you would like to help, please visit the website: <http://mityanacharity.org> or e-mail: enquiry@mityanacharity.org

Quad Kids Competition

On Wednesday 29th June, a team of year 5 & 6's went to the Vyne Community School to compete in an Athletics competition known as Quad Kids. This event consisted of a howler throw, standing long jump, 75m sprint, 600m run and a relay race. We got off to a great start and at the halfway point we were sitting 2nd on the leader board. All we had left to go was the 600m and the relay races. With great resilience and determination, the children did superbly and managed to come 1st in the competition. Meaning we retained the title for another year which is an amazing achievement! Well done to all those involved and the parents for their encouragement throughout the event. They will now be representing Basingstoke at the county finals.

St Mary's Church Festival

Well done to the Year 3 and 4 choir who turned out last Saturday to entertain the crowds at this year's festival at St Mary's Church. Our choir followed a lovely performance from the children at Old Basing Infants. They performed beautifully so things are looking positive for the Year 3 choir next year. The St Mary's choir performed beautifully at times raising the roof! One of the highlights was a fabulous rendition of 'The Bear Necessities' from the Jungle Book. Thanks to all of you who came to support both the children and the church funds.

Dinner Money

Could you please settle all outstanding dinner money as soon as possible and at the latest by Monday 17th July, including any meals your child/children may be having before the end of term. Dinners are charged at £3.00 per day.

Calshot 2023

Just a reminder for those parents who opted to pay the balance of £360 by one payment, this is now overdue. If you have any money outstanding, you will receive an updated statement of accounts, please could all outstanding instalments also be paid by 30th June.

PE Kit

Thank you so much to all of you for ensuring that your child had the correct green shorts for Sports Day. A reminder that our PE kit consists of green shorts and a white t-shirt which are readily available both from uniform suppliers and supermarkets. On PE days children also need to wear their school jumper or cardigan. On cooler days they can also wear plain tracksuit bottoms.

Please note that in September this will be limited to black track suit bottoms only.

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Borrow books and get amazing rewards this summer! It would be great if lots of our pupils took part in this summer's library reading challenge. This year's theme is Ready, Set, Read and if you complete the challenge of reading six books you will have the chance to win a Samsung Galaxy tablet.

Your child should have brought home a book mark with information about the challenge. If it didn't reach home you can find all of the information at:

www.hants.gov.uk/libraryor visit the national site: www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Reports and Shuffle-up

Year 3, 4 and 5 reports will be sent out to you with your child on Friday 7th July. Year 4 reports will include the result of the Multiplication tables check. Year 6 reports will come out on the 11th July and will include their SATs results.

Shuffle Up day, when children find out about their classes and teacher for next year, will be on the following Friday 14th July.

This will be followed by a brief 'Meet the Teacher' session after school for the New Year 3 parents only. There will be a chance for all parents to meet their child's teacher in September.

Water Safety

The recent hot weather has encouraged young people to cool off in water. Unsuitable rivers and quarries hide dangers below, not taking into account the hazards of freezing cold water and currents. Teenagers especially are drawn in by peers and a keenness for risky behaviours. However, each year we do hear about incidents involving families at the beach underestimating the effect of off-shore breezes and the use of inflatables.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be covering water safety with the children, including reminding the upper school about what they have learned during their swimming lessons. We hope that the websites are useful for you to use at home so that everyone enjoys a safe enjoyable day both beside and in the water.

Canal and River Trust - water safety
<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/water-safety>

Water Safety at the beach
<https://www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety-at-the-beach>

F.O.O.B.S News

Hi from F.O.O.B.S! We are really excited about the Summer Fair on Sunday! We really hope you enjoy it. Any questions in advance please email foobssummerfair@gmail.com or find us on the day in the F.O.O.B.S. tent. Please drop off any donations of cakes, made or bought, on Friday afternoon or on Saturday between 1 and 4pm at the Junior school, we would be most grateful! And please remember to bring cash for your entry and the stalls! Best wishes.

Your F.O.O.B.S. committee

Summer Holiday Camps

Please find attached details of summer holiday camps being run by both Totally Tennis and Sports Xtra.

Year 6

18th July – Pilgrimage Day – all children will need a packed lunch.

19th July – leavers' Service at St Mary's Church – 2.30pm. All parents welcome.

20th July – Picnic and party

Memory books will be given to each child during the last week in order to capture signatures and comments from friends and staff. **Shirts should not be used for this purpose.**

Church Visits – 21st July

As Year 6 will have already had their own special service they will not be visiting the church on the last day of term.

09:15 Mitchell, Paulet, Austen
10:00 White, Nelson, Conan Doyle
11:00 Brunel, Wellington, Dickens

If you can help to walk the children to and from the church, please contact the class teacher.

Dates for your diary

2ⁿ 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 morning
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:
- 9:15am Austen, Paulet, Mitchell
- 10:00am Conan Doyle, Nelson, White
- 11:00am Dickens, Wellington, Brunel
21st July - Last Day of term – school closes normal time (3.25pm)

Inset Days for 2023/24 term

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

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
Head teacher