



No: 20 – July 2023

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

Dear Parents and Carers

Way back in October when I informed our Chair of Governors about my decision to leave the school and in fact the teaching profession, July 2023 seemed a long way away. I can't believe how quickly the time has come and here I am writing my last newsletter to you after twelve and a half years as headteacher of St Mary's. I would like to personally thank all of you for the kind comments and I wish all of you the very best in the future. I know that I am leaving St Mary's in the more than capable hands of Mrs Lillywhite and I look forward to hearing about the school continuing to go from strength to strength.

This year we also wave goodbye to Miss Luck, Mrs Butler and Mr Sargeant, We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

In September we welcome Miss Hill and Miss Dee to our teaching team. We also welcome Mrs Rudman who will be joining our team of Learning Support Assistants.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for all the lovely comments and gifts you have sent into school. They are much appreciated.

Which just leaves me to wish all the Year 6 pupils all the very best as they move on to secondary school. They have been an amazing year group and have really shown their understanding of our School Values throughout their time with us. I am sure that they will step up to the new challenges at their various schools and we look forward to hearing about their future successes.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy and restful holiday. The St Mary's team look forward to seeing you all on **Monday 4th September**.

Caroline Welch
Headteacher

Year 3 Summary

The Year 3 children started St Mary's with a bang and have shown us how incredibly hard-working and determined they all are! Here are some key highlights that have brought a smile to us teachers, and ones that we hope the children remember fondly. At the start of the year, Pre-historic Britain hit all three classrooms and the children enjoyed learning more about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. We even had

a special visitor, Iron Age Matt, come into school and he shared with us what life was like during this time. The return after October half term was not as expected due to an intruder – The Iron Man! Our classrooms were a complete mess! We soon found out that The Iron Man had a heart of gold and we will now never judge a book by its cover...literally! With Christmas soon approaching, the Year 3 children potted around in their workshops (classrooms) creating their own picture frames. Junior hacksaws, glue and lots of glitter filled the classrooms and children felt proud of what they were able to create! Let's also not forget the learning around angels (also angles...just to confuse you) and the beautiful calendars we sketched and painted. A New Year started and the Year 3 production of Jack and the Beanstalk was soon underway! Of course, the children absolutely aced each performance and left family and teachers feeling incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment they showed towards each show.

We then entered Roman Britain and learnt about all of the great things the Romans brought to us. The Roman banquet at our Roman Workshop was one to remember! I think we can all agree that our dinner parties do not end with trips to the Vomitorium just so we can fit more food in our bellies. Greedy Romans! The summer term had us all smiling. Trips to the River Loddon and walks around the village fed into our geography topics and we learnt more about the world around us. We even spent time exploring and drawing our own maps! Let's also not forget our first Sports Day which was a real hit! Applauds and cheers could be heard across the whole village as a fun day was had by all!

Looking back on all that we've done, it's been a great year and we have had some wonderful times together! We wish you all well as you go on to Year 4.

Keep believing in yourself, Year 3!

Year 4 Summary

In Year 4, we are so grateful for the year we have been able to have. The most memorable parts of it are not our grammar lessons, although we nearly all know our fronted adverbial from our expanded noun phrase now. Nor is it our knowledge of acute, obtuse, or even reflex angles. No, the most memorable parts of our year have been where we have been able to get hands on with our learning in distinct and unique ways. That's not to put down the typical learning that we do, day in day out, but here

are some favourite highlights from us that stick best in the memory.

Autumn 1 – Anglo-Saxons and the visit in from Ed, the time travelling Saxon who recreated for us “a day in the life of a Saxon” in such a fun way that it is still a favourite moment for many of the children.

Autumn 2 – Viking day – who knew dressing up for a day for school could add so much to our learning! We also enjoyed Friendship week.

The Spring term – a local walk about where we actually stopped and considered what makes our village distinct, even down to being able to tell the age of a wall/property by the way the bricks are laid! Then, once we’d grasped what our area is like we flew to Venice with no delays and no check in issues. A little drama and a spoonful of imagination really added to our learning about Venice and also Paris too.

In the summer term we learnt about amazing inventions and who can forget when we baked scones for the King’s coronation ahead of an extended May half-term? With our cam toy creations, we got to put our own ideas into our own inventions. We also went back in time to have an Egyptian day where we collaborated to perform a play to one another. Sport’s day was another joy as well as our final pond dip where we got see how many newts we have lurking beneath the depths of the school pond.

So what’s the take away from the year? Well, if we look behind the scenes, the joy of learning seems to be greatest when we are focused, engaging together and using as many of our senses as possible. Best wishes for the summer from us all & thank you for the support.

The Year 4 team.

Year 5 Summary

It is unbelievable we have reached the end of this academic year. Many of the Year 5 children have spoken about how quickly the year has flown by and we teachers feel the same way. We are sad to say goodbye to this cohort of children but we are excited at the same time about what we know they can achieve in their final year at St Mary’s next year. The year group teachers would like to share the following A.A Milne quote which makes us feel more positive when we feel sad about moving on: “Don’t cry because it’s over; smile because it happened.” The year has been full of highlights and here are just a few. In Autumn, the children came in fresh-faced ready to tackle their first year of upper school. Our first topic was ‘*How Significant Was Basing House?*’ where we learned about the Civil War that ravaged England in the mid-17th century. The children were curious about this history topic and we visited Basing House for our first trip where the English Civil War Society showed us what life would have been like for a soldier at the time. Later in the term, we started our second topic which was called ‘*Is There Anybody Out There?*’. This science unit explored space and the children enthusiastically visited the Space Dome which dominated our school hall for the day. Through

our learning about space and forces, the children completed experiments using bottle rockets – firing these across the playground (safely!) will be remembered for a long time to come. A learning-filled first term now complete, we headed off for the Christmas break for a well-deserved rest.

Spring came around quickly and we entered our ‘*What is the Legacy of the Ancient Greeks*’ topic. We flew back in time to uncover what life was like for the Greeks that lived in that time period. Much of our English learning was focused on this time period. The children wrote excellent Greek myths inspired by their paper and paste beasts they created in art. We had visitors from the Southampton Art Gallery who showed us how to make artwork using wire to create sandals worn by Achilles too. To complete our learning in spring, we took part in an Ancient Greek Olympics where the children ran, threw and even wrestled in the style of the Greeks.

Lastly, we’ve had our summer topic of ‘*In Which Biome Would You Rather Make Your Home?*’ where they investigated what different biomes around the world look like. Focusing primarily on Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest, the children learned about the wonders of life there and the importance of keeping our natural environment protected. After visiting the Gordon Brown Centre, the children learned about survival in a rainforest biome and they wrote survival guides to teach others how to brave this treacherous environment. As we approached the end of Year 5, the children made direct comparisons between the rainforest and other biomes, focusing on our temperate forest biome too. They created bags in DT to store survival items and made clay creatures they might find in a woodland in the UK. All in all, it’s been a brilliant year and this special group of children have prepared themselves superbly for Year 6. Enjoy the summer, Year 5; you’ve earned it.

Year 6 Summary

What a fantastic year it has been and the summer term was full of happiness, laughter and marked the end of SATs revision! Upon returning to school after the Easter break, the children were bombarded with Maths and English to make sure they were ready for the KS2 SATs. All children performed excellently and should be incredibly proud of their results! Alongside this, children began working on the ‘Golden Age of Islam,’ making comparisons between life during 900AD Baghdad and the ‘Dark Ages’ in Britain in England at the time. Alongside this topic, many transition activities took place as children began thinking more about their secondary schools. As this was officially their last term at St Mary’s, we spent lots of time reflecting on the past and what skills they could take forward. Furthermore, with final art assignments to complete, DT projects to finish and other foundation subjects to bring to a close, the children had to put in lots of effort, creating memories and pencil cases to take forward with them! Of course, we have to mention the play: Shrek. The children worked tirelessly to learn their lines and

perfect their acting skills. Every member of staff commented on the professionalism of the children and what wonderful voices they all have. Songs could be heard in the classrooms, on the playground and even hummed along to in the corridors as the three classes enjoyed practising prior to their performances. They should be proud of their efforts and thankful for all the support and guidance they have received! As the end of the year approached, the children, of course, began to get excited about the end-of-year celebrations. They experienced the annual Winchester Cathedral service, taking part in their activities linked to Ubuntu. It was a wonderful day out and the children represented St Mary's brilliantly. Entering the final week saw each class make their way to St Mary's Church for our annual pilgrimage. It was great to experience it in the church and the children enjoyed taking part in activities. It was a chance to remember their whole experience at St Mary's and to spend time with their peers. This left just the last few days together where we again focused on reflection and legacy. The Year 6 Leavers' service took place at the church and it was a time to share memories, jokes and farewells to all the children. One of the highlights for the children is certainly the beach party! It is a chance for them to enjoy a water fight and some food as an end of year treat; blasting their teachers with water pistols is also an added bonus. Lastly, the children will receive their memory books tomorrow; they will be encouraged to remember memories, lessons learned and write messages as a reminder of their time at St Mary's. The summer term was a fantastic one and the staff at St Mary's wish to pass on their best wishes to our wonderful Year 6 cohort. We have been unbelievably proud of them as they tackled another challenging year. They really are a huge credit to our school and we believe they are now ready for their next step in life.

The Year 6 Team

Music Summary

Please open the attachment to read all about the many and varied musical events that have taken place this year.

End of year update for MFL

Our pupils at St Mary's are coming to the end of another amazing year where much French has been learnt!

Year 3 settled into their French lessons superbly and really loved sharing their knowledge of different languages. They have read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in French and enjoyed learning the days of the week and all the lovely foods the caterpillar eats! Having learnt parts of the body and colours, they were also able to create a monster and describe it in simple French. They loved this.

Recently, we read *Jack and the Beanstalk* in French and learnt the names of various vegetables. Then, the children designed their own seed packets with a vegetable of their choice in French.

Year 4 really enjoyed their travels around Europe and of course, this resulted in a glorious visit to our

French café in the hall! We were very lucky to receive amazing baked pastries from The Bakeshop and Tesco. There was also a choice of juices, water and French sirops to try. The children were amazing at ordering their snack and their drinks in French. Children and staff came in to help us from the MFL department at Costello, as well as one of our governors, Mrs Jarrett.

Mrs Malone also asked some musical colleagues to come in and play to us. It was a super morning. Since then, we have looked at sports that we may play and we've discussed how to keep healthy. The children designed a plate of healthy foods in French. We are now looking at travels abroad and types of transport we would use. We will also look at a few French speaking countries around the world.

Year 5 started the year looking at pizza toppings! They watched a film of some children in France making pizzas and then planned what their own perfect pizza would have on it, in French of course! We have some very sophisticated palates in Yr 5, as we had snails, sardines and artichokes! As the children were studying *The Planets* in science, we had a topic on this where the children began to gather vocabulary to describe some of the planets in French. They did a super job and learnt lots of grammatical rules about where adjectives are placed in a sentence.

The children also watched some musical videos and were able to express opinions on the type of music they liked, such as *la musique classique* or *la musique jazz*.

Year 6 started the year describing their school and what facilities we have here. This moved on to looking at our locality and what there is to do in Basingstoke. Lots it would seem!

We looked at telling the time and school subjects in French. The children were able to create their dream timetable for a day!

We have looked at quite a lot of grammar, particularly verbs in the infinitive, present tense of *Être*, *Avoir*, *Aller* and the near future. The children have looked at ways to further their writing by using conjunctions to create compound sentences. They have also produced work to stretch their understanding of adjectival agreements.

I wish them every success in Yr7 and I hope that their learning journey, in whatever language they choose to study, is a happy and successful one.

Louise Quick
MFL Co-ordinator

Sports Summary

Please see the attached.

English - what you can do over the Summer

The 6-week summer holidays can be a tricky time to keep skills ticking over - as a school, we have a few suggestions you might wish to consider to get your children developing and/or refining their skills so they can hit the ground running when they return in

September. Firstly, completing the summer reading challenge is the best way to keep children reading regularly. It encourages children to read widely and often and the challenge motivates children to develop an intrinsic desire to read. Further information can be found on the summer reading challenge website. Reading regularly with an adult is absolutely vital to keep developing the key reading skills of retrieval (finding information within a text), inference (arriving at a conclusion using reasoning or evidence - not just assuming or 'guessing'), and clarifying (developing an understanding of the meaning of words in different contexts). If you're wondering what sort of questions you might ask your child whilst reading with them, the link shared (<https://lexile.com/parents-students/tools-to-support-reading-at-home/21-questions-ask-child-book/>) has some great suggestions. Even if your child is older and enjoys reading alone, showing that you are a reading role model is great to keeping up positive attitudes towards reading. Lastly, look for opportunities to write wherever possible. This might be something simple like writing letters/extended messages to family members or using prompts. The link shared here (<https://www.explorelearning.co.uk/free-resources/creative-summer-writing-ideas-for-the-school-holidays/>) has some ideas for you to consider. Try and keep whatever you do light and fun - these optional extras are meant to inspire and engage.

Maths – What you can do over the Summer

Over the summer holidays, it is vital that the children continue the good progress they have made throughout the year. To do this, there are a range of different online games they could play. In addition, each year group has set homework, which will focus on a few core areas of maths. Below are games that the children could play:

- Mathletics
- Education City
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Hit the Button
- Maths Frame
- White Rose Maths

Times tables are a vital part of the curriculum for all children so practising over the summer will hugely benefit them.

Have a lovely summer
Mr Gibbs

Epipens and Inhalers return

Just a reminder that if your child has an inhaler or epipen, it must come in with them on the first day and be handed to their class teacher along with any care plan that they have. They will then be registered with us through the office who will check them regularly. It would help us if you take a note of the use by date and make arrangements for replacements before they become out of date.

F.O.O.B.S News

A massive thank you and well done to everyone who made the FOOBS Fest the huge success that it was! The current fundraising total stands at around £12,300 with more matched fundraising due to come in so we are hopeful we may even exceed last year's amazing fundraising efforts! With the end of term around the corner, if you have any uniform in good, resalable condition to donate please contact us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com to obtain the drop off location. Please note, at this time, we would only like donations of the branded jumpers/ cardigans and school bags. Should you wish to purchase any second hand uniform please contact us on the same email address at any time. A save the date for you - on Sunday 8th October we will be holding the F.O.O.B.S Trail and Fun Runs! After the success of last year's runs, we are pleased to announce that entries are now open for the event. More details will follow on this, but to obtain more information and to enter please visit our website www.foobs.weebly.com And finally, we are working on securing a date for another Bags2School collection so please hang on to any clothes etc. if you're having a clear out over the summer holidays!

Online Safety

As we head into the summer holidays, we may find our children are online more or having more screen time. Childnet have produced this blog, which includes how to help your child with managing their screen time: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/screen-time-new-resource-and-top-tips/>

You may also be looking for activities to do with your child. Google and Parent Zone have produced some great resources that are free to download. They include a mix of online and offline activities, such as asking them to create a poster to show what they would do if they were worried about something they see online. You can access all the resources here: <https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/download>

Finally, Virgin Media have got some great online resources to support parents in guiding their children through the internet safely and appropriately. You can find these here: <https://www.virginmedia.com/blog/online-safety/childrens-internet-safety-test/>

Have a lovely summer and stay safe,
Mrs Butler

St Mary's News

As the school year draws to a close, we have been busy collating some wonderful writing from each class, celebrating our learning from the summer term. Also in this term's edition, we have the usual segments for you to enjoy: a summer recipe, quiz and activities to keep you busy, Teacher Talk - showcasing our interests and hobbies, news from around the world and book recommendations for

each year group. There is plenty to keep you occupied so dive in and enjoy reading this edition! Have a lovely summer break.

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2894&type=pdf>

Kindest Regards
Suki Gill

Autumn uniform

I am sure that the majority of children will want to start or return to school in their smart new winter uniform of shirts, ties and sweatshirts. However, if we do have an Indian summer children are allowed to continue to wear summer uniform of polo shirts or short sleeved shirts or dresses until half term.

When you are purchasing new uniform, could I please remind you that our uniform is **grey skirts, trousers or shorts and NOT black.**

Whilst you are shopping, please ensure that your child has a plain white t-shirt, green shorts and **plain black jogging bottoms.** Please do not be tempted to purchase new leggings for use in school, these are not part of our uniform.

Our Core values - Hope

Christians hope for the future has its guarantee in the resurrection of Jesus. Christian hope means trusting in the loving purposes of God: trusting that the foundations of the world are good because they spring from God. Hope in each other and ourselves, through the love of God and his example before us; help us to strive for the best we can possibly be; both now and in the future. As we come to the end of another school year, we can all reflect back on the year that has gone – the highs and the lows, the good times and the bad. It is also important to remind ourselves that there is a chance for a new beginning in September – a fresh start.

Note from the Chair of Governors

Along with many parents and family members, I was recently fortunate to be able to attend the amazing Year 6 production of Shrek. This really was one of the best year 6 productions that I have seen and all of the pupils and staff associated with the show deserve many congratulations.

These Year 6 pupils will soon be moving on to their new schools. I am sure that most will look back on their time at St Marys with great fondness and there is certain to be some sadness at leaving this amazing school. I have no doubt though that St Mary's will have prepared them well for the challenges and opportunities that secondary education will bring. I would like to wish all our departing pupils the very best of luck for the future.

As you are all aware we shall be saying farewell to Ms Welch who will be retiring after 12 years at St Marys. The school's high standards and distinctive

ethos really are testament to her leadership and commitment over past years. Once again I would like to thank Ms Welch for everything that she has given the school.

The school leadership could not be in better hands however with Mrs Lillywhite taking over as Headteacher and Mr Gibbs as Deputy Head. I have every confidence that they will make a brilliant leadership team and wish them every success in their new roles.

Sadly, we will also be saying farewell to Miss Luck, Mrs Butler and Mr Sargeant who will be leaving us at the end of term. I would like to thank each of our leaving staff, on behalf of the governors, for their hard work and commitment to St Mary's and to wish them best wishes for the future.

Finally, I shall be handing over the role of Chair of Governors to Sefton Lucas our current Vice Chair. I would like to thank Sefton for volunteering to take on the role and I have no doubt that he will make an excellent Chair of Governors. I shall be supporting him in the role of Vice Chair. I would like to thank all our governors for their continued help, support and considerable time commitment over the past year.

Michael Wright
Chair of Governors

2023-24 INSET Days

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

Dates for the Diary

1st Sept - INSET Day

4th Sept - First day of term

8th Sept - Meet the teacher 3:30pm
12th Sept - Yr. 3 Parents Briefing 6:00pm
13th Sept - Yr. 4 Oxenwood visit into school
14th Sept - Yr. 4 Oxenwood visit into school
14th Sept - Yr. 6 Parents Briefing & Calshot mtg 6pm
15th Sept - Yr. 4 Oxenwood visit into school
18th Sept - Yr. 5 trip to Old Basing House TBC
19th Sept - Yr. 4 Parents Briefing 6:00pm
20th Sept - Yr. 5 Parents Briefing 6:00pm
22nd Sept - Individual School Photos
25th -29th Sept - Year 6 Bikeability
3rd Oct - Yr. 6 Church visit 2:30pm
5th Oct - Russel Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm
8th Oct - F.O.O.B.S Fun Run
11th Oct - Parents' Evenings (no clubs)
12th Oct - Parents' Evening (no clubs)
16th-20st Oct – Yr. 6 Calshot Residential
17th Oct - Yr. 4 Church visit 2:30pm
19th Oct - Paulet Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

23rd - 27th October – half term

30th October - INSET DAY

15th December - Last day of term

For even more news, updates and photos, don't forget to visit our website:

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

And the Facebook page if you need to check events on the go.