



No: 1 – 8th September 2023

UNCRC Article 1 – Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the convention. We have the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope that you all managed to have an enjoyable summer holiday. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and they have all settled back well to the daily routines and their learning. It has been lovely to see many of you at the gates this week and I am excited to lead the St Mary's family on the next chapter of its story.

We operate an 'open door policy'. If you have any concerns, please call or email the school office who will put you in contact with the class teacher, or please email them directly. If it is an urgent matter, please pop in to the school office.

In order to share further information about your child's learning this year we will be holding year group curriculum meetings on the following dates starting at 6.00pm:

- Tuesday 12th September - Year 3
- Thursday 14th September Year 6 (to include Calshot information)
- Monday 18th September - Year 4
- Wednesday 20th September - Year 5

Please do not forget that this afternoon (Friday 8th September) is 'meet the teacher' for all year groups. This will take place straight after school - please collect your child first and re-enter via reception.

Thank you for your support in having your child ready to start the new term. Coming back to school can be a really anxious time for some pupils and we are really proud of how well they have all done this week. We are excited to see what this term will bring!

Home learning

We will be continuing to use Google Classrooms for weekly home learning. This platform allows pupils to see, complete and upload work which can be seen by class teachers and then necessary feedback can be given. If you have any problems accessing home learning on Google Classroom please contact your child's class teacher.

Reporting Absence

We would please ask that if your child is ill and cannot attend school that you let the school office know before the start of the school day, if possible. Please take time to read the below

information regarding Measles, Chicken Pox and Shingles as it is vital that any cases of these illnesses are reported to the school as soon as possible:

Measles, Chicken Pox and Shingles

One of our pupils is receiving medical treatment for cancer, which makes them more susceptible to infections. They are particularly at risk if they are exposed to measles, chicken pox or shingles. Please help us by letting us know immediately if your child is suspected of having measles.

Our pupil is also at risk from chicken pox and would need to be given treatment within three days of contact. If your child is suspected of having chicken pox, you should let us know immediately.

It is also important that you let us know if there is measles, chicken pox or shingles in your household. Our pupil is also at risk from other infections too, but generally exposure to coughs and colds cannot be avoided. May we take this opportunity to remind you that our policy for diarrhoea and vomiting is that your child must not have had diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours before returning to school.

Your child is not at any risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and well-being of our pupil who is at risk, does depend on the co-operation of all other parents and we hope you can help us. With many thanks.

Attendance Policy

Thank you so much for a fantastic start to the term, As we do each year, the attendance policy has been updated together with the infant school in order to ensure a consistent approach. The full policy can be found in the policies section of the website:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2904&type=pdf>

Also attached to this newsletter is our annual letter about attendance from myself and Mrs McCarley at Old Basing Infant School.

Open Days for prospective parents 2024

Do you, or do you know someone who has a child due to start Year 3 in September 2024? We will be holding two Open Days in the autumn term for prospective new parents. These will give you the opportunity to tour the school and see us in action, as well as finding out more about what you and your child can expect from St Mary's from the leadership team.

Medical/Special Dietary needs

Should there be any changes to your child's health/medical needs during the year, please contact the school office so we can update our records. For further information on special dietary requirements and how to apply please use the following link to HC3S:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hc3s/education-catering/primary/specialdiets>

Dinner money

The cost of a school dinner is £3.00 a day, payments for lunches are to be made through SCOPAY, please ensure that your account is in credit at all times.

Free School Meals

If you think you are eligible for free school meals, please register your child by using the easy online facility which has been launched by Hampshire County Council Catering Services (HC3S). You can now check your eligibility for FSM. This self-service option is available at:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

PE Lessons

A reminder that our PE kit consists of green shorts and a white t-shirt which are readily available from both uniform suppliers and supermarkets. On PE days children also need to wear their school jumper or cardigan, not an alternative jumper or hoodie. On cooler days they can also wear plain black tracksuit bottoms with shorts for indoor PE underneath.

PE days are as follows:

Year 3 – Monday (Outdoor) Wednesday (Indoor)

Year 4 – Tuesday (Indoor) Friday (Outdoor)

Year 5 - Monday (Indoor) Wednesday (Outdoor)

Year 6 – Tuesday (Outdoor) Friday (Indoor).

Summer Reading Challenge

Many children have told me that they completed the reading challenge at the library over the holiday: well done!

The Summer Reading Challenge is still going on. The challenge this year has been very successful, but the library would like to see a few more of the brilliant readers finish their challenge and collect their well-earned medals and certificates! The children only need to read, share or listen to 6 books to receive their medal and certificate, and it is not too late to sign up if they have not done so yet! They get a sticker for every book completed to go in a special collectors pack, and the medal if they finish all 6 books. The last day the children can collect a medal in any Hampshire library for the Reading Challenge is Saturday 16th September.

Lost Property

Please ensure that your entire child's uniform and other property – especially fruit and lunch boxes - are clearly marked and that you check them on a regular basis. Many items that make their way into lost property have clearly been marked at some time but have become illegible! All named items will be returned, any unclaimed and unnamed items will be recycled or disposed of at the end of each week.

Parent Helpers

If you would like to come in to help in your child's class or maybe want to help on future trips, for safeguarding purposes you will need to complete a volunteers' application form (which will include references) and a DBS check. Please contact the school office by phone or email for details.

Individual Photographs

On Friday 22nd September, all pupils will have their individual photographs taken. There will be no PE lessons on this day, therefore all pupils need to be in full, smart school uniform.

Pupil and Parent Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

We at St Mary's C of E Junior School are the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you about your child(ren), and may receive information about them from their previous school and Hampshire County Council. A full copy of the privacy notice can be found on the school website.

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

Afterschool Clubs and wraparound care

After school clubs will start next week, which you will have signed your child up for last term. If your child is attending a sports club on their PE day they will not need a change of clothing, although for Football Club they will need boots and shin pads. If it is not their PE day they will need to bring in kit in a small draw string bag and change at the end of the day. The pick-up for all after school clubs is the main entrance through the reception door – please wait on the pavement outside.

The Old Basing Infant school are still running their breakfast club before school. Places are limited and need to be booked directly with the infant school. SCL are also still running their after school club there.

INSET Days 2023/2024

30th October 2023

2nd January 2024

19th February 2024

24th May 2024

Dates for your Diary

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
18th- 22nd Sept – Harvest Collection for foodbank
18th Sept - Yr. 4 Parents Briefing 6:00pm
20th Sept - Yr. 5 Parents Briefing 6:00pm
22nd Sept - Individual School Photos No PE Lessons
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
9th October – Yr 2 parents open afternoon
11th October – Whole school Flu Jabs
11th Oct - Parents' Evenings (no clubs)
12th Oct - Parents' Evening (no clubs)
13th Oct – Yr 3 F.O.O.B.S Disco
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.

Gemma Lillywhite
Headteacher