

# St Mary's

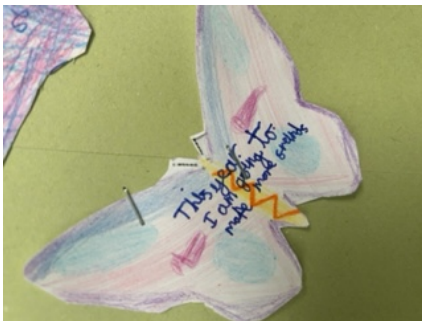
Church of England Junior School

No: 2  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week certainly has brought with it some more autumnal weather with the rain and storms earlier in the week! As the summer seems to be behind us, please do send your child into school with a coat every day as we try to get out in the fresh air as much as possible.

At the start of the term we talked in Act of Worship about the new school year being an opportunity for a new beginning, just like when a butterfly emerges from its cocoon. We all created our own butterflies and wrote on them the things we want to try and improve or aim for over the next academic year. These will be on display for a few weeks so we can remember our aims!



The last few weeks have been busy as the children continue to show responsibility in school and a real enthusiasm for their learning. It was lovely to see after school clubs resume last week and music clubs, orchestra, band and choirs have also restarted.

Year 3 have started learning about the Stone Age and they enjoyed becoming cave men for the morning! They collected firewood, made shelters and created some cave art.

Savage Saxons is this term's topic in Year 4. They enjoyed a visit from a time travelling Anglo-Saxon last week who launched their topic with a great day in the school grounds.

Year 5 have started their topic on Old Basing House and the Civil War with a visit to the ruins on Monday. They worked with visiting members of the English Civil War Society to enrich their learning experience. Thank you to the volunteer parents and relatives who helped on this trip.



'Weird and Wondrous Earth' is the theme for Year 6 – they are already enjoying finding out about natural disasters and how they affect people and landscapes. On Tuesday, they enjoyed a session in the visiting Science Dome where they explored natural disasters to help further their learning.

Please do check our website regularly for galleries of some of the activities going on in school.  
<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=7&qcatid=58>

This week, in our Acts of Worship, we have moved on to responsibility and discussed how Christian love is an unselfish act and how we can help others in our school and in our local community. We discussed how many of the world religions teach the importance of caring for the needs of others, including ensuring that everyone has enough to eat. Thank you for all of your donations to the foodbank; it just shows how caring and compassionate our school community is.



### **Time to Shine Day – ‘Be Bright To Be Seen’**

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October British Summer times ends and sadly those clocks will go back. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October we are having a ‘Be Bright to Be Seen’ day in school and we would like the children to come to school dressed as brightly as they possibly can – what would you need to wear to be seen safely out walking or cycling during the darker evenings? If year 6 pupils want to take a bright outfit to Calshot to wear on that day that is fine!

In school each class will talk about and complete activities about keeping safe on the streets. Year 6 will cover these important messages with their classes when they return from Calshot.

We look forward to seeing St Mary’s full of colour – the brighter the better!

### **Parking**

We have received a complaint this week about cars blocking residents drives ways in Paulet Close at school pick up time. Please can we remind all parents to park considerably on local roads. Thank you for your support with this.

### **F.O.O.B.S. news**

Hello from F.O.O.B.S. Just a little reminder that the F.O.O.B.S. AGM will be held on Tuesday 3rd October at 7:30pm at the Infant School. This meeting is open to all parents and carers and it is a good opportunity to find out what we have been up to over the past year, what money has been raised and what it was spent on. We are always in need of volunteers so please contact [friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more about how you can help. There are so many ways to get involved, be it in a lead role, a general committee member, an hour or two at events, donation of raffle prizes and many more. Whatever you can offer, we would love to hear from you and see you at the AGM!

Tickets are still on sale for the F.O.O.B.S. Trail and Fun Runs being held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Entries are open - <https://foobs.weebly.com/2023-trail-and-fun-runs.html>

If you do not fancy running and would like to volunteer at the event either as a marshal out on the course or somewhere on the Rec, please contact [foobsfunrun@gmail.com](mailto:foobsfunrun@gmail.com) to let us know.

### **Attendance**

Currently the whole school attendance stands at 97.5%. Thank you to the vast majority of you who are managing to get your child to school by 8.45, this really supports children to settle in to the day and be ready for both the register and to start learning at 8.50am.

### **Parent Helpers**

If you would like to come in to help in your child’s class in the future, or you maybe want to help on future trips, you will need to complete a volunteers’ application form (which will include references) and a DBS check. Please contact the school office via email for details. We really appreciate the help we get from volunteers.

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

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

**Gemma Lillywhite**  
**Headteacher**

## **2023-24 INSET Days**

30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## **Dates for your Diary**

18th- 22nd Sept – Harvest Collection for foodbank

22nd Sept - Individual School Photos No PE Lessons

25th -29th Sept - Year 6 Bikeability

3rd Oct - Yr. 6 Church visit 1:30pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Oct – F.O.O.B.S AGM and meeting 7:30pm

5th Oct - Nightingale Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

8th Oct - F.O.O.B.S Fun Run

w/c 9<sup>th</sup> October – No after school clubs this week

9th October – Yr. 2 parents open afternoon 1:30-3pm

11th October – Whole school Flu Jobs

11th Oct - Parents' Evenings (no clubs)

12th Oct - Parents' Evening (no clubs)

w/c 16<sup>th</sup> October – No after school clubs this week

16th-20th Oct – Yr. 6 Calshot Residential

17th Oct - Yr. 4 Church visit 1:30pm

19th Oct - Paulet Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

20<sup>th</sup> Oct – Be Bright to Be Seen Day

23rd - 27th October – half term

30th October - INSET Day

7<sup>th</sup> November – Yr. 3 Church visit 1:30pm

9<sup>th</sup> November – White Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

10<sup>th</sup> November – Space Dome for Yr. 5 in hall

13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November – Friendship week

13<sup>th</sup> November – Odd socks day

17<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need Day

21<sup>st</sup> November – Yr. 5 Church visit 1:30pm

22<sup>nd</sup> November – Yr. 3 Iron Age day

23<sup>rd</sup> November – Nelson Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

27<sup>th</sup> November – F.O.O.B.S Christmas market

28<sup>th</sup> November – Yr. 2 parents open morning 9:30-11:00am

7<sup>th</sup> December – Dickens Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

14<sup>th</sup> December – Class Christmas parties – pm

14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Carol Concert at Church 6pm

15<sup>th</sup> December – End of term Church visits, timings tbc

15<sup>th</sup> December - Last day of term

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 – INSET Day

3<sup>rd</sup> January – First day of new term