

Church of England Junior School

No: 2 22nd 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&gcatid=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.

Year 3 Transition Survey

Than you for the response to the recent transition survey sent to parents of Year 3 pupils. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and we thank you for your lovely comments.

'Brilliant school, my son is really enjoying his time here.'

'Thank you for all the hard work that was put in to ensuring that the children felt ready to start juniors and during these first few weeks to get them in and settled.'

'Keep doing the good things.'

'Really appreciate the extra effort to help with settling in.'

'Excellent start to Year 3.'

'My son feels safe and valued at St Mary's school.'

'Thank you for a great start to year 3.'

It was great to also read comments that have allowed us to review some arrangements for the future and we hope that some specific comments/concerns have been addressed in recent communications.

Parent Briefing Meetings

All year groups have now held their curriculum briefing meetings. It was lovely to see so many of you attend. Information from these meetings can be found in the relevant year group section of the 'Our Curriculum' area on the school website which can be accessed via this link:

https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Curriculum&pid=28

If you have any questions about the curriculum, or arrangements for your child this year, please contact their class teacher.

Governors' Corner

At St Mary's we firmly believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. So while Mrs Lillywhite together with Miss Bunkle, Mr Gibbs and Mrs Parsons are the Designated and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: we all share responsibility. As lead Governor for Safeguarding, I help to monitor different aspects related to keeping everyone safe, but it is a duty that the whole governing body shares. On the first INSET day, at the beginning of term, I joined all the school staff for a whole morning where we had training, presentations and discussions on Safeguarding, including the updates to National Guidance. Throughout the year, the School staff have regular reminders as do the Governors. More information about Safeguarding is on the school website. For use in School there is a very helpful Child Friendly version of the Safeguarding Policy.

Philip Hiorns (Foundation Governor)

Parents Evening 11th and 12th October

Please save these dates, more information will be coming out to you on Monday in regards to booking your appointment. We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing your child's successes so far this term.

Open Afternoon and Morning for Year 2 Parents

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.

This year's dates are:

9th October 2023 starting at 1:30pm and finishing around 3:00pm.

28th November 2023 starting at 9.30am and finishing around 11:00am.

If for any reason you are unable to make one of these dates, please contact the school office on 01256 465092 or adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk and we will try our best to arrange an alternative date.

Please note that applications for places will need to be completed online through the Hampshire admissions website and applications close in January 2024.

Safeguarding updates

As part of our annual review of our safeguarding procedures we have updated our Child Protection Policy and safeguarding Procedures. Both of these documents are on the policies page of our website.

https://www.st-marys-

jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies%26%23160%3B+%26amp%3B%26%23160%3BPremiums&pid=22

Time to Shine Day - 'Be Bright To Be Seen'

On Sunday 29th October British Summer times ends and sadly those clocks will go back. On Friday 20th 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 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 8th 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 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

30th October 2023 2nd January 2024 19th February 2024 24th 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 3rd 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 9th October - No after school clubs this week 9th October - Yr. 2 parents open afternoon 1:30-3pm 11th October - Whole school Flu Jabs 11th Oct - Parents' Evenings (no clubs) 12th Oct - Parents' Evening (no clubs) w/c 16th 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 20th Oct – Be Bright to Be Seen Day

23rd - 27th October – half term 30th October - INSET Day

7th November – Yr. 3 Church visit1:30pm 9th November – White Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm 10th November – Space Dome for Yr. 5 in hall 13th-17th November – Friendship week 13th November – Odd socks day 17th November - Children in Need Day 21st November – Yr. 5 Church visit 1:30pm 22nd November – Yr. 3 Iron Age day 23rd November – Nelson Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm 27th November – F.O.O.B.S Christmas market 28th November – Yr. 2 parents open morning 9:30-11:00am 7th December – Dickens Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm 14th December - Class Christmas parties - pm 14th December – Christmas Carol Concert at Church 6pm 15th December – End of term Church visits, timings tbc 15th December - Last day of term

2nd January 2024 – INSET Day 3rd January – First day of new term