



Church of England Junior School

No: 3
6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am not sure where the last 5 weeks have gone, we are now fast approaching the end of the first term.

School has been as busy as always over the last two weeks. Last week our Year 6 pupils took part in Bikeability training. Bikeability cycle training equips children with vital life skills. Pupils not only learn to cycle, they gain independence, social skills and a sense of wellbeing.



It was lovely to see our first sharing assembly of the year yesterday – well done Nightingale class you all did a fantastic job and it was clear how you have already built a great sense of team work within your class.

On Tuesday, I attended the Friends of Old Basing School's (F.O.O.B.S) AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the core committee members and those in the wider committee who give of their own time to plan and run events for the school community in order to raise a substantial amount of money for both schools. Without their donations we would be unable to afford some of the nicer things we have in school!

Last year donations went towards new playground markings, the basketball court and posts and towards new interactive white boards. We are forever grateful for their efforts. On Tuesday we were presented with our donation for this year which was an incredible amount. Last year over £28,000 was raised to split between the two schools – a phenomenal amount. Thank you again to all members F.O.O.B.S and to all of you who continue to support their funding events.

This week in AoW we have moved onto our value of Perseverance. As part of this we have considered how we can learn from our mistakes and persevere in terms of being the best person we can be. Next week we continue thinking about our value of perseverance. It was lovely to welcome Reverend Jo into school to lead one of our Act's of Worship last week after retuning from her holiday and we look forward to seeing her in school regularly.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school next week for parents evening and also looking forward to the F.O.O.B.S fun run on Sunday, I hope the weather stays fine for all our runners!

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>

Winter Uniform

After half term we move into winter uniform. This means that polo shirts and summer dresses will now have to be packed away. **Shirts and ties will need to be worn by all children**, as well as their sweatshirts.

Please make sure that all ties are clearly marked with your child's name.

As per previous communications please ensure your child is wearing only plain black tracksuit bottoms over their green shorts for PE, no patterns or other colours please.

Harvest Food Bank Collection

On behalf of the Basingstoke Food Bank we would like to say thank you for all of your kind donations. Without the continued efforts of people like yourselves, they would not be able to offer help to local people who are in financial crisis, especially at the moment. We are delighted to share that our school community donated an amazing 191kgs, this is equivalent to 455 meals! Thank you to Mrs Baldwin who transported all of our donations to the foodbank.



Applying for a Secondary School place Yr 7

Please remember that you need to get your applications for secondary school in by **31st October**.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

Sharing Assemblies, Church visits and other events

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that you are welcome to attend your child's class sharing assembly and year Group Church Act of Worships. Dates for these are advertised in our newsletters and take place throughout the year. Class Sharing Assemblies are held in the school starting at 2:45pm. Year Group Church visits, which you are also welcome to attend, take place at 1:30pm at St Mary's Church.

We also warmly invite any parents to join us for our termly Eucharist services held in school for pupils in Yr. 5 and 6 (parents from Yr. 3 and 4 are welcome to attend these too) and these dates will be included in our calendar dates.

Governors' Corner

At the end of last term two of our governors, Reverend Jo Mulliner (ex-officio governor) and Aude Jarrett (foundation governor), visited school to look at our school values in action. They produced a lovely report following their visit, which can be found on our website using this link and attached to this newsletter:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/news/?pid=195&nid=2&storyid=775>

Visiting school, looking at areas of the curriculum and our school ethos is a large part of the role of our governors.

'It is very apparent that the school as a whole and each classrooms display a strong emphasis on the school values. Varied and wonderful ways of showing these were observed, for example as posters, value awards, value rewards as shown in pictures. The school website also very clearly demonstrate its commitment to the values'

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 – Online Safety

We have seen an increase in the number of children who tell us they have created YouTube accounts and many children say they frequently watch videos on YouTube on their devices at home.

The dangers of sharing videos are explained to the children in our Online Safety lessons, and children know they should be 13+ to create a YouTube account of their own. We strongly recommend this is adhered to.

However, we understand that many children see YouTuber as a career goal, and view creating a channel as the first steps to achieve this. YouTube Kids is a safer option, but still requires contributors to be 13+.

Here is a useful guide to support safe use of YouTube as a viewer and a contributor:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/youtube-tips-and-tricks-to-keep-your-children-entertained-and-safe>

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!

Coffee Mornings

Parent and Carer Coffee Mornings

Our half-termly coffee mornings are an opportunity for parents to get together, share ideas and challenges over a cup of coffee (and biscuits!)

Miss Bunkle (our SENCo), Mrs Alvarez (our ELSA) and Mrs Squire (Behaviour Support LSA) are also on hand to chat about issues.

Meet us 9am to 10.30am on:

Tuesday 10th October

Tuesday 5th December

Tuesday 6th February

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 7th May

Tuesday 2nd July



F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S!

The F.O.O.B.S Trail & Fun Run is back this Sunday! Online entries will have closed by the time you read this, but we will also be accepting entries on the day, so there's still plenty of time to get yourself and your children signed up! Dare I say the forecast is looking good for this weekend, so we are optimistic for good weather for running and a BBQ! If anyone would like to donate cakes, either baked or bought, for the refreshments stall they can be brought down to the tearoom at the Rec on the day and will be gratefully received. If you are able to provide any 'free from' cakes, this would also be appreciated as we have a number of children who have allergies. In addition, please avoid any nuts or nut-based ingredients. If the baked goods are homemade, please include a list of ingredients for those with allergies.

Attendance

At the end of September whole school attendance was 97.5%. Here at St Mary's Junior School we want to ensure every child has the best chance to be successful and we therefore value high attendance. Good school attendance habits are best started early. We are noticing an increase in the number of requests for term time holiday. Please do check our attendance policy before consider applying for a leave of absence.

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

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

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

10th October – Coffee morning 9-10:30am

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

20th Oct – Be Bright to Be Seen Day

23rd - 27th October – half term

30th October - INSET Day

7th November – Yr. 3 Church visit 1:30pm

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

16th November – Paulet Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

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

5th December – Coffee morning 9-10:30am

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