

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 4
20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of our first half term – the colder weather this week and the darker evenings have certainly made it feel like autumn has arrived! I hope that you all have a lovely half term break and I look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 31st October (remember Monday 30th is an INSET day.)

Teachers really enjoyed meeting with you all during parents' evening. It was lovely for them to share your child's achievements so far. Do contact your child's teacher if you ever have any concerns, please do not wait until the spring parents' evening.

This week Year 6 have been in Calshot for their residential, they have had a great time learning new skills and they have made many lasting memories. It was lovely to go and visit them all on Wednesday evening for dinner and the evening activities – they managed to stop some eggs breaking during egg drop! You will be able to see photos of their adventures on the website in our photo gallery. May I take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who accompanied them on this trip giving up some of their own time.



Don't forget that the clocks go back on Sunday 29th October. This means that as well as dark mornings we will start to see the evenings getting darker as well. Our 'Be bright to be seen' Day today reminded the children about being visible when out and about. As parents, you may want to back this up with some further road safety work with your children over the holidays. Please also keep yourselves safe. Below are some links you may find useful to share with your children:

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

This week in AoW we moved onto our value of Curiosity. We thought about the wonderful world God created for us and how we can use our senses to appreciate the beauty of nature around us and to be more curious about our surroundings. Maybe next week, whilst out and about, take a moment to stop and ask your child what they can see or hear - we often miss so much on our busy commutes to work or while ferrying our children to various clubs and activities! Perhaps you would enjoy walking the Basing Trail over half term. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/rh/walking/basing-trail.pdf>

Finally, if there are any keen gardeners among you who would like to donate a planted winter hanging basket or pot/container for the front of the school and for our courtyard please contact the school office, it would be lovely to have some nice flowers to welcome everyone to our school!

Winter Uniform

After half term we move into winter uniform. **Shirts and ties will need to be worn by all children**, as well as their sweatshirts. Please make sure that all uniform is clearly marked with your child's name. We had a huge amount of unnamed lost property at the end of last half term to dispose of, if it is named it will be returned. 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.

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>

Open Morning for Year 2 Parents

We will be holding a second Open Morning for prospective new parents on 28th November 2023 at 9:30am. This will give you the opportunity to tour the school, see us in action and a chance to find out more about what you and your child can expect from St Mary's.

Please note that applications for places need to be completed online through the Hampshire admissions website and applications for Year 3 places close in January 2024.

Message from Basingstoke Library

Just to let you know we are still running our 'Books and Brunch' scheme, aimed at children age 4-11 and their families needing support with food poverty or cost of living issues. It is for those eligible for free school meals and enables each child to access up to 3 library books selected for them by library staff and a free brunch bag once a week. Any queries, please contact Kim Hawker: kim.hawker@hants.gov.uk.

Jenny Birtchnell

Library Team Assistant

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Governors' Corner

Last week I helped welcome prospective parents of children currently in year 2. They were thoroughly impressed, as was I, with the year 6 pupil pairs who took them round the school for a 15min visit. It was heartwarming to see how well behaved, polite and proud of their school they were.

Mrs Lillywhite and Mr Gibbs then did a presentation that showed St Mary's in its best light of course, but they mentioned that despite receiving an outstanding rating from Ofsted, they certainly didn't rest on their laurels and are striving to constantly improve. Indeed, our world is forever changing and therefore the school needs to continue to evolve to reflect this.

Our environment, technology and mindsets are different than a few years ago and will be different from the future ones. It is therefore reassuring to see and hear that our leadership team is a dynamic one.

One parent told me at the end that their child seems too young and small to be a year 3 and this made me think about my own children's journey through St Mary's. It has flashed by my eyes but they have thrived here and I feel very grateful as I helped pack my youngest for a week at Calshot, the annual rite of passage for the year 6s.

The year 6 teachers' briefing beforehand reassured a lot of anxious parents when they said that "don't worry, your children will be loved". This to me epitomises what our school is about: One Family where love is the most important value of all.

Aude Jarrett, Foundation Governor

Safeguarding updates – Online Safety

With half term upon us, I thought it relevant to share some handy tips for parents when it comes to managing children's screen time and helping them to access age-appropriate content.

If you are worried about the amount of time your child spends in front of a screen or are looking at ways to manage screen time, Internet Matters have produced a great video with suggestions. You can view this [here](#).

The internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content. This can be fun and entertaining for children, but it does mean your child may see something that is intended for adults. Find out what to do if [you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or what to do [if they already have](#).

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests.

Sporting Competitions

It has been great to see pupils representing the school in inter school sports this term. Our Table Tennis team represented the school really well last week at Aldworth School. See our website for the full write up. We are looking forward to some Tag Rugby, Football and Netball competitions after the half term break.

Tesco Chineham Halloween Colouring Competition

If your child would like to draw a Halloween themed picture over half term it can be dropped in to Customer Services in Tesco Chineham before 28th October to enter their competition! The winner will be drawn at the Halloween Party on October 28th at the Clock Tower. Please put your name, age and telephone number on the back of your drawing.

Children in Need 2024

We will once again be supporting the Children In Need Appeal with a non-uniform day on Friday 17th November. We would love to see as many people as possible celebrating the charities spotty theme by being 'SPOTacular'. Can you create your spottiest outfit to support this great charity?

Remembrance

As usual, we will be supporting the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Children will be able to buy poppies and various other items from after half term, we will send out further details when we have them. We will be arranging for representatives from our school to lay a wreath at St Mary's Church and at the War Memorial in town as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations.

As a school, we will be marking Remembrance Day as usual on the 10th November with a special assembly and a minute's silence.

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 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! A massive well done to all those who took part in the Trail and Fun Runs, what a fantastic day! We raised a fantastic amount of money, over £3000! Thank you to all of the volunteers who made it possible, especially to the staff from both schools and run committee for your hard work! Photos of the day are available to view and download on the F.O.O.B.S. website www.foobs.weebly.com

The September F.O.O.B.S. lotto winner was ticket 160, winning £128.50, congratulations! You have been contacted by email to arrange payment. Anyone who isn't yet part of the lotto and would like to be, please contact us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com

Our next F.O.O.B.S. activities will be Santa Letters and Christmas Markets, more information will follow after half term.

School Dinners

A reminder that dinner money should be paid in advance through SCOPAY. Please note the picnic option has now finished and will be replaced with a jacket potato option after half term.

Options for the first day back (Tuesday 31st October) are as follows:

- Tomato Pasta
- Italian Style Chicken Goujons
- Jacket Potato with Plant Based Sausages and Beans

The school's menu for jacket potatoes is attached to this newsletter and the new menu for next half term for other hot meal options can be found using this link:

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

If your child has a special dietary menu you can view their new menu through the HC3S portal, to which you should have access.

Attendance

At the end of this half term, whole school attendance was 97.3%. 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.

Parking

Please can we remind you to park considerably along local roads during drop off and pick up and not block our neighbour's driveways and use all available space in the parent car park.

Village Pantomime

Attached to this newsletter is information about the upcoming village pantomime – ‘Tale of Dick Wittington.’ Tickets will be available to purchase in the Village Cafe on Friday 20 October and Friday 3 November and also in the school reception area until 4pm on Wednesday 1st November and Wednesday 8th November

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

23rd - 27th October – half term

30th October - INSET Day

31st October – First day back

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

7th November – Yr. 4 Anglo Saxon showcase to parents from 3:30pm

7th November – Yr. 5 Parents Calshot Meeting 6pm

9th November – White Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

10th November – Space Dome for Yr. 5 in hall

10th November – Yr. 4 Viking Day

13th-17th November – Friendship week

13th November – Odd socks day

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

17th November – Children in Need Day – non uniform 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