

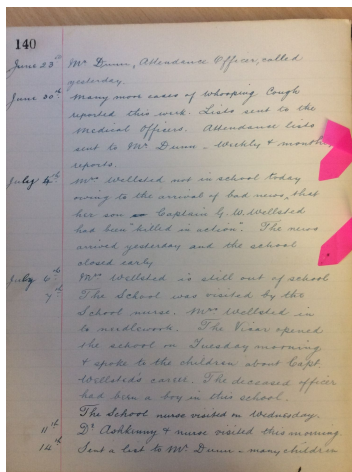
# St Mary's

## Church of England Junior School

No: 6  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to the families who represented the two Old Basing Schools at Remembrance Sunday Services last weekend. Wreaths were laid at the War Memorial in town and at St Mary's Church. In school last week we shared the story of Captain J.G. W. Wellsted, a former pupil of the school and the son of two teachers here. Our school log book from 1915 states: *"July 4<sup>th</sup>, Mrs Wellsted not in school today owing to the arrival of bad news that her son, Captain James G. W. Wellsted had been 'killed in action'. The news arrived yesterday and the school closed early."* The author was the husband of Mrs Wellsted and the father of James. Devastating news for the parents who were both in the employment of the school. His name lives on as part of the Old Basing war memorial today & in the hearts of the school community and a local family.



This week has seen our annual 'Friendship Week' at St Mary's to mark national 'Anti Bullying Week'. Pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities around friendship and anti bullying. The week started with Odd Socks Day, there were many brightly coloured socks on show! Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week and is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves, and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! Images of our odd sock collection can be found here on our website: <https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=7&qcatid=58&albumid=700>

Last Wednesday our Junior Choir joined choirs from The Costello School, Rucstall Primary School, Great Binfields Primary School and Fairfield's Primary School in a concert held at Costello school. Thank you Mrs Malone for organising this event. I was thrilled to receive the following, message from the deputy head teacher of one of the others schools. *'I just wanted to drop a quick email to say well done to the children and staff from your school who were involved with the Costello Choir event. I was in attendance and thought your school put on a fantastic performance'*. Well done to all of the children involved.

Year 5 pupils enjoyed a visit from the Science Dome last week to enhance their learning about space and planets and on Friday Year 4 enjoyed their Viking Day. Thank you for helping with costumes – they were great!

This week we had our termly Eucharist Service for Years 5 and 6 and we were joined by members of the St Mary's congregation. Reverend Jo led the service, on the theme of compassion. The children behaved beautifully during the service and were a credit to you all.

Today has seen a sea of spots in school for Children In Need! Thank you to those of you who helped find the spottiest possible clothing in the wardrobe and to those who got creative with stickers, pom-poms and pens! We are thrilled to share that our fundraising total for this great charity currently stands at an amazing £341 – well done St Mary's!

There is still time to donate using this link:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1699439008750?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fst-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1699439008750&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1699439008750?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fst-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1699439008750&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

Finally, a massive well done to Davies class! After studying natural disasters in their Geography learning this term, the class wanted to raise some money for The British Red Cross who have been supporting those affected by the recent earthquakes in Morocco. On Tuesday they donned their waterproofs and wellies, grabbed a bucket and sponge and held a car wash for staff. They raised a fantastic £120. To add to their efforts S4 Financial Ltd, offered to match the funds they raised making a grand total of £240! Well done Davies class and thank you S4 Financial Ltd for their support. My car has never looked so clean!

### **Spotlight Christmas Toy Appeal**

A reminder that we are supporting Spotlight's Toy Appeal by being a collection point to help ensure that as far as possible, all children in our local area receive a present this year. Items do need to be new and unwrapped. Donations can be brought into school until 12<sup>th</sup> December. Please do spread the word around different organisations and work places as anyone can use the school as a donation hub. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

### **Year 5 Parents Calshot 2024 Information**

If you were unable to attend the recent information evening about the 2024 Year 6 Calshot residential trip, please follow this link for details,

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Years+5+%26amp%3B+6&pid=30>

### **Emergency Contact Details**

Please can we ask all parents to ensure that you update the office with any changes to emergency contact details and please ensure that the school has at least two emergency contact names and numbers for your child including any work numbers.

### **Governors' Corner**

As governors we are required to keep our knowledge and skills updated. Fortunately we are really well supported by Hampshire governor services who supply an extensive range of training. Governors can sign up individually to attend training sessions, but every year we have a whole governing body training session. These are great sessions where the governors come together without being driven by items on a committee agenda. We select a particular topic and receive focused training around that topic. This year's session was "Working as a team". It was fun and gave a fascinating insight into the types of people we have in the governing body. The outcome was - by understanding those types we can adapt our styles, helping us work more effectively together as a group of governors.

If you are interested in becoming a governor, please contact the school office.

Phil Jubin

Foundation governor & Development Training Governor.

### **Safeguarding update – Online Safety**

Although the age for having an account is 16, we are aware that many pupils have WhatsApp accounts and are in multiple WhatsApp groups. If your child uses WhatsApp or other online messaging platforms the following link provide parents with tips and advice as to how to manage and supervise children's online activity.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Internet-Matters-Age-Guide-11-13-Jan23.pdf>

### **Christmas Events**

Yes it's only November, but the festive season is fast approaching so here are a few dates for your diaries! Please do read and take on board all of these dates and arrangements for our festive celebrations. (Parents/carers of pupils involved in the various choir and orchestra events have already been sent information about these.)

- **F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market**

We are excited to once again hold the F.O.O.B.S Christmas market on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, information has already come out about this from F.O.O.B.S. Thank you for all the donations made for this event.

- **Carol Concert**

We are currently working on putting together our annual Christmas Carol Concert which will be held in the church on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 6:00pm, we look forward to welcoming you to this special service.

- **Christmas Cards**

The children at St Mary's have traditionally loved using the communal post boxes to post cards to friends and staff. The Christmas post boxes will be out from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December from which date cards can be brought in to post. Please make sure that envelopes are marked with full names and classes to help our Year 6 prefects distribute them!

- **Christmas Parties**

All classes will have their Christmas party during the afternoon of Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We ask for children to bring in their own individual small box/bag of 'party food' for them to enjoy during the party. Please note this is in addition to their normal packed lunch or school dinner. This day will also be a non-uniform/Christmas jumper day and we look forward to seeing lots of festive attire.

- **Christmas Dinner**

Finally, thank you for returning your children's Christmas dinner orders already. Our annual Christmas lunch will be held on the last day of term, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July



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

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! Thank you very much for your donations of gifts and cash for the Christmas Markets. We are very excited about running these events that the children enjoy so much and we couldn't do it without your support, so thank you! If anyone has any Christmas wrapping paper that they are able to donate, please could you drop it off at the Junior school office before 1<sup>st</sup> December. The Infants children will be making their own wrapping paper in class so donations are not required for the Infants school, thank you.

Letter to Santa Kits are currently on sale via the F.O.O.B.S. website for £2.50 each. Additional kits can be purchased for non-school siblings too. Sales will close on Sunday at 8pm. [www.foobs.weebly.com](http://www.foobs.weebly.com)

### News from St Mary's Church

#### **8th/9th/10th December - Christmas Tree Festival**

Plans are now well underway for St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. The theme of The Holly & the Ivy will be celebrated in a wonderful selection of Christmas Trees decorated by members of the Old Basing and Lychpit community and will be on display in the Church during our Festival weekend. All are welcome to

enter a tree. For further information please contact Debbie, St Mary's Administrator on 07541 698235, email [admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk).

### **Friday 8th December, 7pm Christmas Sing-a-Long**

We will start the Festival with a rousing time amongst the trees singing a mixture of both traditional Christmas Carols and popular Christmas Songs during the evening in the Church.

Tickets (£5 adults, £2.50 children, £12.50 for a family of up to 4 children) are available from Debbie. Saturday & Sunday 11am - 4pm

Over both days of the festival there will be activities for all the family including a Christmas Market. Hot food and refreshments will be available including mulled wine and mince pies.

We look forward to the Old Basing Schools' choirs providing the musical entertainment on Saturday @ 11:30am – followed by Soak the Elf (Rev. Jo), with the Old Basing Royal British Legion Corps of Drums joining us at 2pm on the Sunday.

Please tell your family and friends and come along to start the festive celebrations.

*Reverend Jo*

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**

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Please note additional dates for Music events for the Christmas period have been sent separately to all children involved**

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

27<sup>th</sup> November – Yr. 5 Music trip to Winchester College (pm)

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

5<sup>th</sup> December – Coffee morning 9-10:30am

7<sup>th</sup> December – Yr. 6 Weighing & Measuring

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

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church

14<sup>th</sup> December – Class Christmas parties – pm (Christmas jumper day)

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