

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 7
1st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy two weeks at St Mary's. Last week saw the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the school council, well done to all those who stood and gave a speech in front of the whole the school. It was lovely to see how confident they all were. Year 3 enjoyed their Iron Age day last Wednesday. The visit from 'Iron Age Matt' enriched their learning and they particularly enjoyed the warrior training.

The children enjoyed shopping at the F.O.O.B.S Christmas Market on Monday morning – I am not sure the class teachers enjoyed the wrapping afterwards as much! Thank you for your donations for this event and for your continued support of FO.O.B.S. Thank you too to the committee members and volunteers who helped organise and run the market.

Year 5 enjoyed their visit to Winchester College to listen to a concert performed by students at the school. One pupil commented that their favourite part was the drumming, because the player was so talented!

Yesterday afternoon, Year 6 were entertained by Hobgoblin Theatre Company who came into school to perform a version of 'A Christmas Carol'. Year 6 have enjoyed reading extracts of this classic text and learning more about the work of Dickens. The production this week has helped them develop more of an insight into the characters, themes and conventions in the story.

We are looking forward to a busy time for music at St Mary's starting with the Junior Choir performing at the Winchester Christmas Market this weekend. This is an amazing opportunity for the children to sing in such a lovely setting, thank you to the staff who are helping Mrs Malone on Sunday. Next week we have our annual Christmas concert in school and on Thursday the Orchestra are performing at 'Christmas in the courtyard' at the Lychpit centre and next Saturday our Junior Choir will perform at the church Christmas tree festival.



Last week, when talking about the theme of Respect in Act of Worship, Mr Gibbs set the whole school a challenge to create their own class rainbow tree to show how we are all different and special and that we all deserve to be respected and celebrated. The classes all put their own unique stamp on their tree and they have come together to make a beautiful display for all to enjoy. Images of the trees can be seen on our website here:

<https://www.st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk/gallery/?pid=7&gcatid=58&albumid=704>

Governors' Corner

Governor meetings at the school are always varied and interesting and, as a parent governor, always leave you feeling pleased that your child attends a school where so much care and thought goes into their education. This is all the more prevalent during the Learning and Ethos committee meetings which open with a presentation by a subject leader to update the governors on how their subject is taught throughout the school and their action plan going forward. So far this year we have heard from Madame Quick about the fantastic French provision the school offers and from Mr King about the school's reading curriculum and recent changes the school have made in this area. We value hearing about the curriculum but, more importantly, it is our opportunity as a sub committee to question and challenge the subject leader on behalf of the whole governing body - an important part of governance within a school.

Andy Grayson – Parent Governor and Chair of Learning and Ethos Committee

Safeguarding

At St Mary's we firmly believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. No single person can have a full picture of a child's needs and circumstances. If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action - this includes members of the public. You can contact Hampshire Children's Services by calling 0300 555 1384 or emailing childrens.services@hants.gov.uk

There are also a range of other agencies you can contact for advice and support:

- [Hampshire Police](#) - for non-emergencies phone 101
- [NSPCC](#) - phone 0800 800 5000
- [Crimestoppers](#) can be contacted anonymously with any information about crime - phone 0800 555 111
- [Childline](#) - phone 0800 1111

Spotlight Christmas Toy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has donated a toy to the Spotlight Toy appeal, we have had donations from many people in the school and local community. Donations can still be dropped off until 12th December.

Christmas at The Courtyard

We are excited that the school orchestra is performing at this event on Thursday 7th December. It would be great to see you many of you there!

Year 3 Applications for September 2024

The application window for applications into Year 3 in September 2024 is open. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2024.

F.O.O.B.S. news

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! We had a great time at the Christmas Markets this week! We hope the children enjoyed them as much as we did and have managed to keep the gifts they have chosen a surprise! Thank you again for everyone's support in helping us run this event.

For those that purchased them, Letter to Santa kits should have come home this week. Don't forget to send your letters into school next week!

Christmas Events

A reminder of the Christmas Events Still to come!

• **Carol Concert**

We are currently working on putting together our annual Christmas Carol Concert which will be held in the church on Thursday 14th 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 have been put out today! 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 14th 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**

Our annual Christmas lunch will be held on the last day of term, Friday 15th 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 5th December

Tuesday 6th February

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 7th May

Tuesday 2nd July



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.

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 (Revd. 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

2nd January 2024

19th February 2024

24th 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

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

7th December – Yr. 6 Weighing & Measuring

7th December – Dickens Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

8th-10th December – Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church

14th December – Class Christmas parties – pm (Christmas jumper day)

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

4th January – Hampshire Music Service Inset Day (no music lessons)

10th January – Yr. 5 Swimming (am)

12th January – Yr. 3 Disco F.O.O.B.S

16th January – Yr. 6 Church visit 1:30pm

17th January – Yr. 5 Swimming

18th January – Mitchell Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

23rd January – Yr. 6 SAT's info evening

24th January – Yr. 5 Swimming

25th January – Russell Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

26th January – Yr. 6 Movie Night F.O.O.B.S (details to follow)

30th January – Yr. 4 Church visit 1:30pm

31st January – Yr. 6 visit to Woking Mosque

31st January – Yr. 5 Swimming

31st January – Open the Box Theatre company visiting Yr. 3

5th-9th February – Yr. 3 Show week

5th-9th February – No after school clubs this week

7th February – Yr. 5 Swimming

9th February – F.O.O.B.S Dare to be Different Day

12th-16th February – Half Term

19th February INSET Day

20th February – First day of new half term