



Church of England Junior School

No: 12

1st March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The start of this half term has started well, children have come back after the half term break eager to learn.

This week Year 4 got to visit the 'French Café' This is one of our favourite enrichment days. Please do read Madame Quick's report - thank you Madame Quick for organising such a fun morning.

Last week Year 3 began their new History topic with a trip to the Roman Museum! (The year 3 teachers did a very good job of creating our museum!) They enjoyed looking at many different artefacts and asked many questions.

Well done Davies class for a lovely sharing assembly this week, your last one at St Mary's! It is always lovely to see how much confidence the children have gained in their time at St Marys when you see them in their final assembly.

Next week, to mark World Book Day, we will have our annual Book Week. Over the next week each class, or year group, will look at a different picture book. Teachers have planned lots of interesting activities based on the books, including drama, art and written responses. This year, each book chosen has an aspect of inclusion or diversity within them through the characters or context. We look forward to sharing the book titles and some work from the week in our next newsletter. Look out for information coming out on Monday about our 'bedside table' reading challenge and my children's book challenge!

Good luck to anyone entering the F.O.O.B.S quiz this weekend – there has been some revision going on in the staff room from those going along!

Finally, it is lovely to be able to share with you that Mr Gibbs and his wife welcomed a beautiful baby girl last week, they are all doing well and settling into life as a three. Welcome to the St Mary's family Olivia Ivy!

French Café

Mercredi 28 février

The year four children really enjoyed their French experience at school! The children had differing activities to attend. They all experienced a maths lesson with Madame Pressner where they looked at French menus and made calculations on what they might buy. Next, the children had more musical fun with Madame Malone. They enjoyed singing many songs in French as well as some tongue twisters! The third activity was to experience a French café with Madame Quick. Six pupils from Year 9 at The Costello School came to help and serve our children. The children were so lucky to have so much to choose from. They had the choice of baguette, pain au chocolat, pain aux raisins, pain à la crème pâtissière, and croissant. They could also order drinks in French too. Some very adventurous children tried the sirop de citron! Huge thanks to Mrs Rudman and Mrs Bond for assisting Yr 4 throughout the morning.

Once the café was finished, the children had the chance to hear Stewart Lewin play his accordion to them. It was wonderful to listen to and really helped to end the morning in a superb and stunning fashion.

Thank you to Mrs Jarrett, The Costello School's staff and pupils and to Reverend Jo for coming in to help us.

A huge thank you must be said to Indigo Bakes at the Courtyard in Lychpit and also to The Street Bakeshop in the village. They baked for us and donated the most wonderful set of breads and pastries for our lucky children. We are so grateful. Thank you also to Tesco at Chineham for providing the drinks for the café.

It was lovely to see the children practising their language skills with the older children and how refreshing too that "merci" was heard many times! Bon appétit Year Four!

Louise Quick



School Values

Thank you to everyone who completed the values survey sent out before half term, it is really important to gauge parental views and opinions. School staff and governors worked with Sue Bowen, Education Advisor for the Dioceses on the INSET day in February looking at our current vision and values and to explore how we can move forward as a school community to ensure our values are relevant to our current cohorts and families, it is good practice to look at this regularly. We had a really great day with lots of food for thought! Please look out for further information coming out to you soon in relation to our school values and vision.

Sporting News

This week our Year 5/6 girls football team played really well against St Anne's, Mr King said they all put in a huge amount of effort and represented the school really well. Well done girls. This week also saw a netball fixture against Rucstall school, St Marys came home winners; as with the footballers, they all showed great sportsmanship and team work. We are looking forward to some tag rugby fixtures in the coming weeks.

Attendance

As of today the school's overall attendance stands at 96.6%. Congratulations to Davies Class with the highest attendance of 97.9 %.

Parents Evenings

These will be held on Wednesday 13th March and Thursday 14th March. You can book your appointment easily and electronically through SCOPAY. You will be able to choose a time slot that suits you when booking opens on Friday 1st March from 6pm. Bookings will close on Wednesday 6th March at 6pm.

Back to Basics

It was lovely to join in this event with parents and staff from Old Basing Infant school and Great Binfields Primary school. We hope that those of you who attended found it useful. Parenting is one of the hardest jobs and as parents, we won't always get it right. Remember we do the best we can for our own children and we need to remember that it is ok to seek advice and help when things are tricky. Having two children of my own who are currently navigating the world of transition to secondary school and the stresses the last few months of primary school brings, I know how challenging different stages of children's lives can be. You are all doing a great job.

If you want to find out more information about this please follow this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/back-to-basics>

Comic Relief 2024

Comic Relief is approaching!

On Friday 15th March we will be joining many others around the country to mark this day of fundraising. We will be raising money for Comic Relief by having a 'red dress-down day'. Please can everyone come to school wearing as much red as possible, but please no permanent hair dye – wash out spray is ok!

Parking

Once again we have had reports of inconsiderate and unsafe parking around the local road at school pick up and drop off times. This includes parking on double yellow lines and parking across resident's driveways. Sadly, we have also heard that residents have been subject to verbal abuse when they have asked people to move cars. We appreciate that parking can be difficult in the village and with an increasing number of pupils attending both schools from out of catchment, more parents/carers need to drive. Please be mindful and consider parking further away from school and walking.

Governors' Corner

At our recent Learning and Ethos committee meeting, Mrs Malone gave a short presentation to the governors about music at St Mary's. While it was obviously interesting and extremely useful to hear about the subject action plan and assessment tools, our main takeaway from the meeting was how lucky we are at St Mary's to offer such an extensive and rich music curriculum. From the amazingly ambitious weekly music lessons to the wealth of ensemble groups and other opportunities available to them, the children of St Mary's really do get to experience a music curriculum very few other schools offer - especially nowadays. We're very lucky to have Mrs Malone and a school ethos that supports her - long may it continue!

Andy Grayson, Parent Governor

F.O.O.B.S. News

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! Quiz Night tickets sales have now closed. Good luck to everyone taking part and we hope you have a great night!

Tickets go on sale next week for the Easter Fair being held at the Infants School on Saturday 23rd March. Also, the year 5 disco is being held next Friday (8th March). Tickets will be on sale next week. Please visit www.foobs.weebly.com to purchase your tickets!

Our stocks of second hand uniform are running low, especially for the larger sizes for each school. If you have any to donate, please contact us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com.

Coffee Mornings and Parental Support

Mrs Alvarez, Mrs Squire and Miss Bunkle will be at the next coffee morning which is 9am on Tuesday 12th March.

Meet us 9am to 10.30am on:
Tuesday 12th March
Tuesday 7th May (Joint with infant
Tuesday 2nd July



school)

Gemma Lillywhite
Headteacher

2023-24 INSET Days

24th May 2024

Dates for your Diary

2nd March – F.O.O.B.S Quiz Night

4th-8th March – Book week

5th March – SRE meeting (Yr. 6 parents) 3:30pm

7th March – Yr. 6 Shakespeare workshop (pm)

8th March – Yr. 5 Disco (F.O.O.B.S) 5-6:30pm

12th March – Coffee morning 9-10:30am

12th March – Yr. 5 Church visit 1:30pm

13th March – Parents Evening (details to follow)

14th March – Parents Evening (details to follow)

15th March – Red Nose Day

21st March – Austen Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

22nd March – Yr. 6 Poetry Slam (parents invited) am

23rd March – F.O.O.B.S. Easter Fair (details to follow)

25th March – Yr. 4 Paulet visit QMC Science Dept (am)

26th March – Yr. 4 visit QMC Science Dept – Wellington am, Nelson pm

27th March – End of term Church visits (pm) details to follow

28th March – Last day of term (normal finish time of 3:25pm)

29th March-12th April – Easter Holidays

15th April – First day of new term

17th April – Hampshire Music Service inset day (no HMS music lessons in school)

22nd April – Summer term after school clubs start

22nd April – Yr. 5 visit to Gordon Brown Centre White Class

23rd April – Yr. 5 visit to Gordon Brown Centre Mitchell Class

23rd April – Yr. 4 visit to Laverstoke Park Farm (Wellington & ½ of Nelson)

24th April – Yr. 4 visit to Laverstoke Park Farm (Paulet & ½ of Nelson)

24th April – Yr. 5 visit to Gordon Brown Centre Brunel Class

25th April – Conan Doyle Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

2nd May – Wellington Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

6th May – Bank Holiday (School closed)

7th May – Yr. 3 visit to Winchester Science Museum

13th-17th May – SAT's week for Yr. 6

17th May Yr. 4 Disco (F.O.O.B.S) 5-6:30pm

21st May – Yr. 6 Church visit 1:30pm

23rd May – Brunel Class Sharing Assembly 2:45pm

24th May – INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

27th-31st May – Half term

6th June – Sports Day

12th June – School Photos – Class & whole Year 6

13th June – Reserve Sports Day