

St Mary's

Church of England Junior School

No: 13

15th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all the donations for the F.O.O.B.S chocolate tombola, your support is greatly appreciated and we are looking forward to the Easter Fair next week. Thank you also to F.O.O.B.S for organising last week's Year 5 disco.

Book week last week was a great success with some lovely work being produced across the school. Each year group chose a picture book to lead their learning through the week; I hope that your children have talked about the books they studied.

Year 6 looked at 'The Barnabus Project' by Eric Fan - *In a world built for Perfect Pets, Barnabus is a Failed Project, half mouse, half elephant, kept out of sight until his dreams of freedom lead him and his misfit friends on a perilous adventure.*

In Year 5, pupils enjoyed sharing the book 'Ride the Wind' by Nicola Davies and Salvatore Rubbino - *A heartfelt story from the author of King of the Sky, The Day War Came and The Promise, with an important point to make about male mental health.*

Year 4 looked at 'Granny Came Here on the Empire Windrush' by Patrice Lawrence and Camilla Sucre - *This heart-warming and heartfelt debut picture book from multi-award-winning author, Patrice Lawrence, will help ensure that the struggles and achievements of the Windrush generation are never forgotten.*

Finally, the Year 3 classes all looked at 'Valentine's Guest House' by Sam Sharland- *When a tiger comes to stay at Valentine's guest house, the human visitors all check out in a rush. Luckily, the hotel soon starts to fill again - but with a very different collection of residents, all with new and differing needs. Elsie and Valentine make lots of changes to accommodate the new guests, and a very popular, accessible and unusual guest house results!*

As you can see all of the books chosen this year were selected to show diversity and inclusion, something we believe passionately about here at St Mary's and all of the children responded really well to the themes raised in the books.

As part of Book week, our Year 6 pupils headed to the infant school to read their favourite picture book to pupils in Reception, thank you Old Basing Infants for having us!

Year 6 enjoyed a visit from the Young Shakespeare Company last week who performed Midsummer's Night's Dream, they all enjoyed their afternoon.

This week Year 3 enjoyed their Roman Day, the bread they made in their DT smelt amazing and we loved seeing all of their costumes, thank you for supporting your child with this.

It has been a busy few weeks with lots for us to enjoy!



Music News

On Saturday 9th March, pupils from St Mary's performed in the annual Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival in the ensembles section. Orchestra, String Orchestra, Brass Band and Ukulele Club all performed alongside our friends from St Mark's Primary School. The adjudicator was incredibly complimentary about all four groups. They all came home with awards and first place certificates with commended or distinction.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event and especially thank you to Mrs Malone for once again being at the helm and being a champion for music in our local area.

Prayer Space

Next week we are excited to share that we will have our first 'Prayer Space' at St Mary's. This will run from Tuesday 19th March - Thursday 28th March.

A prayer space is usually a classroom sized area that has been transformed for a few days with a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection on issues such as forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, big questions, identity and stillness. Children will have the opportunity to visit the 'Prayer Space' in small groups on two occasions over the 8 days and pupils are also welcome to visit the prayer space voluntarily at other times.

We would welcome any volunteers (who have a DBS check with the school) to help run our Prayer Space. Groups of children will always visit with one of the teachers or learning support assistants, but it would be great to have other adults present to support the pupils in accessing the different activities.

Prayer Space will run at various times as in a letter sent out on Monday. If you are able to help at all at any of the sessions, please contact the school office.

We really appreciate your support.

Comic Relief

The school was a sea of red today for Comic Relief – thank you for all of your donations so far. If you haven't yet made a donation please do so via this link:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1710411000255?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fst-marys-ce-junior-school-old-basing-1710411000255&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

Parents Evenings

It was lovely to see many of you at parents evening. Mrs Quick really enjoyed being here again and talking to you about your children's French lessons. Please do contact your class teacher if you have any worries or concerns before the end of the year, as there will not be a parents evening in the summer term.

School Values

If you haven't completed our schools values survey sent out on a form via Parent Mail on Monday please do so, your contribution is really valued.

Attendance

As of today the school's overall attendance stands at 96.6%. Congratulations to Conan Doyle Class with the highest attendance of 97.8 %.

Anxiety Workshop

We welcomed Primary Behaviour Support Service into school on Wednesday to run a parents workshop on anxiety. It was lovely to welcome parents from Old Basing Infant School and Great Binfields Primary School. PBS will be running this workshop again on Wednesday 24th April 6:30pm-7:45pm at Great Binfields Primary School. Members of St Mary's School staff will be present. Please use this link or QR code to book a space if you haven't already booked on.



https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ehrpnaGn_U-DffOAw45I2EsA8xCuGZREpmBSiYA03vIUN1BPU1NJMVlwWk5YMIU2U0xKWTIINFBNQy4u

Governors' Corner

On 29th February, I had the pleasure of visiting St Mary's in my role as Parent Governor. It was the first time I had visited during the school day as a governor and it was a really fantastic morning.

When I arrived, I could hear the school orchestra practising down the corridor and though I didn't see it for myself, I was impressed by the huge variety of instruments being played by the young people at St. Mary's. We all know what a fantastic reputation the school has for its music provision and it's no wonder with the dedication of all of the pupils and Mrs Malone.

I then met Mrs Lillywhite to have a discussion about the exciting plans she has in store for the school such as new play equipment for the children and thinking about ways she hopes to transform some of the outdoor areas for learning and having fun.

Mrs Lillywhite then kindly took me on a tour of the school to see some of the fabulous lessons in action and I even was able to go into some lessons and talk to the pupils about what they were learning. I was very proud to see my own son enjoying a Computing lesson where the class were using software called 'Scratch' to practise programming. Around the school I also saw a range of subjects and even a French lesson where pupils were practising conjugation of French verbs using dice!

All in all, I was thoroughly impressed with everything I saw at St. Mary's that morning and I want to say a huge thank you and well done to all the staff and pupils.

Mr White

Parent Governor

F.O.O.B.S. News

We are really looking forward to the F.O.O.B.S. Easter Extravaganza next Saturday (23rd March) at the Infant School. There are a handful of tickets left, if you are yet to make your purchase – tickets will be on sale until Wednesday 20th March.

Many thanks for all the donations for the Chocolate Tombola this week (if you missed the opportunity to bring something in this week, please feel free to bring it in on Monday!). A reminder that if you are able to bake/purchase any cakes for us to sell at the refreshment stall, please drop them into the Infant School office on Friday 22nd March or bring with you to the event.

At the Easter Fair we will have second hand uniform available to purchase. If you have any spare cardigans or jumpers that your children have grown out of which you would like to donate ahead of the sale, please email us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com to obtain the address for drop off.

Also, please save the date for the next Bag2School clothing collection happening on Friday 3rd May – more details to follow.

Coffee Mornings and Parental Support

Mrs Alvarez, Mrs Squire and Miss Bunkle will be at the next coffee morning, which is a joint one with the Old Basing infant school, at 9am on Tuesday 7th May.

The last one of the year will be on Tuesday 2nd July.

Gemma Lillywhite
Headteacher



2023-24 INSET Days

24th May 2024

Dates for your Diary

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 (Infant school) 1-4:30pm
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
7th May – Coffee Morning 09:00-10:30
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