



Church of England Junior School

No: 14

28th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support over the last term. The Spring term has been a busy one. We are really pleased with the learning that has been going on. There are always things to improve and as a staff team we are always looking at how we can move the school forward to benefit the children and improve outcomes. This term we have worked hard to implement a new English curriculum across the school to ensure clear progression and coverage of skills in Reading and Writing and the pupils have responded well to this.

Since our last newsletter we have held our first Prayer Space which the children loved. Year 4 have visited QMC for a science lesson, Year 6 have visited The Costello School for a Badminton lesson led by staff from their PE department, Austen Class have performed in their first Sharing Assembly and we have had our end of term Church services at St Mary's. It has been another busy few weeks!

Thank you to all the F.O.O.B.S committee and the other volunteers who helped run the Easter Fair last weekend. It was lovely to be on the door with Mrs Denning and see many of our pupils come, it was also lovely to meet some of the infant school pupils and families who we look forward to welcoming to St Mary's in the future. Thank you again F.O.O.B.S for your hard work.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy and healthy Easter weekend and a good break from the school run over the next two weeks. Children please stay safe if you are out playing on your bikes or scooters and remember all that you have learnt about keeping yourself safe online if you have some time on your electronic devices. Let's hope we see some lovely Spring sunshine over the break!

I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 15th April.

Music News

It's been a busy Spring Term for many St Mary's musicians. Our Senior Choir had a wonderful vocal training session with Head of Vocal teaching at Hampshire Music Service, Nick Duncombe. This was followed a few weeks later by a concert at the Anvil entitled "Choir Extravaganza". The choir sang wonderfully well and received many positive remarks about their enthusiastic and fun performance of "Clever Chameleon".

The orchestra went over to Old Basing Infants to give a special concert to them all. Mrs McCarley commented how proud of them she was and how a number of the children spent the whole morning talking about all the instruments and that many were inspired to think about learning a musical instrument. The orchestra then went to compete in the Basingstoke Music Festival. They received a distinction in this and the adjudicator commented "Bravo on a lovely committed and expressive performance!" in her written remarks.

Also performing in the music festival, were the string orchestra, ukulele club and brass band. They also received awards and high marks. In total on the day we came back with 4 trophies. However, we were then awarded the trophy for the highest grades which we collected at the music festival gala concert last Sunday. The string orchestra came out again for this performance as we thought a junior school having such a high standard string orchestra was something to celebrate. Our woodwind pupils competed in a woodwind festival as part of this and congratulations to those who took part. Results can be found on the website.

Our school band performed with ensembles from 2 other local schools last Thursday evening and enjoyed a lovely evening of making music together and performing music they had been working on in front of family and friends.

Lunchtime recorders are brimming with children and they will soon be performing in our summer concert on Wednesday 22nd May alongside many different solos and groups. Please do put this date in your diary and come along to support the children.

Mrs Malone – Music Lead

Prayer Space

Thank you so much to the parent and friends who have volunteered over the last two weeks to help run Prayer Space. I hope your children have come home and talked about it. These are just a few of the comments children have made after their visit.

“I’ve shredded my worries and it feels so good.”

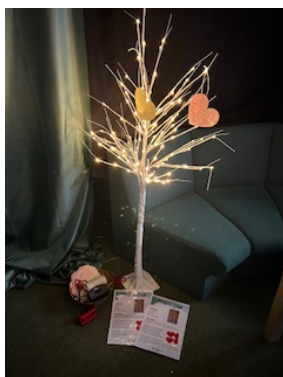
“It’s such a calm space.”

“The bubbles really helped me to reflect.”

“In the Prayer Space I felt safe, calm and happy.”

One of the stations in this term’s Prayer Space involved making Easter gift bags for members of our local community. These have been delivered to the staff at Old Basing Infant School, The Costello School and Old Basing Village Nursery. Bags have also been delivered to the staff at Old Basing Health Centre and to the congregation of St Mary’s Church. Our school Governors and members of the F.O.O.B.S committee have also been gifted a bag. Thank you to all of these people who do so much for our community and thank you children for your lovely messages on the bags.

Prayer Space will return in the summer term!



Comic Relief

Thank you for all of your donations, our final fundraising total was an amazing £503! Thank you all.

Easter Egg Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket, congratulations to those who were drawn out. We are all winners as the money raised will be used to purchase new small playground equipment that the children have said they would like. Thank you all again.

School Dinners

After the Easter holidays, we will start the new summer menu. Details of the new menu options have already been sent out.

Please ensure your dinner money account is in credit at all times as the office are spending a considerable amount of time chasing payments.

Summer Uniform

Summer uniform can be worn after the Easter holidays. This consists of green checked dresses, grey shorts and white polo shirts or short sleeved shirts. Pupils can still wear winter uniform of a shirt and tie, if they prefer. PE uniform remains the same.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's concern. As a professional body we work with many agencies to safeguard our pupils. As a member of the public if you have any concerns about members of the community, a friend or relative, you can report concerns or seek advice from Hampshire Children's Services. Contact details can be found on the Hampshire County Council Website.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/safeguardingchildren>

Attendance

As of today the school's overall attendance stands at 96.5%. Congratulations to Conan Doyle Class with the highest attendance of 97.8 %.

As the summer term approaches, I would remind parents that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods. Only absences for very exceptional circumstances will be authorised.

INSET Days for 2024/2025

The following INSET days for next academic year have been agreed with Old Basing Infant School and approved by our governors:

Monday 2nd Sept 2024

Monday 4th Nov 2024

Friday 20th Dec 2024

Monday 24th Feb 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025

Anxiety Workshop

You can still book for the next Anxiety Worskuip run by PBS. This will be held 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-

Governors' Corner

One of the core functions of school governance is sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

Having just taken over as chair of the Resources committee, this function has come into sharp focus. We regularly review the financial position of the school and also forecast for 3 years in advance. Although understanding the further out we go the more speculative that forecast is due to factors beyond our control (e.g. Pupil number, staffing, utilities costs, etc.). The Resources committee spends a good deal of its effort on holding the school leaders to account for the financial performance and ensuring money is well spent. This is reported to the Full Governing Board in terms of the performance against the annual budget. I am happy to report that the financial performance of the school is healthy and the school leadership is ensuring the school's money is extremely well utilised.

Phil Jubin
Foundation Governor and Chair of Resources

F.O.O.B.S. News

Thank you to everyone who supported the Quiz Night at the beginning of March. We raised a fantastic £682.65!

We hope everyone who attended the Easter Fair on Saturday enjoyed it. Winners of the games have been contacted and everyone has now received their prize! We will announce the total funds raised after Easter. We will be having a Bags2School collection on 3rd May, an opportunity to donate all the items from your spring clear out! More detail to follow by email after Easter.

St Mary's Church Beetle Drive – Friday 19th April



Following on from the great fun had by all at the Beetle Drive last summer, it has been decided to repeat this again on Friday 19th April. A fun game to play for all the family. Tickets, £5 per adult, £2.50 per child or £12.50 for family tickets (2 adults + up to 4 children) available from Debbie, St Mary's Administrator. (Tel. 07541 698235, email: admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk. Doors open at 6.30 pm for a 7pm start in St Mary's Parish Room.

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

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

8th May – Orchestra at Everest Academy, 4:15-5:30pm

13th-17th May – SAT's week for Yr. 6

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

20th May – Orchestra at Everest Academy, 4:15-5:30pm

21st May – Yr. 6 Church visit 1:30pm

22nd May – Summer Concert at Christ Church, Chineham (time tbc)

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

14th June – Orchestra at Christ Church, Chineham 09:30am-2:30pm

18th June – Orchestra at Anvil, 09:30am-2:30pm

18th June – Orchestra BPSM Concert, 7pm-8:15pm

19th June – Orchestra BPSM Concert, 7pm-8:15pm