



Church of England Junior School

No: 15
26th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hopefully, we will soon see the back of the grey, wet weather and we will see more of the sun so we can all get out more!

The children have all come back after the Easter break settled and showing positive leaning behaviours; we look forward to a productive and fun final term of the year.

The first two weeks of the Summer Term have been busy. Our Year 5 classes enjoyed their visit to The Gordon Brown Centre and Year 4 had fun at Laverstoke Farm. The final year 6 class visited Costello school for a tennis lesson on Tuesday: thank you to the staff there for organising this for us.

On Thursday, some of our Year 6 pupils headed over to the infant school to support them with their Sports Day. Thank you Old Basing Infants for having us!

Wednesday saw the second Anxiety workshop for parents held at Great Binfields. It has been great to work with Old Basing Infants and Great Binfields to hold these sessions for parents across the schools; we look forward to continuing to work with both schools in collaboration to support the children and families in our community.



In Act of Worship we have been learning things about the value of Hope and how Jesus appeared to his followers following the resurrection. In the coming weeks, we will think about the Christian festivals of Accession and Pentecost. We also look forward to our summer term church visits and Eucharist service on May 8th.

Places for Year 3 in September 2024 have now been allocated and we are looking forward to welcoming our new pupils and families over the summer term as part of their transition work. We were once again oversubscribed and are pleased to have a full cohort for the start of Year 3 in September. We will be sending our newsletters to our new families this term to give them an insight into life at St Mary's.

The summer term is always a very busy one with lots of events so please do make a note of the diary dates on our newsletters and keep an eye on Parent Mail.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Multiplication Tables

Learning your times tables is a vital part of your child's learning journey whilst at St Mary's and the children really enjoy participating in the times table awards. All the children have worked their way or are working their way towards their Master Master award. To compliment this, a new Mastery times tables award has started this year in Year 6 and will also be rolled out to Year 5 this term. The new challenge is designed for the children to apply their times table knowledge to different questions and in different contexts. Year 6 have enjoyed testing themselves and we now have children who have earned the new Mastery badge.

Please keep practising with your child, using sites like Times Table Rock Stars, Education City and Hit the Button.

Playground and play equipment

Please can we ask you not to allow children, junior or younger siblings, to play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day. This equipment is not supervised at this time by school staff and therefore is not to be used. Any younger siblings brought onto site at pick up time must be kept under close supervision by an adult.

Assessment

Year 6 SATs will be taking place once again during the week commencing **Monday 13th May**, beginning on the Monday and finishing on the Friday.

The Multiplication Tables check for Year 4 will take place over a three week period from **Monday 3rd June to Friday 14th June 2024**. Information about these assessments has already been sent to Year 4 parents, but it can be accessed here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>

Your child's end of year report will contain teacher assessments for reading, writing and maths, Year 6 parents you will also be informed of your child's SAT's results.

It is important to remember that every child is different and they do not all make progress in straight lines. For example, a child may be working at 'Age Related Expectations' at the end of one academic year, but the next they may be assessed as 'Working Towards Age Related Expectations' because the curriculum has changed and they may need time to consolidate some areas of their learning, they will still have made progress. It is important that as a school we look at progress over time with the end goal being their attainment in the end of Key Stage 2 statutory assessments and not just look at each year in isolation.

We work regularly with other local schools to moderate our assessments and use a variety of resources in school to support teacher assessments. We also have regular Pupil Progress meetings to look at performance and progress of individuals so that early intervention can be put in place.

Eucharist

On Wednesday 8th May we will be having our termly Eucharist Service led by Rev Jo in school. Although the service is for Year 5 and 6 children, all parents and parishioners are welcome to join us for the service, which starts at 10.00am.

Summer Term Uniform

Summer uniform can now be worn. This consists of green checked dresses, grey shorts and white polo shirts or short sleeved shirts, without ties. Sensible footwear, please – no flip-flops or open-toed sandals, school shoes should still be worn.

Reading Books

It can be difficult sometimes for parents to support children in selecting good books to read. The following website may be helpful in finding new, exciting titles to share at home.

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>

Love Reading 4Kids reviews the latest publication and is a great place to find recommended reads.

As a school, we are regularly refreshing the selection of books in the library through the Hampshire Schools Library Service.

As you know, we have recently reviewed and re-written our reading curriculum; alongside this we still promote reading for pleasure. *'Reading for pleasure is a factor in predicting later academic achievement. Children who read for pleasure are more likely to enjoy learning, succeed at school and achieve good levels of education. They also have higher levels of self-esteem, confidence and problem solving skills than those who do not read frequently.'* (Reading Mate)

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 %.

Please can we remind parents that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods. Only absences for very exceptional circumstances will be authorised and 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence can result in a penalty notice.

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

Governors' Corner

Governors have a responsibility to regularly meet with teachers, to which they are assigned, to review and monitor various aspects of the school curriculum. I was recently in school, for one such meeting with Miss Shore, to discuss and understand the current objectives and primary focus for sport and P/E.

Sport and P/E provision has always been a very high priority at St Mary's and will continue to be so. Much of our discussion covered the sporting curriculum and how we assess pupil progress in an appropriate and consistent way across the school. As well as keeping pupils active, and hopefully making it fun, the focus is on teaching skills and attributes such as resilience, collaboration, creativity, physical skills and competing. Miss Shore was also particularly excited about the upcoming review and revamp of the school values and how these can be incorporated into the school sports curriculum. Whatever values are finally decided on, courage/friendship, justice, etc, sport is the ideal way to make these values real and meaningful for our pupils.

St Mary's has always had a tradition of entering interschool competitions in a wide variety of sports and has an impressive array of trophies to show for it. These competitions require a huge time commitment from teachers and staff, much of it outside of normal school hours. I really do think that all staff who give up their time to support these competitions deserve a massive thank you.

Michael Wright

Vice Chair of Governors

F.O.O.B.S. News

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! We have a Bag2School collection next Friday, see separate email for further details of timings and collection points. Don't forget we run a monthly lotto, see the attached poster for more details. Now that places have been allocated at the schools for September, please contact us at friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com if you need any second hand uniform. Also we would be very grateful of any donations of jumpers/cardigans, grey items and summer dresses that are in a good condition for re-sale.

Safeguarding

As a parent myself I know that as our children move through primary school we come to the stage where we have to consider letting them walk to school on their own or consider them going out to meet friends at a local park. The NSPCC website has many useful guides for parents, including one providing practical tips and advice to help parents and carers decide what is best for their child when it comes to staying home alone or going out alone.

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/leaflets/parent-leaflets>

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

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 – Eucharist Yrs 5 & 6 – parents welcome
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
20-24th May – Walk to school week
20th May River Trip am (Dickens class)
20th May – Orchestra at Everest Academy, 4:15-5:30pm
21st May – River Trip am (Austen class)
21st May – Yr. 6 Church visit 1:30pm
22nd May – River Trip am (Conan Doyle class)
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

3rd-7th June – Olympics week (further details to follow)
6th June – Sports Day
10th June – Yr. 4 Egyptian Drama day
11th June – School Photos – Class & whole Year 6 (**please note change of date and no PE on this date**)
13th June – Reserve Sports Day
14th June – Orchestra at Christ Church, Chineham 09:30am-2:30pm
17th June – Yr. 5 trip to Costello (further details to follow)
18th June – Orchestra at Anvil, 09:30am-2:30pm
18th June – Yr. 3 Church visit 1:30pm
18th June – Orchestra BPSM Concert, 7pm-8:15pm
19th June – Orchestra BPSM Concert, 7pm-8:15pm
21st June – Yr. 6 Leavers Service in Winchester
26th June – Yr. 3 new parents meeting (further details to follow)
2nd July – Coffee morning 09:00-10:30am
5th July – Shuffle up morning
7th July – F.O.O.B.S Summer Fair
8th-11th July – Yr. 6 Show week
16th July – Yr. 6 Pilgrimage Day
17th July – Yr. 6 Leavers Service at Church, 2pm
22nd July – Yr. 6 Picnic/Beach Party
23rd July – Hampshire Music Service Inset Day (no HMS music lessons)
23rd July – End of Year Church visits (am)
23rd July – Last Day of term, normal finish time of 3:25pm