



Newsletter Number 3: 10.10.2025

October

- 12.10.25 – FOBS Trail Run
- 15.10.25 – 9:15am New Year R Open Morning for 2026-2027 intake
- 16.10.25 – 7.30pm FOBS AGM
- 21.10.25 – Parents evening 3.30-5.45pm in person
- 23.10.25 – Parents evening 3.45-7.00pm in person
- 24.10.25 – Be Bright Be Seen day – details to follow.
- 24.10.25 – End of Autumn 1
- 27.10.25 – 31.10.25 HALF TERM**

November

3.11.25 INSET Day

- 4.11.25 – Autumn 2 begins
- 7.11.25 – 9.15am New Year R Open Morning for 2026-2027 intake
- 10.11.25 – Friendship Week
- 11.11.25 – 6:30pm YR Reading and Phonics Q&A – teams
- 14.11.25 – Non-Uniform Children in Need
- 18.11.25 – Happy School Bags
- 19.11.25 – Flu Immunisations
- 24.11.25 – 9.15am New Year R Open Morning for 2026-2027 intake
- 28.11.25 – FOBS Christmas Market

December

- 11.12.25 – UNICEF Day for Change
- 12.12.25 – 2pm Rock Steady Concert for the parents of those children who attend
- 15.12.25 – 2pm YR Nativity Performance
- 16.12.25 – 9:30am YR Nativity Performance
- 18.12.25 – Christmas jumper day and Christmas Lunch
- 19.12.25 – INSET Day and end of term**

SENDCo Support Sessions

Mrs Thompson, our Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Coordinator, will have extra SENDCo Support appointments available each half term if you would like to meet with her if you have any specific questions you would like to ask about your child that you have not yet contacted us about. These appointments are open to parents of children who are on our SEND register but also to any other parents who would like to discuss concerns they may have about potential additional needs. SEND does not only relate to learning difficulties or physical disabilities but also to social, emotional and mental health difficulties too. The next SENDCo support appointments will be available during the school day on Friday 24th October and Wednesday 17th December. If you have an issue you would like to discuss further and would like to book an appointment, please contact Mrs Thompson directly on k.thompson@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk

Activities for October

With half term approaching I thought you might appreciate signposting to some of the things available locally and a little further afield in October.

<https://letsgowiththechildren.co.uk/places-to-go/basingstoke/>

<https://www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/whats-on/halloween-events-in-hampshire>

<https://www.reading-rocks.co.uk/things-to-do/half-term-in-reading>

Safeguarding Alert

We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.

Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.

The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you:

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

We will continue to share updates from the publisher as more information becomes available.

Reading

As you know, learning how to read is a huge part of the Infant School Curriculum and it is a skill that is acquired not only whilst the children are in school but one that is mastered when the children have the opportunity to practise. Please can I urge you to read as much as you can at home with your child – especially in the early stages of reading. They should always have a book in their bag and I know that all teachers encourage the children to change their books daily if they need a new one. I know from experience that finding the time to fit in reading when you are working is a challenge but even once a week is better than not. On that note, if you have any free time and would like to volunteer to hear children read in school then that would be hugely appreciated.

Leave of Absence Forms

The Leave of Absence Request Form (LOAF) has been updated to reflect a Hampshire School policy change. Schools are now authorised to issue Penalty Notices to parents who attempt to avoid penalties by scheduling holidays that fall below the threshold, including during weeks containing Bank Holidays or INSET days.

To reflect this policy change, our new Leave of Absence Request Form and Attendance Policy are attached to this newsletter for your reference.

Open Morning for New Entrants 2026

We have three more open mornings – October 15th, November 7th and November 24th. Once the parents have had a look round the Infant School, St Mary's Junior School are also opening their doors so that they can have a look at what the Junior school is like too so if you know of anyone with a child starting school in September 2026 please let them know.

Oracy Discussion

“If you could have any superhero power, what would it be and why?”

Staff and Governors

We get to know you and your family really well during the time that your children are here with us, so I thought it might be nice if on each newsletter we gave you a little bit of information about us. We did this a few years ago and feedback showed that it was appreciated by our parents so as it has been quite a while since we did this and because staff have changed, I thought it might be nice to do this again. As headteacher, it was decided that I should go first!

I went to Canterbury Christ Church University way back in 1993 to start a four- year teaching degree specialising in teaching children in the Primary age group. I always knew that I wanted to work with children, so I was over the moon to get my first teaching job at Fleet Infant School in 1997. It seems impossible to think that those Year 2 children (many of whom I can still remember) would be 34 or 35 now! I have taught in a number of Hampshire

schools over the years but I have spent the longest time here at Old Basing which I consider to be a real privilege.

Outside of work, I live with my husband who is an English Teacher at Costello, I have two children aged 20 and 24 and two step children age 22 and 17 – none of whom have any interest in teaching! I love being a mum, especially now my children are at an age when one of them can treat me to a glass of wine at the pub on a Friday evening! Treasure your time with your children as they grow up way too quickly.

F.O.O.B.S

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! The FOOBS Trail and Fun Runs are almost here! Advanced entries are now closed and the 2k has sold out with a record number of entrants! (Please note no more entries will be released for the 2km run and it's not possible to transfer the places between people). We are looking forward to seeing everyone who has entered on Sunday! There are still places available for the 6k and 10k so entries will be available on the day for those two distances. We would be very grateful of donations of cakes, homemade or shop bought, to sell on the refreshments stall on the day. Please avoid nuts and nut-based ingredients and if homemade, please include a list of ingredients. As always, a big thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to help on the day, we couldn't run the event without you. If anyone is able to stick around to help clear up after the fun run, that would be very much appreciated.

Our AGM is being held at 7:30pm on Thursday 16th October at the Infants school. All are welcome, whether you just want to hear what we've been up to, are interested in joining the committee or anywhere in between! We have so far had no interest in taking over the Chair role so if you are thinking about it, please do get in touch via friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com .

We will be holding a second hand uniform sale for both schools at the Junior school on Monday 13th October 3:30-4:15 where uniform for both schools will be available. Please note, we only have the old style logo items for the Infant School.

Have a lovely weekend and I hope to see many of you on Sunday at the trail run!

Sonia Denning