



Newsletter Number 2: 26.9.2025



October

- 1.10.25 – Harvest Assembly
- 3.10.25 – School Photographer
- 3.10.25 - Y2 Disco
- 12.10.25 – FOOBS Trail Run
- 15.10.25 - 9:15 New Year R Open Morning for 2026-2027 intake
- 16.10.25 – 7:30 FOOBS AGM
- 21.10.25 – Parents evening 3:30-5:45 in person
- 23.10.25 – Parents evening 3:45-7:00 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**

As I walk around our school it is great to be greeted by smiley faces and children wanting to talk to me enthusiastically about all that they are doing. Being out on the school gate each morning is also an important part of getting to know you and your children, so if I have missed saying hello to you so far, please come and say hello – I am out every morning and so is either Mrs Sciberras or another member of the leadership team. We want to welcome you into school at the start of each day as well as making sure the children arrive safely from drop off - and supervising the parking! Year R have settled in brilliantly and they look like they have been coming to school for much longer than two short weeks! Chatting to all of your children is definitely the highlight of each day.

Open Morning for New Entrants 2026

We had our first open morning for new prospective parents on Thursday and the children in Y2 did an amazing job at leading the parent tours. The parents that they took round returned to the hall with big smiles on their faces amazed that in just three years their own child could be that confident and articulate. Those who didn't get the chance to do this session will be top of the list next time. On that note, if you know of anyone who has a child starting school next September, 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.

School Lunches

This is just a reminder that school lunches are free for any child of Infant School age.

Caterlink, our new lunch provider, welcomes any feedback on the quality of what is provided. There is fresh fruit and fresh vegetables and salad on offer everyday and the children are encouraged to eat or at least try each item on their plates. As we know, research has shown children have to try things a few times before their taste buds realise they may actually like it! The meat provided to school is no longer frozen but again it is all fresh and even our staff are making the most of the new menu on offer. I would encourage you to feed back to Caterlink if you have any comments to make as they are always looking to improve their service to schools. If you google Caterlink there is a contact us box at the bottom. I will ask the kitchen staff to take some photographs of the food prepared so you can see for yourselves what your children are offered.

E-Safety

As part of our discussions with our new classes and respecting our right to be safe, we have been talking about how to keep ourselves safe online. We shared Jesse and Friends Funny Tummy song to remind them what they can do if they see something they don't like when playing on tablets, computers and other devices. Scan this QR code to share with your child.



Tapestry

Every week each year group writes a summary for you about what your children have been learning in school. It also contains helpful hints of things to do at home to support learning – this is the best way for you to be kept up to speed with what your children are doing in school. You can access all of this through Tapestry, our online learning platform. We have been using Tapestry for the last five years for this purpose and all parents are given a form to fill in so they can register in YR. Please can I ask you to like the post when you have read it as it allows us to gauge exactly how many parents are engaging with this and reading the information given to you about what your children are learning.

Parents Evening

As I have mentioned previously, as a result of the feedback in the parent survey last year we have gone back to one hundred percent face-to-face parent consultations this year. You should have received a ParentMail about this today, where you can sign up for one ten-minute slot. Please be aware that doing parents evening in this way means that families who may have previously been able to dial in to an online meeting separately will now need to attend appointments together in person. Parents evenings give you the opportunity to be updated on your child's progress, wellbeing and attainment in school and we follow the statutory reporting system that is used by most schools of two parents evenings and one formal report throughout the academic year. Please remember that if you have a problem or something you need to discuss with the teacher outside of this time then teachers will be more than happy to make an appointment to see you outside of this time.

Oracy

Along with St Mary's Junior school we are working this year to improve our pupils' speaking and listening skills. We are working with staff at St Mary's to develop a progression of Oracy skills from EYFS through to Year 6 and we are excited to see how this will grow and develop over the next few years.

In each of our newsletters we will be sending an idea for a family discussion over dinner, in the car or before bed!

This week we have a would you rather!

"Would you rather be able to talk to animals or talk ten different languages?"

Harvest Assembly

Just a reminder that Harvest Assembly is on Wednesday 1st October and is for our children only. Please see separate email from Mrs Nightingale. We are very lucky, in the absence of a Vicar at St Marys Church, Old Basing, to have Reverend Tuck (Miss Tuck's father) coming to lead our Harvest celebration.

F.O.O.B.S

Hello from F.O.O.B.S! We hope you're all looking forward to the F.O.O.B.S. Trail & Fun runs as much as we are! Entries are still open, head over to our website to bag your place www.foobs.weebly.com . We would be very grateful for donations of cakes, homemade or shop bought, to sell on the refreshments stall on the day. Details of drop off points TBC. Our volunteer rota is almost full so big thank you to everyone who has already volunteered their time. 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 Infant 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! On that note, our current Co-Chairs are standing down after several years in the role so if you are interested in taking the role we would be happy to talk to you. Please come along to the meeting or contact us on friendsofoldbasingschools@gmail.com .

We will be holding a second hand uniform sale for both schools at the Junior School hall on Monday 13th October after pick up.

And finally, the Year 2 Disco will take place on Friday 3rd October! Tickets will be on sale early next week.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Sonia Denning
Headteacher

Attendance to 26th September 2025

Whole School – 97.9%

Mole Class: 99.7%

Hedgehog Class: 98.5%

Dormouse Class: 99%

Hare Class: 98%

Squirrel Class: 99.6%

Fox Class: 98.2%

Barn Owl Class: 95.2%

Badger Class: 96.9%

Otter Class: 96.6%