



Newsletter Number 1: 12.9.2025



Welcome back to everyone re-joining us in Years 1 and 2 and a big welcome too, to our new families in Year R - it has been a very busy first week back. As always, it is lovely to see the children's excitement in the first week of term when settling in with new teachers and new classmates. It is also fantastic to see the resilience that the children have developed when coping with change and the courage they have to try something new.

At this time of year, as we have seen this week, the weather can be very changeable in temperature and precipitation so please ensure your child is equipped each day for whatever the weather chooses to do. Having a sun hat and coat in school every day is a good idea at this point!

Those of you who were part of our school community last year may remember that we sent out a survey for you on our school values. The results of this survey helped us to re-evaluate the school vision statement and I will be putting together a presentation for you that will go on to the website so you can hear about how we have tweaked our vision statement and the accompanying tagline.

Our children in Year R have been doing their first sessions and full days this week, so as you have seen, the demand on the car park has been high. We have already had comments from new parents who have been incredulous at the way people park at the end of the day and concerns already raised regarding the safety of the children in relation to this. It seems like a never-ending battle and one that I can only see a solution to by closing the car park to parents at the end of the day. I am reluctant to do this, as I know that many of you have commitments to fulfil and other children to collect after 3:15 but I will take the decision to do so if we find ourselves in a similar situation to last year. Many schools do not have a parent car park and their parking is allocated for staff only so to you parents, I have to point out that you are currently very lucky that we have a limited facility for parking at all.

If you are parking in the school car park please be aware of the rules. In the morning, parents can only park on the right-hand side. The left-hand side is for drop off only with Mr Bowman and cars should not be abandoned in middle of the car park. In the afternoons, please fill ALL spaces on both sides before parking in 3 lines through the middle. Please be aware that if you choose to park in the car park in the afternoon, you may have a wait to leave as others return to their cars.

Parents must not park on the yellow lines in The Mead or on the yellow line along the path adjacent to our carpark UNLESS they have a valid blue disabled badge displayed. It is against the law to do so and we have already had contact from parking officers who will be out to monitor and issue fines at some point. You must also not leave your car to collect your child blocking the path across the entrance or exit to the car park. If you cannot park within the limits of the car park, you must find somewhere else to park and there are many roads leading to school where there are no parking restrictions. Please be respectful to the residents of the village and do not park at the end of a driveway as we have also had complaints about this in the past! Your child will not be sent out until you arrive and we would rather you were a little late than parked dangerously. It never ceases to amaze me the anger and lack of respect that some drivers show to each other when they are behind the wheel. Let's be a model to our children and of our school values of respect, resilience and kindness at these times.

If you can park elsewhere, please do and walk the short distance to collect your child!

Year Group Curriculum Information and TEAMS Q&As

As last year, for Y1 and Y2 we will be providing video presentations on our school website to inform you of the expectations for your child's year ahead and to let you know some important information for supporting them this year. The presentations will be available on the year group pages of the website from Friday 12th September, with follow up Q&A sessions for any queries the week after. Information on the Q&A, via TEAMS, will be included in the video presentations and will be sent out to you via Tucasi.

YR parents will have a face to face curriculum information evening. Dates for all of these events are included above.

Staffing

Included with this newsletter is a guide to all the staff currently in school and their roles.

Dates

Each newsletter will include upcoming dates and attached is a full list of the dates that we currently have for the Autumn Term. There may well be events that are not yet planned that are added to the calendar, such as school trips, but you will be given information on these in good time when they do arise.

Christmas Cards!

It feels terrible to be mentioning these so early in the school year, but, in order to get them to you in good time for sending, we have been creating Christmas cards with your children this week, so if they mention it you have heard right! All the instructions you need will be sent home to you.

Summer Reading Challenge

We would love to celebrate any children who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge with their local library this year. Please send named certificates only into school for Friday Celebration Assemblies.

Attendance

The DfE is concerned nationally that attendance levels are still not as high as they were prior to the pandemic and are requiring all schools to support parents in good attendance ensuring children are only absent from school when necessary. Hampshire County Council has a campaign currently encouraging families to do all they can to support regular school attendance. While rates of school attendance are improving locally, there is still more to do to match the levels typically seen before the Covid-19 pandemic and it is a huge priority for the government and OFSTED. Educational specialists advise that attending school every day, unless unwell, is best for children to ensure that the solid foundations for their future education and employment can be laid. It is also one of the best ways of protecting a child's mental and physical health. Regular attendance requires us to work together so any potential difficulties can be identified and supported. There are a number of ways we can support families when attendance is a concern and there are various steps you can take to support school attendance, including:

- creating opportunities for your child to talk about their time at school
- staying up to date with all communications from school
- speaking with your child's teacher if there are concerns
- avoiding school absences where possible – for example, by arranging GP and dental appointments outside of school hours
- building consistent bedtime routines
- establishing good morning routines at home to help children arrive at school on time, having had a good breakfast and ready to start the day

The [County Council's website](#) provides advice and guidance on school attendance including parental responsibilities; how schools record attendance; and what to do if a child is unwell or expected to be away from school for a long period of time. You may also find '[Is my child too ill for school?](#)' a useful support when deciding if your child is well enough to come to school. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

I have a statutory duty as Headteacher to monitor the attendance of all pupils and demonstrate that I am doing all I can to ensure that all pupils have attendance above 95%. Please be aware that if your child's attendance falls below 95% and then below 90% I will be following this up individually to see what we can do provide you with any help or support.

Our policy and joint attendance letter with St Mary's Junior School has also been sent to you today.

Photographer

The school photographer will be in school taking individual portrait photographs of all children on Friday 3rd October. Within the school day they will take all children individually as well as any siblings in the school together. They will also be available before school from **8.10am** to take family photographs which can include pre-schoolers and junior or older children. Please make your way to the external hall doors from 8.10am to take up this opportunity. Please be aware that this before-school session is popular and you may have to queue. **There will be no P.E on this day so children need to come to school in their full school uniform.**

PE Achievement

We love to celebrate sporting achievements here at OBIS. If your child excels at a sport or takes part in an unusual sport we would love to celebrate this on our PE Achievement board in reception. If your child takes part in something that fits this criteria, then please email the office with a brief description and a photograph.

Parents Evenings

In the July Parent questionnaire, we asked whether an in person or a TEAMS meeting was preferred by most parents and as a result we have listened and gone with the majority of 87.8% which is a return to the traditional face to face parent's meetings. Details of these will follow closer to the time.

EARA and Pupil Voice

Classes in Y1&2 will be electing their Pupil Voice Councillors and EARA representatives over the next two weeks ready for the first meetings. Any child can stand for these roles and they are elected by their class. They will need to be able to tell their classmates why they think they would be good at the role. Once elected the children join Mrs Nightingale approximately every couple of weeks for a meeting to discuss a range of school issues. YR will be voting to join in the Spring term.

F.O.O.B.S

Hello from F.O.O.B.S. We have lots of exciting events coming up, starting with the F.O.O.B.S. Trail and Fun runs on Sunday 12th October. There is still time to sign yourselves and your children up via our website www.foobs.weebly.com

We are also in need of volunteers for the day so if you have any time please email foobsfunrun@gmail.com and, if you are able to donate any cakes, homemade or shop bought, they would be gratefully received for the refreshments stall on the day.


We then have the F.O.O.B.S. AGM on Thursday 16th October at 7:30 at the Infants school. All friends of the school are welcome with no obligation to join the committee, we would love to see you and share with you what we've been up to this last year!

Disco dates have now been confirmed and will appear in the school calendars, first up - the year 2 Disco on Friday 3rd October.

And finally, a date for your diary. We have booked a HappySchoolBag charity clothing collection for Tuesday 18th November. Further details of what is and isn't collected to follow.

News from St Mary's Church

The Welcome Tea Room, 19th Sept, 3rd & 17th October from 2pm. Thank you to everyone who joined us at our sessions over the summer. The Tea Room volunteers look forward to guests joining us again on the first and third Fridays of the month from 2pm when our usual delicious selection of cakes will be on offer. A reminder that we do not charge for any drinks or cakes, donations invited if you wish. Dogs on leads welcome! Leading us on to.....

 *Sunday 5th October – Pet Service & Fayre*

2:30pm Pet Blessing with Rev Rachel – bring your furry, feathered, or even scaly friends for a joyful celebration of their lives. Come along and see Orinoco, a local Tortoise, be put into hibernation for the winter!

2–4pm Pet-Themed Fayre – browse stalls, crafts, and treats, and meet Helping Dogs & Cats Rescue UK, our Charity of the Month

Finally...

Please remember that if you have any concerns about your child in school then please speak directly to your child's class teacher as a first point of contact as soon as possible so that we can support you and your child and prevent any escalation of concerns. Teachers will happily arrange meetings to discuss things; straightforward matters can be raised at the door on drop off or collection. Please contact the school office if you are unable to speak directly to your child's teacher and we will ensure they contact you. Our Communication Policy is on our website and outlines the response times you can expect to calls or emails.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Sonia Denning
Headteacher