Newsletter Number 12: 13.2.2026

March

20.3.26 – Comic Relief
21.3.26 – F.O.O.B.S Easter Fair
23.3.26 – Y1 Easter Performance 2pm
24.3.26 – Y1 Easter Performance 9:30am
27.3.26 – 2:15pm Rock Steady Concert for the parents of anyone who takes part in Rock Steady
20.3.26 – COMIC RELIEF
27.3.26 – End of Spring Term

April

13.4.26 – start of term

MAY

4.5.26 – BANK HOLIDAY
8.5.26 – Sports Afternoon – details to follow
15.5.26 – YR Disco
19.5.26 – 7pm Parent Meeting for those New to YR September 2026
22.5.26 – INSET DAY
25.5.26-29.5.26 – HALF TERM

JUNE

11.6.26 – Year 2 Sea City Trip
19.6.26 – Class Photographs

JULY

5.7.26 -Summer Fair
10.7.26 – Rock Steady End of Year Concert
13.7.26 – 2pm Y2 Leaver's Show
14.7.26 - 9:30 Y2 Leaver's Show
21.7.26 – Y2 Leaver's Party
22.3.26 – Last Day of Term

I think you will agree with me that until yesterday it felt like Spring may be around the corner! The lighter mornings and evenings are very welcome and I always find it easier when the darkest part of the year is behind me. To help you with forward planning, I have popped the dates until the end of the school year at the top of the newsletter. There may be other things added such as school trips and other events, but I will let you know about these as soon as I can.

Bookfair

Thank you for your support with the bookfair and for coming to our bedtime story time/reading meeting. It was so good that so many of you got to hear the message about reading – it was a sneaky but successful ploy on our behalf! We managed to raise £1142.00 which will really help us to update certain reading books and buy some new ones for our library. We recently had to cull any books that were ten years or older, so you can imagine that the library took quite a hit! We really appreciate your support with this so thank you.

Health and Safety - grapes

Whole grapes are a top choking hazard for young children (5 and under) because their size and smooth, firm texture can completely seal a small airway, making them difficult to dislodge. The size of a grape is similar to a child's airway, and its flesh is firm and pliable, allowing it to form a tight, air-tight seal. To prevent choking, always cut grapes **lengthwise** into halves or quarters. Even if your child is older than five, we would be grateful if you could follow this guidance due to many children in YR being under five.

Parking

Y1 have their Easter performance on March 23rd and 24th. Please be aware that if you are attending the performance at 2pm on the 23rd that the carpark is likely to be very busy from much earlier than usual! If you are not attending then you may want to consider either walking or driving to school a little later in order for the carpark to clear before cars start to get blocked in.

Visitors

The children were very excited to have a visitor join us for assembly. Mrs Arooj (Hamza's mum in Fox Class) came to talk to the children about Ramadan. The children enjoyed finding out lots of new facts about Ramadan and how this is observed by families in our school community. The children were all like Coco the bee and showed how curious they were by asking insightful questions.

A big thank you to all the members of our school community who have been in to our assemblies to talk to the children about different religions and festivals. The children have absolutely loved these assemblies, and they have really helped to develop the children's understanding of different religions and cultures. If you would be interested in hosting an assembly about a religious festival, please speak to Mrs Nightingale so we can arrange a time for you to come in.

F.O.O.B.S

We're getting excited for the Easter Fair which is next Saturday and hope the children are looking forward to all the activities we have planned. Many thanks to everyone who brought in donations for the Chocolate Tombola, please feel free to bring any in on Monday, if you weren't able to bring them in today.

If anyone is able to supply baked goods (homemade or shop bought) for the refreshments stall, please bring in to

the infant school on Friday 20th or simply bring with you when you attend the fair! (Ingredients lists please for the homemade items and strictly no nuts of any kind please)

The FOOBS Trail and Fun Run returns this October, inviting runners of all ages and abilities to enjoy a scenic and friendly trail running experience on the outskirts of Old Basing. Entries are currently open, please head to the F.O.O.B.S. website https://foobs.weebly.com/ to secure your place.

Staff Profile

Mollie Higham – Dormouse Class teacher

I studied Primary Education at Nottingham Trent University, graduating in 2022. I moved back to my family home in Hertfordshire to complete my first year of teaching in a Reception class before moving to Basingstoke with my boyfriend and joining the Old Basing team. Somehow, I'm already in my third year here! Early Years has always been where my passion lies. There's something truly magical about supporting children through their very first year of school and watching their confidence grow—especially when they leave Year R able to write their own sentences.
Outside of school, I love being creative. I enjoy crocheting, knitting and making mosaics for friends and family, and I'm also a big book lover who enjoys nothing more than snuggling up with a good book. I look forward to cooking in the evenings and at the weekends and I am always on the hunt for new recipes to try.

Mr Bowman

Thank you to those of you who have enquired after Mr Bowman and to everyone for your patience and understanding whist we juggle some of his job along with our own. Mrs Richardson has been outside in the morning leaving Mrs Selmes to answer your queries and answer the phone – this is always one of the busiest times. I have enjoyed opening the doors on the drive through, although I am not as efficient as Mr Bowman. Mr Bowman is recovering at home after being rushed to hospital for an emergency operation, however he did pop in very briefly this week to give us further instructions! He is hoping to be back as soon as possible, and although I hope he will be back before the Easter break, I am encouraging him not to rush. Please be careful on any fallen leaves around the school site as we certainly do not have his permission to use any of his mechanical equipment!

Safeguarding

When safeguarding is discussed, the focus is often on issues such as abuse, online harms and exploitation. However, for many children—particularly younger children—the most immediate risks are often far more ordinary.

Accidents remain one of the leading causes of serious injury for children. Everyday environments such as homes and schools contain hazards that curious children naturally explore. Behaviours like putting objects in their mouths, touching hot surfaces, or experimenting with things they do not yet understand can quickly lead to harm.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust is a UK charity working to reduce accidental injuries among children. Their online resource centre provides a range of free materials for professionals, including fact sheets, posters and activity resources covering risks such as burns, poisoning, choking hazards and road safety.

I have attached this pack to the newsletter.

Lost Property

We have a huge amount of lost property this half term and we will be putting a table out before the end of term. so please come and take a look. Any un-named items that are left on March 27th will be either passed to F.O.O.B.S or taken to charity as the boxes are over-flowing!

Junior Park Run

Next week, we are being joined by Amy Jones from Basingstoke Junior Park Run for an assembly. The children will be invited to take part in a Junior Park Run on Sunday 22nd March 2026 at 9am at Stratton Park in

Basingstoke. Mr T-V will be in attendance too. These runs take place every Sunday and it will be great if some of our children made it part of their weekly active lifestyle.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes,
Sonia Denning

Attendance to 27th February 2026

Whole School – 96.9%

Mole Class: 96.7%
Hedgehog Class: 96.4%
Dormouse Class: 95.2%
Hare Class: 97.7%
Squirrel Class: 97.3%
Fox Class: 97.8%
Barn Owl Class: 97%
Badger Class: 96.5%
Otter Class: 97.5%