



Newsletter Number 11: 13.2.2026



February

Half Term 16.2.26 – 20.2.26

23.2.2026 – INSET Day

24.2.26 – Book Fair arrives

26.2.26 – Bedtime Storytime & Reading Curriculum presentation

March

6.3.26 – World Book Day Dress up

6.3.26 - Y1 Disco

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 – End of Spring Term

How is it half term already? Next half term is unusually short due to when the Easter holiday and the May bank holiday fall, and we are already panicking about how we will fit everything in before the Easter break. Year 1 will be in full rehearsal mode, so if you are in Y1 don't forget to pop the dates for their show into your diaries. Further information about tickets will be sent out soon.

Year 2 began their Y3 transition activities by visiting St Mary's Junior school to watch their Y3 show this week. They were very excited to be going and begin to build familiarity which is so important.

Year R took a trip on a bus which was the height of excitement – who knew that getting on the bus to go round the corner would bring such joy!

Hello from F.O.O.B.S

We hope all the children had fun on their Dare To Be Different Day today and we are wishing you all a wonderful half term.

Tickets are on sale now for our F.O.O.B.S Quiz Night, 28th February. Come along for a night of fun, food and fantastic raffle prizes.

Entries for the FOOBS Trail and Fun Runs are open. The event is taking place on Sunday 11th October and early bird entry costs apply to the trail runs until 28th February. The 2K Fun Run sells out every year so grab your entries early for only £5 per person! Flyer attached to this newsletter.

Library Book damage

We have had several books that have been damaged due to leaking water bottles in book bags. Can I please ask you not to put water bottles into book bags so that we can keep as many of our books in good condition as we can. As you can imagine, replacing books becomes very expensive.

Safeguarding

Safer Internet Day is a global awareness day that encourages children, young people and adults to think carefully about how we use the online world and digital technology. It's a useful annual prompt to refresh conversations about online safety, wellbeing and responsible digital behaviour.

Theme for 2026: *Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.*

This year's focus reflects how quickly AI and smart technologies are becoming part of children's everyday online experiences. The emphasis is on helping young people develop confidence, critical thinking and good judgement when using digital tools, rather than fear or restriction.

Useful resources from the UK Safer Internet Centre:

Top tips for parents and carers

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Top tips for children and young people

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-young-people>

You can find more information here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

Zero Tolerance

I am sad to say that we have recently had an increase in the number of calls that have been dealt with by the school office that have left staff members feeling upset. I would like to emphasise that rudeness, shouting and slamming down the receiver of a phone is not an acceptable manner to treat anyone and shows no courtesy or respect. I understand that this goes both ways, and I would hope that the value of mutual respect and tolerance is one that can be modelled by adults as well as staff. Hampshire County Council has recently written a model policy for schools to ensure that this value is upheld in schools as well as in other places where emotions can run high at times. This policy will be adopted by our Governing Body and added to our website in the near future.

F.O.O.B.S Lotto

Attached to the newsletter is a reminder of how you can sign up for the F.O.O.B.S lotto and some more information about how it all works. It is a great way of raising funds for the school but also you could be a winner. I have won a couple of times over the years; most recently this month, so it really could be you! The more people that are in it, the larger the cash prize.

After School Clubs that are NOT Sports Xtra

We apologise for having to cancel recent Brains and Bodies, Girls Football and Mrs Malone's Singing Club however staff sickness is beyond our control. We do notify you as soon as we know that the club is not going to be running and as you will appreciate, we cannot plan for when this will be. Please bear this in mind when your child wants to join a club because if they are cancelled your child will need collecting at the normal time of 3:15 – don't factor them into your childcare arrangements as they may be subject to change at late notice.

WORLD Book Day Themed Lunch

We will be having a themed lunch for World Book Day – please see the attached flyer.

Parking

Please can we request that unless you have a child who also attends St Mary's Junior School, please do not park at the Junior School or in the layby outside along Belle Vue Road, as it means that there is even less space for the parents of their children to park and be in school promptly.

Staff Profile – Alice Stoddart

I completed my BSc (Hons) in Sociology and Criminology in 2021, and decided I wanted to go into teaching shortly after. I did a PGCE primary and began teaching in 2023. I have been teaching at Old Basing Infants for two years now and love the sense of community we have here. I have always loved working with children, but volunteering at a local school in Thailand teaching English was the thing that pushed me into this amazing job.

Outside of teaching, I love crocheting, cooking foods from around the world and watching musicals. I also love going travelling and I am so excited to be going to the Winter Olympics over half term!

Have a wonderful half term and we will see you on February 24th

Best wishes,
Sonia Denning