



Newsletter 21 21.7.26



JULY

21.7.26 – Y2 Leaver's Party

SEPTEMBER

1.9.26 – INSET Day

2.9.26 -Term Begins

10.9.26 – YR Full time

11.9.26 – Y1 & Y2 Curriculum presentations on the website for you to view prior to Q&A

16.9.26 – Y1 Curriculum Q&A 6:30pm

17.9.26 – Y2 Curriculum Q&A 6:30pm

18.9.26 – Y2 Seaside Visit

24.9.26 – 9:15 Open Morning YR 2027

October

9.10.26 – Individual Photographs

14.10.26 - 9:15 Open Morning YR 2027

HALF TERM Monday 26.10.26 – Friday 30.10.26

November

2.11.26 – INSET Day

6.11.26 – 9:15 Open Morning YR 2027

11.11.26 – Flu Immunisations

23.11.26 - 9:15 Open Morning YR 2027

December

17.12.26 – Last Day of Autumn Term for children

18.12.26 – INSET Day

More dates will follow in the Autumn term.

This year has flown by - it certainly doesn't seem a year ago that I was writing the final newsletter for 2025! It is always bitter-sweet when the Y2 children move on; we can see that they are ready for the next step in their learning, but we will miss seeing them around school. Fortunately for me I am often over at St Mary's, so I still get to see the children from time-to-time. The Y1 and YR children certainly look too big for their current classrooms, especially in comparison to the new children who are due to start with us in YR.

My thanks go to you all for your support this year; especially in the absence of Mrs Somerville and Mr Bowman. Both are doing well and recovering from their operations – Mrs Somerville has been going stir crazy at home, so I know she is desperate for September to arrive!

Attendance this year has been fantastic – the highest we have had for a while. We end the year on 97.5% which is great compared to the national picture of 94.7% and the Hampshire picture of 95.2%. I really appreciate the value that you place on school attendance.

Good attendance has also been reflected in our school data, these two aspects go hand in hand – in YR, Good Level of Development (GLD) is 89% - in 2025 the national figure was 68.5%. Y1 phonics data is 92%, last year the

national figure was 80%. In year 2, 71% of children move on to the Junior School having achieved the Expected Standard at the end of Key Stage one – there is no longer a national comparator for this, but last year the average for the end of KS2 **nationally** was 62%; so I am delighted with the hard work of your children, the teachers and thankful to you for the extra you all do at home. St Mary's always do a fantastic job taking our children on in their learning and their percentages are higher than the national picture. It all means that as a school we are doing a great job at making sure that our children are ready for the next step.

Data is only one part of the story and as a parent who had one child that did and one child that didn't ever make the combined expected standard in any year – even at GCSE it is important to focus on the whole child and the progress that each one has made from their individual starting points. Alongside this are the qualities that are going to make them fantastic young people as they grow older. With hard work, kindness, courage and resilience they will get there in the end! I am very proud of this school and the children in it, and I feel we are ending the year on a great note.

Myhappymind – NHS accredited programme

Don't forget the MYhappymind app that compliments our PSHE Curriculum. This focuses on mental health and well-being and I am pleased to announce that as a school we have just learnt that we have achieved our Bronze Accreditation in recognition of the things we do to support the mental health of our children.

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> to create your free account. You will need to enter your name, email, and authentication code.

Your authentication code is 116039

Or simply scan this QR code to sign up



EpiPens and Inhalers return

Just a reminder that if your child has an inhaler or EpiPen, it must come in with them on the first day back over the summer and be handed to their class teacher along with any care plan that they have. They will then be registered with us through the office who will check them regularly. It would help us if you keep a note at home of the use by date and make arrangements for replacements before they become out of date.

School Day

Just a reminder that the drive through starts and doors to the classrooms open at 8:35 - a decision that was made years ago to help those who may need to be working by 9am. The official start of the day is at 8:50 when official learning begins, so your child is not listed as late for school if they arrive at 8:50 which is when class doors and gates close.

F.O.O.B.S

As another school year comes to an end, we would like to say a massive thank you to all the parents, teachers and volunteers for your incredible support throughout the year. From attending events to donating and giving up your time, your support has helped us achieve so much for our schools and children. We truly couldn't do it without you. The FOOPS Run is back on Sunday 11th October. Please see attached a flyer and see more details at <https://foops.weebly.com> Hope you all have an incredible summer and see you in September.

Summer Reading Challenge - 2026

Hampshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – Read to the Beat!

It would be great to see lots of our pupils signing up for this summer's Hampshire Libraries reading challenge. Sign up at your library or online from Saturday 11th July to Saturday 12th September.

This year the challenge theme is 'Read to the Beat!'

[Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2026! | Leisure and culture | Hampshire County Council](#)

Safeguarding over the Summer- Water Safety

With many of you heading to coastal areas over the summer break, please do keep yourselves and your children safe. Hampshire has over 230 miles of coastline, rivers and lakes, and it's important that everyone knows the Water Safety Code and what to do if they should get into difficulties.

The Water Safety Code:

- **STOP & THINK** - Look for the dangers. Always read the signs and understand what they mean.
- **STAY TOGETHER** - Never go near water on your own. Always have an adult with you.
- **FLOAT** - If you fall in, float or swim on your back and stay calm. Throw something that floats to someone who has fallen in.
- **CALL** 999 or 112 - In an emergency call 999 or 112 (coastguard)

The following links will take you to some really useful resources to help everyone stay safe in the water this summer:

[Float to Live Toolkit: resources for download \(rnli.org\)](#)

[Teach your children the Water Safety Code - Hampshire SCP](#)

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/>

[The Water Safety Code | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#)

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/the-water-safety-code>

Online Safety

As we head into the summer holidays, we may find our children are online more or having more screen time. The UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has produced some useful guidance as to how to reduce screen time over the long summer holiday.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/balancing-screen-time-over-the-holidays-advice-for-parents-and-carers>

Things to do in Basingstoke over the summer!

The 'We Love Basingstoke' website has some great ideas for family friendly activities in the local area this summer!

[What's on in Basingstoke and Deane](#)

Parent Survey

Thank you to those of you who have completed the parent survey. We have already started to action a couple of the points raised – one regarding communication books and another regarding more information on the methods we use to deliver the curriculum. Watch this space for a maths evening next academic year! The link to the survey is below, so feel free to complete this if you have time.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9J23WZP>

I hope that you are able to enjoy a bit of a break yourselves during the summer and we will look forward to welcoming most of you back in September.

Best wishes,
Sonia Denning