



Newsletter 1: 11.9.26

Diary Dates

September

- 11.9.26 - Year 1 and Year 2 Curriculum Presentations on the school website
- 16.9.26 – 6:30pm Y1 Q&A on TEAMS
- 17.9.26 – 6:30pm Y2 Q&A on TEAMS
- 18.9.26 – Y1 Seaside visit
- 22.9.26 – 6:30pm YR Curriculum presentation in the school hall
- 24.9.26 – 9:15 – Open Morning for new YR 2027

October

- 2.10.26 - FOOBS Y2 DISCO
- 7.10.26 – 7:30pm FOOBS AGM – see information below
- 9.10.26 – Individual photographs – see information below
- 11.10.26 – FOOBS Trail Run
- 14.10.26 - 9:15 – Open Morning for new YR 2027
- 20.10.26 – Parents evening 3:30pm -6pm
- 22.10.26 - Parents evening 3:30pm -6pm
- 23.10.26 – Be Bright Be Seen Day – information to follow
- 26-10.26 – 30.10.26 HALF TERM

November

- 2.11.26 – INSET DAY
- 6.11.26 - 9:15 – Open Morning for new YR 2027
- 6.11.26 – YR Phonics and Reading Presentation on the school website
- 9.11.26 – 13.11.26 – Friendship Week
- 10.11.26 – YR Q&A on TEAMS
- 11.11.26 – Flu immunisations
- 13.11.26 – Children in Need
- 23.11.26 - 9:15 – Open Morning for new YR 2027
- 27.11.26 – FOOBS Christmas Market – Information to follow

December

- 11.12.26 – UNICEF Day for Change
- 14.12.26 – 2pm YR Nativity
- 15.12.26 – 29:30am – YR Nativity
- 17.12.26 – Christmas Jumper Day
- 18.12.26 – INSET DAY
- End of Autumn Term

This has certainly been a busy week for all the children. YR have been amazing and seem to be settling into school life – thank you to you as parents, for the hard work that you have put in preparing them for school. It is a huge step for many even if they have attended nursery or pre-school.

For the most part, the whole school seem to have taken each new experience in their stride; there are always bumps in the road and ups and downs so please speak to us if there is anything concerning you. Your first port of call is always your child's class teacher but I am always around and happy to help.

I completely forgot to mention the one-way system that runs around school. This really only affects YR but this is the easiest and quickest place to share the message. There can be a lot of congestion with buggies and children coming in and out of the school gate at the start and the end of the day; so to ease this it would help if once you drop or collect your child, that you walk round and through the main playground past year 1 in order to exit the school site rather than leave the way that you came in. This really helps to reduce the footfall through this one gate.

St Mary's CE Junior School - Open Days for prospective parents 2027

Do you, or do you know someone who has a child due to start Year 3 in September 2027? We will be holding two open days this term for prospective new parents. These will give you the opportunity to tour the school and see us in action, as well as an opportunity to find out more about what you and your child can expect from St Mary's from the leadership team.

This year's dates are

Tuesday 13th October 2026, starting at 1:30pm and finishing around 3:00pm.

Wednesday 4th November 2026, starting at 9.30am and finishing around 11:00am.

If for any reason you are unable to make one of these dates, please contact the school office on 01256 465092 or adminoffice@st-marys-jun.hants.sch.uk, and we will try our best to arrange an alternative date.

Parking

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.

If you are parking in the school car park, please be aware of the following . In the morning, parents can only park on the right-hand side. The left-hand side is for drop off only and cars should not be abandoned in the 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 had contact from parking officers who will be out to monitor 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 or park on the path. 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.

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 11th 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. Our website provider has not updated that page, so this will help I hope!

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

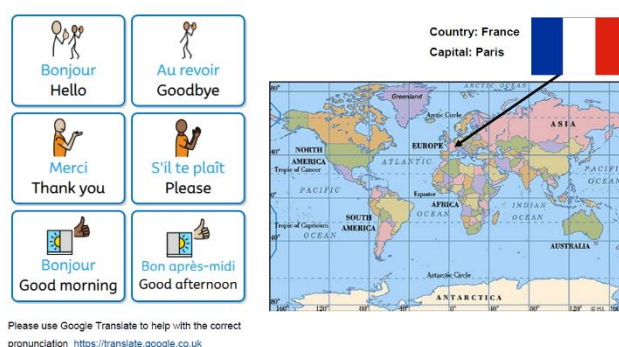
We would love to celebrate any children who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge with their local library this year. Please send named certificates only into school for Friday Celebration Assemblies.

Language of the Half Term

Did you know that in our school community, 23 different languages are spoken? We are so lucky to have such a diverse range of languages and it is very important to us that we celebrate, and raise awareness of this with the children and our school community. We choose one of these languages each half term to learn more about as a school community. The children learn some key phrases which they use in school and we also have signs around our school in both English and the half termly language. This half term, the language we have chosen is **French**. To ensure our translation of the key phrases is accurate, we will always check it with a family who speak the language. For a closer look at the image below, and if you would like to learn more about the language alongside your child, please see the separate attachment.

Our language of the half term is: French

In our school community we have 3 families who speak French.



Attendance

Hampshire County Council has a campaign currently encouraging families to do all they can to support regular school attendance. They wanted us to try and aim for 100% attendance in the first two weeks of school and ours is currently at 98.5% which is fantastic! 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 to 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.

Photographer

The school photographer will be in school taking individual portrait photographs of all children on Friday 9th 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.**

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.

Library Plea

We are currently looking to replenish our library stock and we would be very grateful for any donations of good quality books that you may have to help us boost our stock of books. We are unable to take anything that needs repairing or books that are more than ten years old. If you have anything you would like to pass on, then please take them to Miss Tuck in Barn Owl Class.

F.O.O.B.S

We have lots of exciting events coming up over the next few weeks, and we'd love for you to get involved. Year Two School Disco – Friday 2nd October. Get your dancing shoes ready for what promises to be a fantastic school disco. Tickets will be on sale at the end of September.

F.O.O.B.S. AGM – Wednesday 7th October, at the infant school. Our Annual General Meeting will take place on 7th October. This is a great opportunity to find out more about F.O.O.B.S., hear about the fantastic work and fundraising that has taken place, and get involved in supporting our school community. Everyone is welcome, and we would love to see as many parents and carers there as possible!

FOOBS Fun Run – 11th October. The countdown is on for our exciting F.O.O.B.S. Fun Run on Sunday 11th October! There is still time to enter, so don't miss out on what is sure to be a brilliant day of fun, fitness and fundraising. For more information and to sign up, please visit www.foobs.weebly.com.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Every event and contribution helps us raise valuable funds and create fantastic opportunities for our children and school community. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Have a wonderful weekend and we will look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Sonia Denning
Headteacher