



## Newsletter Number 10: 30.1.2026

### **February**

9.2.26 – Parents evening - 3:30-6:10

12.2.26 – Parents evening - 3:30-6:10

13.2.26 – F.O.O.B.S Dare to be Different Day - information to follow.

**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 – 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**

The end of January is finally here! This has felt like a very long and grey month, so I have been very appreciative of the children's smiley faces each day – I am hoping that February might bring a little more sunshine. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Family Sessions last week, the feedback that I have had was very positive and the children certainly enjoyed it.

### **F.O.O.B.S**

**Save the Date** – Dare To Be Different Day. Friday 13th February 2026. On Dare To Be Different Day, children can make a donation to F.O.O.B.S. and, in return, choose a school rule to break for the day.

Further details will follow.

**Save the Date** – F.O.O.B.S. Quiz Night. Saturday 28th February 2026. Join us for an evening of brain teasers, hot food, and fantastic prizes. Tickets go on sale today, 30th January 2026.

### **NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH**

PANCAKE RACE FUN!

Shrove Tuesday, 17th February, 12.15 - 1.30pm

St Mary's Parish Room

Children with parents and carers are warmly invited to come along to the parish room for some pancake flipping fun (no experience needed!). This event is free of charge, with no booking needed, just turn up on the day! The event is being led by volunteers from the youth hub (*a joint venture between St Mary's and Old Basing Methodist Churches and is fully funded by The Welcome Tea Room – see below*). As well as the races there will be pancakes available to eat so do bring your friends and family and come and enjoy some Shrove Tuesday silliness together!

## FLOWER FESTIVAL & OPEN GARDENS - 15-17 MAY 2026

Theme: *Parish Life with Petals*

We are delighted to announce our Flower Festival and Open Gardens weekend, taking place from 15–17 May 2026, celebrating the theme “Parish Life with Petals.”

We would love as many gardens as possible to take part, both in Old Basing and Lychpit. Would you like to join in? Large or small, formal or informal — every garden helps make the event special. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact Debbie at

[admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk) 🌸

### THE WELCOME TEAM ROOM

St Mary’s Parish Room, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 2pm – 4pm.

All are welcome to come and enjoy delicious cakes lovingly baked by volunteers on the first and third Fridays of each month. There are no set prices, donate if you would like to. Well behaved dogs on leads welcome (with treats available!)

### Talk point for the week.

Did you see or do something kind today? How did that make you feel? A talk point to encourage empathy and respect.

### Staff Profile - Caroline Tuck

I began my career working for a large homeless charity in London, supporting rough sleepers to find safe and secure housing. After eight challenging but rewarding years, I felt ready for a new direction and began working as an LSA before completing my PGCE.

My first teaching role was at a primary school in the heart of Tower Hamlets, just a short walk from the famous Columbia Road Flower Market. I taught across both key stages and loved being part of such a vibrant community, so leaving after many years was a difficult decision.

In 2017, my partner and I moved away from East London with our young children to be closer to family and friends, marking the start of an exciting new chapter. I worked as a supply teacher across Hampshire and Surrey before quickly realising that OBIS was the right place for me to continue my career and was delighted to join the team in 2019.

I am passionate about teaching because no two days are ever the same, and it is incredibly rewarding to see the progress children make throughout the year. Helping them grow in confidence, independence, and enjoyment of learning is one of the best parts of the job.

Outside of school, life is full and busy with our two children. I enjoy family walks in the countryside, yoga, swimming, and the occasional visit to a live comedy show.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sonia Denning