Newsletter Number 6 – 20.11.2026

Diary Dates

November

23.11.26 - 9:15 – Final Open Morning for new YR 2027

27.11.26 – FOOBS Christmas Market

December

11.12.26 – UNICEF Day for Change

14.12.26 – 2pm YR Nativity

15.12.26 – 9:30am – YR Nativity

17.12.26 – Christmas Jumper Day

18.12.26 – INSET DAY

End of Autumn Term

January

4.1.27 – Start of term

February

9.2.27 – Parents evening

11.2.27-Parents evening

12.2.27 – Dare to be Different Day – details to follow

Half Term 15.2.27-19.2.27

Key future Dates

Easter Fair – March 20th 2027 at the Infant School

Summer Fair - July 4th 2027 at St Mary's Junior School

Discussion point

What will your friends and family come up with for this question?

Which character from a book would you invite to dinner and why?

This question will help your child/children to:

- Develop comprehension skills, by recalling information about a character's personality, actions and role in the story.
- Justify opinions by explaining *why* they have chosen that character.
- Practise speaking in full sentences and giving reasons using words such as *because*, *for example* and *I think*.

- Strengthen listening skills as they hear and respond to other family members' choices and reasons.
- Encourage a love of reading by making books and characters a natural part of family conversation.

Children in Need

Thank you very much for your kind donations to Children in Need. The children really enjoyed bringing in their teddy to school; it made a really nice change from our usual non-uniform days.

Remembrance Day

Huge thanks go to Polly, Eliza, Lottie and Mille Barton – along with their parents, for representing both St Mary's and Old Basing at the Remembrance Day parade in town. It is such an important date to honour and the girls proudly laid the wreath alongside those from other local schools.



Do you currently receive Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit?

If so, your child may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). If you have children in Year R, Year 1 or Year 2, they already receive a free meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, registering for FSM can still be beneficial. It may unlock additional funding for the school and, where applicable, can help your child access other support, such as the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Please apply online via:
https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants

FOOBS

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to our Happy School Bags collection yesterday. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and we collected a massive 703kg which has raised £316 which is fantastic.

Our Christmas markets are taking place next week at both schools. Juniors is on Monday 23rd of November and Infants is on Friday 27th of November

A little reminder that Junior Tinsel Token sales have now closed, so please remember to send your child in with cash to spend at the market. Infant Tinsel Token orders remain open until Wednesday, so there is still time to get yours.

It's nearly time to send those all-important Christmas letters! Our Letter to Santa kits will be sent home with children over the next week, ready for some festive magic.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope everyone enjoys getting into the Christmas spirit.

Applications for Year 3, Junior School, are now Open!

Please use the link below to make your application:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions
Closing date for applications is 15th January 2027.

Have a lovely weekend,

Sonia Denning