



Newsletter Number 9: 16.1.2025

January

19.1.26 – Family afternoon 2-3:15pm

23.1.26 – family afternoon 2-3:15pm

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

Welcome back to school after what I am sure has been a very busy Christmas period. What a mix of weather we have had to the start of 2026 and the Spring term! It looks like for the time being, the crisp winter mornings we were lucky enough to have over the Christmas break have disappeared and been replaced by the usual rain, so please make sure your child comes to school with a waterproof coat as we try to get the children outside as much as we can. We already have a selection of hats and gloves in lost property, so feel free to come and have a rummage if you have lost anything. It won't be long until the evenings will be lighter and we will start to see signs of spring emerging so we can all begin to look forward to that!

Family Sessions

Next week we have two family sessions which I know many of you have already signed up for. These sessions are designed for you to come and join in with your child in class. In YR this will be more of a stay and play session, in Y1 there will be some activities based on their topic of Adventurers and Explorers and in Y2 there are some Problem-solving activities all to do with Paddington. I hope you will enjoy being able to join in with your child. If you haven't yet signed up for a slot, please do and remember that due to the size of our classrooms and for health and safety there is only one space available per child so don't try and book more than one! We will look forward to seeing you in school next week.

Old Basing Schools Coffee Morning

It was lovely to have parents from both the infant and junior schools join us at our joint coffee morning last term. We discussed several topics such as how to support children when they are dysregulated at home, children who show anxiety round their health and how to support children during overwhelming periods of the year such as Christmas. It was great to listen to advice from Primary Behaviour Service who have an incredible knowledge of supporting children both at home and in school. The meetings are very informal and there is no requirement to come along with a particular issue to discuss, you may just want to come and listen. If you would like to join us,

our next coffee morning will be held at St Mary's Junior School on **Wednesday 11th February at 9am**. There is no need to book, please just come along.

Helpful Safeguarding

A child tells you they love playing Roblox, and the advice is "just be sensible." What might we want to explore further?

Answer

Roblox is used by children from a very young age, with many starting in primary school and a particularly large number of players aged around 8 - 12. There is no fixed minimum age to play, and children often share games and social spaces with much older users. This mix of ages, combined with user-generated content and social features such as chat and voice chat, means children's experiences can vary widely. As a result, generic advice like "just be sensible" gives us very little insight into what a child is actually seeing, doing, or who they are interacting with.

Helpful lines of curiosity include:

What games are they accessing, and are they age-appropriate?

Is chat enabled, and who can message them?

Have they come across anything violent, hateful or worrying?

Are they using private servers or public spaces?

Are parental controls or age settings in place and actively used?

Does the parent feel confident managing the platform?

Disclosures of concerning content on Roblox should be treated as safeguarding issues, not just IT problems, and may relate to online safety, digital resilience or Prevent duties. The goal is curiosity, not panic. We want to help children talk openly about what they encounter and support parents to move beyond "just be sensible".

What helps most in practice includes:

Regular, interested conversations about what children enjoy playing, who they play with, and what they notice online

Adults showing curiosity, including watching or playing alongside children, so games are not treated as a secret or separate world

A clear understanding of personal information, including why chats should stay about the game and when to tell an adult

Agreed rules around spending, with children knowing when real money is involved and when permission is needed

Reassurance that worries should be shared, including exposure to upsetting content, mean behaviour or hate-based language

Confidence using block and report tools, so concerns can be addressed calmly and practically

Active use of safety settings, including age-appropriate controls, chat restrictions and parent account oversight

More information can be found here: <https://corp.roblox.com/safety-by-age>

F.O.O.B.S

As we settle into the new year there are some exciting F.O.O.B.S. events just around the corner.

We hope all our Year 5s have an amazing time at the disco tonight. Music, dancing and plenty of fun to kick off the weekend. Enjoy every minute.

Below are some save the dates of some events coming up:

30th January 2026-Year 6 Movie Night

28th February 2026- F.O.O.B.S. Quiz Night

Expect friendly competition, laughs, and a great evening for all.

Full details to follow on both these events soon.

Leave of Absence

I never like to feel that I have had a moan in the newsletters and if I do it is usually about parking! I do empathise with families regarding the time and the cost of holidays – I was myself a single parent for much of the time both

of my children were at Primary school, and I could only ever try and take my children away at the most expensive times due to my job. I like to think that although I am governed by processes and laws beyond my control when it comes to leave of absence, that I do understand. What I find hard is when an absence is reported to school as illness and then finding out that this is in fact untrue. For example, hearing children when they return from a period of absence, trying not to express their excitement at having visited Lapland or trying to remember the lie they were supposed to tell about when they returned from a holiday or seeing them feel uncomfortable responding when asked if they are feeling better is not something that aligns with our school values or the job that we are doing to encourage our children to tell the truth. The message this gives children is that it is not ok to lie but you can about this. Please remember that we do always know when absence is taken and not for the reason given. We communicate with other local schools including secondaries and we often find siblings being reported absent due to illness at the same time. At my discretion, we do have the authority to change a code of absence from illness to unauthorised if we have reason to suspect otherwise, so please think carefully before not being truthful.

Medical Appointments

I know that medical appointments for children can often be last minute and subject to availability at your local surgery but as far as is practically possible if you know your child has an appointment, please contact the school office to fill out the relevant paperwork. Depending on the time of the appointment and unless there has been a prior discussion, children are expected to attend school before and after any appointment attended.

Staff Profile – Vicky Willis

I completed a BA (Hons) in Primary Education and Teaching at Chichester University 18 years ago and Old Basing Infants haven't managed to get rid of me since. I love this school and still can't imagine working anywhere else! I have a passion for Special Educational Needs and before having my children I was a SENDCo for 10 years and thoroughly enjoyed the role. I now teach 3 days a week in an effort to juggle my responsibilities as a teacher and a Mum. My homelife is mainly taken up by two energetic boys but if I do get a spare minute to myself, I enjoy reading a good murder mystery, socialising with friends and in recent years have started my own cake business.

Language of the Half Term









Our children really enjoyed learning Portuguese last half term, even our youngest children became confident to answer the register with "Bom Dia" or "Boa Tarde" and we also heard some of them thanking staff at lunchtimes by saying "Obrigado". It was a pleasure to see our fluent Portuguese speaking children become experts in the classroom helping us with our pronunciation.

Our new language for this half term is Telugu. Please see the attached document for more information on this language; you may want to support your child at home by learning the language together.

Our language of the half term is: Telugu

In our school community we have 4 families who speak Telugu.

All of our Telugu speaking families come from India.

 హలో Namaskāram Hello	 విదేకులు Vidkōlu Goodbye	Country: India Capital: New Delhi	
 ధన్యవాదాలు Dhan'yavādālu Thank you	 దయచేసి Dayacēsi Please		
 శుభదయం Śubhōdayam Good Morning	 శుభ మధ్యాహ్నం Śubha madhyāhnam Good Afternoon		

Please use Google Translate to help with the correct pronunciation <https://translate.google.co.uk>

Enjoy your weekend!

Sonia Denning