



## Newsletter Number 8: 18.12.2025



### **December**

**19.12.25 – INSET Day and end of term**

### **January**

**5.1.26 – First day of term all children in**

19.1.26 – Family afternoon 2-3:15pm

23.1.26 – family afternoon 2-3:15pm

### **February**

9.2.26 – Parents evening - 3:30-6:15

12.2.26 – Parents evening - 3:30-6:15

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

**Half Term 16.2.26 – 20.2.26**

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 first term of the school year is done! Above you will see a list of dates for the Spring term. Some of these events still require final planning from us, so you will receive details on them closer to the time.

### **An extraordinary visit from Father Christmas!**

Huge thanks go to Mr Worker (Father of Luca (Fox) and Arlo (Mole)) and RAF Odiham for bringing Father Christmas to visit us at St Mary's Junior School on Tuesday. All children from YR to Y6 were so excited to watch the chinook land and then to get the surprise of Father Christmas as well as his elves was truly magical. Here are a few photographs and a link to a video for you to have a glimpse of this special event. We have checked permissions for the video – it is private and can only be viewed by clicking on the link below.



[https://youtube.com/shorts/o5IZtmSSyMY?si=dUOyN4FdR\\_ObKgUg](https://youtube.com/shorts/o5IZtmSSyMY?si=dUOyN4FdR_ObKgUg)

### **Assembly visitors**

We were very lucky to have a visit from Revd. Tuck last week who came and told the story of the first Christmas. The children loved joining in with the story telling and the fact that it was Miss Tuck's dad!



We were also very lucky to have a visit from Ajit who came from the Basingstoke Sikh Society. He came to talk to the children about the Sikh Religion – in particular what happens at a baby naming ceremony. The children asked lots of insightful questions and one child asked Ajit if he would come back to tell them some more!



### **A message from Mr T-V**

Does your child take part in a sport away from school? We are looking to celebrate children and their sporting adventures away from school on our PE topic board near the school office. Please send pictures and a comment in to our school office for your child's sporting achievements to be celebrated in school.

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

Thank you to Mrs Nightingale and to members of the Pupil Voice group who visited St Mary's Church to decorate our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival.



## **Ofsted**

As you will know from the communication sent out from St Mary's Junior School and ourselves last week, there have been major changes to the Ofsted school inspection framework.

Ofsted have produced a video for parents that explains the new grading's and report cards that schools will be receiving. As it states in the video, the new 'Expected Standard' is a high standard, it means a school is doing everything that it should be and the video explains more about the 'Needs Attention' grade. This is not a failure, but highlights areas where improvements could be made.

As in previous communication and this video, there is no correlation between previous Ofsted gradings and the new system as it is a completely new framework, new inspection process and the areas of inspection are now different.

The video for parents produced by Ofsted can be viewed here:

[New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents](#)

## **Staff Profile Mr T-V**

After growing up by the sea in North Devon, I made the decision to take a break from education and pursue my passion of coaching football. I travelled to live in Cape Town, South Africa where I worked on a football development project including working with the South African Homeless World Cup team. In the following couple of years, I lived in both the USA and Glasgow working as a football (or soccer!) coach in the Bay Area and as an international academy coach for Celtic FC.

After my years of travelling and pursuing my sporting passion, I settled in Basingstoke where I found my passion for being in schools whilst working as a sports coach in local schools. I worked for the next few years working as a sports coach whilst completing my degree full-time. After this stressful balancing act for a few years, I began work as a teacher in a local junior school where I remained for 2 years until an opportunity to come back to OBIS, a school I loved when I was here as a trainee teacher, came up at the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year. It's safe to say, I made the right choice - I am so lucky to work as a teacher at this wonderful school!

Away from school and playing football (and often gaining injuries), I love music, travel and theatre. I have recently moved house and am currently working on modernising a lovely but very dated house! Wish me luck on my DIY adventure...!

## **Family Afternoon**

A letter has been sent home about Family Afternoon. We decided that instead of having a day for family members to attend that two afternoon sessions would work better. Some children get very upset when their family member goes home and our youngest children find it a bit unsettling. We know that you enjoy spending time in school, so we felt that this was a happy medium in-between as the children will all go home straight afterwards. As was mentioned in the letter, health and safety dictates we have to limit attendance to one adult per family per class so please ensure that only one session is booked.

## **School Applications for 2026**

Please make sure that you have applied for your child's Junior school place by January 15<sup>th</sup>, likewise if you know anyone who is yet to have applied for their YR place please urge them to do so too.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

## **Hello from F.O.O.B.S**

IT'S (nearly) CHRISTMAS! Last week of term and what a festive week it's been! As we say goodbye to 2025, we want to extend the biggest thank you to you, for all your support towards F.O.O.B.S. this year. You have helped us to continue to provide wonderful enrichment for your children and help create fun school memories. We look forward to creating more fun events in 2026.

## **Talking Point**

'What is your hope for yourself and of other people in 2026?'

Thank you for all your support this term, Old Basing Infant School really is a special place to come to work every day and this is not just to do with our staff and pupils but also to do with all of you and the support from our local community. I would like to Wish you all Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

See you in 2026!

Sonia Denning

### **Attendance to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Whole School – 97%

Mole Class: 97.1%

Hedgehog Class: 96.5%

Dormouse Class: 95.7%

Hare Class: 97.5%

Squirrel Class: 97.3%

Fox Class: 98%

Barn Owl Class: 96.7%

Badger Class: 97%

Otter Class: 97.3%