

3rd October 2025

The Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's Schools

Newsletter

TERM DATES

Please see below a list of term dates which we trust you will find of use. Event details will be provided nearer the time.

Monday 6th October - Year 1 Phonics Screening Presentation for Parents/Carers

Monday 6th October to Friday 10th October - Space Week

Monday 6th October to Friday 10th October - Year 6 Residential

Monday 13th October - Bag2School collection from the village

Tuesday 14th October - Bag2School collection from School

Wednesday 15th October - Mortimer St. Mary's Harvest Festival Service - St. Mary's Church - 11.00am

Thursday 16th October - Mortimer St John's Harvest Festival Service - St. John's Church - 2.30pm

Friday 17th October - Newbury Weekly News 'My First Class' photograph (Foundation Stage)

Monday 20th October - Parents' Evening (virtual)

Tuesday 21st October - Year 3 'What did the Romans do for us?' Parent Share - 9.15am

Wednesday 22nd October - Parents' Evening (face to face)

Wednesday 22nd October - Year 6 Child Measurement Programme

Thursday 23rd October - Year 3 'Board Game Bonanza' Parent Share - 8.30am

Friday 24th October - INSET Day

Friday 24th October to Friday 31st October - Half Term

Monday 3rd November to Friday 7th November - Science Week

Friday 7th November - Mortimer St. Mary's School Disco - Year 3/Year 4 - 3.30pm to 5.00pm, Year 5/Year 6 - 5.15pm to 6.45pm

Monday 10th November to Friday 14th November - Friendship Week

Tuesday 18th November - Junior Music Festival

Thursday 20th November - Year 3 trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Monday 24th November - Year 5 Planetarium Visit

Wednesday 3rd December - PTFA Christmas Wreath Making Event

Friday 5th December - PTFA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 9th December - Foundation Stage Production - 9.30am

Tuesday 9th December and Thursday 11th December - Year 3/Year 4 Production - 6.00pm

Wednesday 10th December - Year 3/Year 4 Production - 9.30am

Thursday 11th December - Mortimer St. John's (Year 1 and Year 2) Christmas Service - St. John's Church - 2.00pm

Friday 12th December - Christmas Celebration Day including Christmas Lunch and Christmas Parties

Tuesday 16th December - Mortimer St. Mary's Christmas Service - St. Mary's Church - 2.00pm

Thursday 18th December - End of term - Mortimer St. Mary's - 1.30pm, Mortimer St. John's - 2.00pm.

Monday 5th January - Spring Term Begins

YEAR 6 NATIONAL CHILD MEASUREMENT PROGRAMME

Year 6 parents/carers have recently received a Parentmail communication from the West Berkshire nursing team with regard to the Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme. Please ensure the letter is read fully as you will need to opt out by contacting the nurse team if you do not wish for your child to take part.

HEADLICE AND NITS

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. Please could we remind all parents/carers to regularly check your child's hair and treat as necessary. Further information and guidance can be found on the NHS website via the following link:-

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Our Year 6 parents and carers would have recently received a Parentmail with regards to the West Berkshire secondary school application process. Please ensure applications for your chosen secondary school are completed by 31st October 2025. Parents/carers should contact West Berkshire Admissions should they have any queries either by email admissions@westberks.gov.uk or telephone 01635 551111.

CONTACTING SCHOOL

If you need to communicate with school staff, please contact either of the school offices. This can be via email or telephone. If you need to contact the Class Teacher, please do not send messages to the class email accounts or via Seesaw, as these accounts are not consistently monitored and your message may be missed. Thank you

HARVEST FESTIVAL – FOOD BANK

This is a reminder that The Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's are collecting donations for a West Berkshire Foodbank. If you are able to bring in an item to help the foodbank, they would be extremely grateful. Please bring any donations into school between Monday 13th October and Thursday 16th October.

WESSEX ROTARY SHOEBOX APPEAL

Please could all filled boxes for the Wessex Rotary Shoebox appeal be brought into school by Friday 17th October. Please ensure that the box is left unsealed and the label has been securely fixed to the top of the box. Please see the email sent via ParentMail on Monday 29th September for further details. Thank you for your support.

COULD YOU HELP A CHILD LEARN TO READ?

ABC to read is looking for a volunteer to support children at our school who are struggling with reading. Volunteers receive full training, DBS checks, and ongoing support from the charity. Just a couple of hours a week can make a huge difference to a child's confidence and education.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer reader, please contact ABC to read at info@abctoread.org.uk www.abctoread.org.uk

LOCAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Please see the attached flyers detailing local events and activities.

FAMILY FACE ADVICE

Supporting a Child with ADHD



Challenge the stereotypes and get practical help

Tuesday 11th November 7 - 8:30pm

90 minute session. Recording available for 48hrs

£24.

Available to book now
facefamilyadvice.co.uk



SCHOOL DAY

This is a reminder of the timings of our school day at The Mortimer Federation.

Mortimer St. John's

Gates open: 8.30am

Registration: 8.45am

End of school day: 3.10pm

Mortimer St. Mary's

Gates open: 8.45am

Registration: 9.00am

End of school day: 3.30pm

DOLCE SPECIAL MENU

Please see the attached special lunchtime menu for 5th November.

MINDFUL BRAIN

A workshop for families on the Brain and Body.

Join them for a fun and interactive family workshop designed to help children (and their grown-ups) understand how the brain and body react to tricky situations - and what you can do to stay calm, focused and confident. Here's the booking link for **BIG FEELINGS BRAVE MINDS WORKSHOP IN OCTOBER HALF TERM:**

[Events | Mindful Brain](#)