

23th 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.

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

Wednesday 19th November – Bradfield Netball Tournament

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

Monday 24th November – Year 5 Planetarium Visit

Friday 28th November – Non uniform day

Friday 28th November – Mortimer St. John's School Disco Year 1 4.30-5.30pm/ Year 2: 6-7pm

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 PGL

On Monday 6th to Friday 10th October, Year 6 went on their much-anticipated residential trip to PGL Osmington Bay in Dorset. We were extremely lucky with the weather and enjoyed lovely autumnal sunshine every day! The site was also beautiful with stunning sea views all around. Throughout the week, the children took part in a huge range of activities, including climbing, abseiling, dragon boating, raft building, problem solving and many more. The staff who accompanied the children on the trip were so proud of the resilience, teamwork and positive attitude shown by every single one of them for the duration of the trip. Alongside this, the children developed their independence and gained confidence while being away from home for 4 nights. It was a wonderful week overall and we hope the children have made fantastic memories and will look back on the trip fondly in the future.



SCHOOLGRID ACCOUNTS - MORTIMER ST. MARY'S

Could we please request that all SchoolGrid accounts are settled before we return to school on Monday 3rd November. We would be grateful if all SchoolGrid accounts are credited for the meals your child/ren have eaten and for all future orders placed. If the SchoolGrid accounts go into arrears, school is charged for these meals, until the accounts are cleared. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

If the School has to close for any reason an email will be sent via ParentMail in the first instance. If you have not received your invitation to sign up to ParentMail please email the school office officemsj@mortimerschools.org or officemsm@mortimerschools.org. Thank you.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

On Tuesday, 7th October we sent out a ParentMail to both schools about our Scholastic book club - don't forget that our latest Scholastic Book Club is now live!

Mortimer St. Mary's

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/st-marys-rg7/digital-book-club>

Mortimer St. John's

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/mortimer-st-john/digital-book-club>

There are hundreds of fantastic children's books to choose from, and every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club will earn 20p for our schools in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your order online by November 7th, 2025

EDC DANCE – MORTIMER ST. MARY'S

Due to popular demand EDC Dance will be running a morning club at Mortimer St. Mary's on Tuesdays. Please see the attached information.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Last week, our Federation came together to celebrate the Harvest Festival — a time to give thanks for all the good things we have and to share with those in need.

At St Mary's Church, the juniors came together with readings, thoughtful prayers and wonderful poems read by the children. The infant service was held at St John's Church, where our younger pupils filled the space with beautiful singing and prayers of thanks.

Both services were joyful occasions, reminding us of the importance of gratitude and generosity. The children's singing of traditional harvest hymns created a lovely atmosphere, and their participation throughout showed great enthusiasm and care.

We were also proud to collect harvest offerings, which will be donated to a local food bank to support families in our community. A big thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make our Harvest Festival such a special and meaningful event.

ADA LOVELACE DAY

On Tuesday 14th October a group of Year 6 children attended the AWE Ada Lovelace Day. The aim of this event is to break the stigma around STEM subjects and careers and encourage girls to see themselves as future scientists and engineers. Ada Lovelace is widely regarded as the world's first computer programmer, and Ada Lovelace Day was created over 150 years after her ground-breaking work to celebrate and highlight the achievements of women in STEM. The children really enjoyed completing a range of science experiments and mathematical problems, including creating their own seismograph and erupting volcanoes. The day also included seeing a range of engineering demonstrations and seeing a robotic dog. The day was run by a range of female scientist, engineers, mathematicians and computer programmers who work at AWE and the children got to hear about how some of them had got into their careers and what their roles today entail. The children commented on 'loving the hands-on opportunities and hearing about these female role models' and 'cracking the mathematical puzzles'. They were also very proud to win the quiz!

YEAR 4 FIELD TRIP TO READING

Last week, Year 4 took part in an exciting fieldwork trip to Reading town centre! The aim was to compare features of a modern town centre with those of Roman settlements like Silchester. Travelling by train

from Mortimer, the children began their investigations near St Laurence's Church and Forbury Gardens, using survey sheets to record different types of land use - from commercial and civic buildings to green and religious spaces. At Reading Museum, Year 4 explored artefacts that brought Roman life to light, before continuing through the historic Abbey Quarter to spot similarities between the Abbey Gateway and Roman gateways. Following the River Kennet, the children observed how land use changes from retail to residential areas and discussed the importance of waterways both past and present. After lunch by The Oracle, they completed more surveys around Broad Street, noting how older street patterns differ from modern layouts. The day ended with reflections on how Reading's development echoes - and differs from - Roman towns. The children showed fantastic curiosity and teamwork throughout, making the day a great success!



HALF TERM AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Please see the attached flyers for local activities.

BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION

We are delighted to advise that the amazing sum of £650.80 was raised (£216.93 for each school – Mortimer St. John's Infants School, Mortimer St. Mary's Junior School and Mortimer pre-school)

POPPY APPEAL

The children have the opportunity to donate to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal at School from Monday, 3rd November. If you would like your child to purchase a novelty item from the British Legion, please send in a donation in a named purse/envelope. There are poppies, wristbands and bracelets available to purchase.

20MPH SPEED SURVEY FINDINGS

A recent speed survey conducted by a local councillor attracted over 350 responses. Most respondents think there is a speed problem in one or more local streets. If you agree that school drop-off/pick-up time speed limit reduction from 30 to 20mph outside St Mary's school is needed, please sign this petition - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZQNKz7-8IWfMNV8Xuth7wV1HpzRU3VD2XbU0H4hokOdwwwbQ/viewform>

COFFEE MORNING

You are invited to join Mrs Rook and Mrs Cooper (Pastoral Lead) on Tuesday 18th November at 8.45am at MSJ or Miss Pearson and Mrs Cooper on 2nd December at 9am at MSM for a cuppa and a biscuit! We understand it takes a village to raise a child and we would love our school community to be a positive part of this and be there for each other. We are looking for any ideas of extra pastoral support we could make available for the year ahead too, so please come with any ideas you might have.

PTFA NEWS

This is a reminder that Disco tickets are on sale via Classlist. Tickets for the wreath making workshop and quiz night are also still available to purchase on Classlist. The PTFA have also just secured the Mortimer Community Grant for £1000. This money will be spent on cooking classes for the children. The purpose of the Community Grant Fund is to provide financial support for charity, voluntary and non-commercial organisations, but which support initiatives for the benefit of the Parish and/or its inhabitants.