

Friday 16th January 2026

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.

Wednesday 21st January – Netball Tournament, Bradfield College

Wednesday 21st January – 'Shakespeare Rewired' – Year 3

Tuesday 27th January to Monday 2nd February – Travelling Book Fair at Mortimer St. Mary's

Wednesday 4th February – Mortimer St. John's coffee morning 8.45am

Friday 6th February – Year 2 trip to the SeaCity Museum

Friday 13th February to Friday 20th February – Half Term

Tuesday 24th February – Year 5 Trip to Winchester City Museum

Tuesday 3rd March – Year 6 Trip to The Houses of Parliament

Wednesday 4th March – Year 4 Trip to The Natural History Museum

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day – Year 6 visits Year 1

Tuesday 10th March – Mortimer St. Mary's coffee morning 9am

Thursday 19th March – Mortimer St. John's class photos

Friday 27th March – End of Term – Mortimer St. Mary's 1.30pm/Mortimer St. John's 2pm

LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Please see the attached information for local events and activities.

DOLCE INCREASED COSTS

From Monday 30th March 2026, due to increasing levels of food inflation and the national living wage, Dolce will be increasing the price of a school meal to £3.11. At Mortimer St. Mary's Dolce allow a pupil's account to fall into debt by three meals. Once this amount has been reached, we will unfortunately not be able to authorise any further meals until the School Grid account has been cleared and funds added to pay for future meals. Please may we ask that all accounts are paid up to date as soon as possible. The School is billed for these meals at the end of each month for accounts that are not brought up-to-date. Thank you

SCHOOL CLOSURE

If the School has to close for any reason an email will be sent via ParentMail. If you have not received your invitation to sign up to ParentMail please email the relevant school office. Thank you.

Mortimer St. Mary's [-officemsm@mortimerschools.org](mailto:officemsm@mortimerschools.org)
Mortimer St. John's [-officemsj@mortimerschools.org](mailto:officemsj@mortimerschools.org)

ATTENDANCE



This is Sarah. She is in Year 5 and has 90% attendance. Sarah thinks this is pretty good, so do her parents/carers. Are they right? 90% attendance = 1/2 day missed every week! 90% attendance in one school year = 4 weeks of lessons missed! 90% attendance over five school years = 1/2 school year missed! Each year there are only 190 statutory school days, which means that if your child has 90% attendance or below, they have missed at least half a day a week. Ofsted regards attendance below 90% as persistent absence.

TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR AT MORTIMER ST. MARY'S

The Book Fair will be arriving in school on Tuesday 27th January. All classes will be visiting the fair on this date to see what books are available and if there are any titles they would like to buy! Children will then add to Seesaw details of what books they like so parents/carers can see what book/s their children would like to purchase. From Wednesday 28th January to Monday 2nd February the book fair will be open at break times where children can pay for books with money sent in to school. Parents and carers are invited to accompany their child to the fair and purchase any books they would like from 3.30pm – 4.00pm in the school hall on these dates. Both cash and card

payments (through a QR online payment system) will be accepted. Please can exact money be brought into school. Please note we do experience limited signal and it is advisable to bring exact money just in-case we are not able to access the online payments. We look forward to lots of sales at this year's Book Fair! Remember, the more sales we achieve, the more rewards the school will earn which can be used to purchase brand new books for classrooms and our school library as well as resources to support English across The Federation!

SNOW

We couldn't resist the temptation to go out and play in the snow on Tuesday 6th January! The children had a wonderful time enjoying the wintry weather, laughing and exploring together. We even managed to build some fantastic snowmen, which the children were very proud of. It was a lovely opportunity for fresh air, teamwork and lots of winter fun. It doesn't happen often after all! ❄️👶

ALL YOURS PERIOD PRODUCTS

Please see the attached flyer with information on obtaining free period products.

COFFEE MORNINGS

You are invited to join us again for a coffee morning, this time discussing anxiety. Whether your child is struggling with anxiety at the moment, you have been there and are coming through, or you are interested to learn more, come along and share together over a cuppa and a biscuit.

MSJ on Wednesday 4th Feb, 8.45-9.45am in the staffroom

MSM on Tuesday 10th Mar, 9-10am in The Oaks building

We look forward to seeing you there,
Mrs Cooper, Mrs Rook and Miss Pearson

MINDFUL BRAIN

After the repeated success of the anxiety online course for parents and practitioners... Mindful Brain are offering the course again starting February 2026. It is a five-week course, which equips parents and practitioners with knowledge and skills to support children experiencing anxiety.

Here's a link for more information and to book a place.:
<https://www.mindfulbrain.co.uk/usefullinks?scrllybrkr=e61f8da5>

Please also see the attached flyer.

SMART WATCHES

On our return to school this term we have noticed a few children wearing smart watches to school. This is a gentle reminder that smart watches with messaging/gaming function are not allowed in school. Electronic watches to tell the time are allowed. Thank you.

LABELLED CLOTHING

Please may we ask that all your child's clothing including hats and scarfs are clearly labelled with your child's full name. Unfortunately, we have many items of unnamed lost property that we are unable to reunite with their owners. Thank you

WEST BERKSHIRE SEND SERVICE

Please find attached the Spring term SEND Newsletter and attached event.

RBFA

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) is consulting Royal Berkshire residents and staff on Council Tax funding for the next financial year until 9am on Monday, 2 February.

RBFA is committed to delivering value for money across the services provided to local residents. However, due to significant budgetary pressure to maintain the current level of service RBFA is proposing a £5 increase for 2026/27, based on a Band D precept, to £91.31.

Take part in the consultation by
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XXD3F5T>

CAR PARKING

We are reminding parents and carers again to not park in the staff car park at Mortimer St. Mary's. The car park is small and is only available to staff. Thank you

Please be considerate when parking outside both Mortimer St. John's and Mortimer St. Mary's school. Please do not block vehicles in and/or block vehicle access to driveways.

Thank you