

Thursday 12th February 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.

Friday 13th February - INSET Day

Monday 23rd February – Term begins

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

Tuesday 24th February – Year 6 SAT's parent information session on Teams – 4.15pm

Friday 27th February – Year 5 Cook Stars cookery sessions

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

Tuesday 3rd March – Jupiter Class Parent Share – 9.10am

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

Wednesday 4th March – Saturn Class Parent Share - 9.10am

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day – Year 6 to visit Year 1

Thursday 5th March – Mortimer St. John's Hot Chocolate and Story Time – 5.00pm to 5.45pm

Friday 6th March – Year 6 Cook Stars cookery sessions

Monday 9th March – Mortimer St. Mary's PTFA Spring Bake Off

Monday 9th March - Year 4 Times Table check parent information session on Teams – 4.30pm

Tuesday 10th March – Mortimer St. Mary's parent/carer coffee morning – 9.00am

Tuesday 10th March – Year 2 Football and Netball Tournament – Wellesley Prep School

Friday 13th March – Foundation Stage (4.30pm to 5.30pm) and Year 2 (6.00pm to 7.00pm) PTFA discos

Monday 16th March – Parents' Evening virtual

Tuesday 17th March – Bag2School collection from school

Wednesday 18th March – Parents' Evening face to face

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

Wednesday 25th March – Year 4 parent share 8.30am – 9.15am

Wednesday 25th March – Year 6 parent share 2.45pm – 3.45pm

Thursday 26th March - Year 5 parent share – 3.30pm – 3.45pm

Friday 27th March – End of Term – Mortimer St. Mary's 1.30pm/Mortimer St. John's 2.00pm

YEAR 2 SEACITY TRIP

On Friday 6th February, Year 2 had an amazing time at the SeaCity Museum! The children had the opportunity to touch real artefacts and discover different stories of people who were on board the Titanic.

The children shared the knowledge they have learnt in this project, including their ideas on the interesting debate over who was most to blame for the tragedy.

The children also took part in an interactive workshop. They were able to complete four different



practical activities which they really enjoyed. Year 2 had a fantastic day and discovered lots of information to support their learning. It was a brilliant way to end the project and brought all of their learning to life.



Imogen F: I learnt lots more facts about Titanic like it had two sister ships.

Lizzie C: The trip was very exciting, particularly at the end when we found out whether our focus crew member had been lost at sea!

YEAR 3 SKY BLUE THEATRE VISIT – MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM

We were delighted to welcome the Blue Theatre Company into school for a wonderful workshop focused on A Midsummer Night's Dream. The children were fully immersed in the experience, taking part by dressing up as key characters and learning some of the play's famous lines. Through



this engaging and interactive performance, the story was brought to life in a way that was accessible and exciting, helping the children to deepen their understanding of

the characters and plot. It was a thoroughly enjoyable, magical experience — full of learning, laughter, and creativity. We definitely have some aspiring actors among us! 🎭

PARENTS' EVENING

This term, Parents' Evening appointments will be available to book either online via Teams, or on a face-to-face basis. On Monday 16th March all appointments will take place via Teams. Face to face appointments will take place on Wednesday 18th March. To book an appointment time with your child's Class Teacher please refer to the invitation sent on ParentMail on Tuesday 10th February.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Today we have 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://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-MT1KY2GD>

Mortimer St. John's

<https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-PJTJ26M>

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 **28th February 2026**.

BOOK FAIR SUCCESS!

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents, carers and children for supporting our Travelling Book Fair! We are delighted to announce that we raised an incredible **£1,647.74**. Your generosity not only helps to foster a love of reading amongst our pupils but also allows us to earn rewards to buy new books for our reading areas and school library. We truly appreciate your support in making this event such a success. Happy reading!

SECRET READER - REMINDER

Throughout the month of March, both schools will be welcoming 'Secret Readers' to share a favourite, age-appropriate story, chapter or extract with a class of their choice.

Parents/carers, governors and other members of our school community are warmly invited to take part – all kept top secret from the children of course! Our aim is to share our love of reading as a school community.

At **Mortimer St. John's**, 'Secret Readers' are invited to attend on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon at 2.50pm.

At **Mortimer St. Mary's**, 'Secret Readers' are invited to attend on a Friday afternoon either at 1.15pm or 3.10pm.

If this is something you would like to be involved with please contact Mrs Peters or Mrs Mallen in the school offices either by telephone (0118 9332242 or 0118 9332491) or email (officemsj@mortimerschools.org or officemsm@mortimerschools.org) who will make arrangements for you to be a 'Secret Reader' in a class of your choice!

NUTS AND SWEETS

Please can all parents/carers ensure that sweets and chocolate or **any product containing any type of nut** (including Pesto, cereal bars, Nutella, Peanut Butter or a similar spread), are **not included** within children's packed lunches. Thank you.

YEAR 6 SATS INFORMATION SESSION

On Tuesday 24th February at 4.00pm, we will be holding an information session for the parents and carers of our Year 6 children, regarding the Key Stage

2 SATs that will be taken during the summer term. This session will be held via Microsoft Teams (an invitation to join the meeting has been sent via ParentMail). During the session the Year 6 teachers will discuss what these tests entail and provide you with strategies to help support and prepare your child. A copy of the presentation slides that are shared during the information session will be sent to all Year 6 parents and carers after the meeting. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's Class Teacher.

YEAR 4 TIMESTABLE INFORMATION SESSION

We are holding a parent information session on Teams with regards to the Year 4 Times Table Check. This will be on Monday 9th March at 4.30pm. A Teams link has been issued on ParentMail for families to join. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher. A copy of the presentation slides that are shared during the information session will be sent to all Year 4 parents and carers after the meeting.

FIRST FOR SPORTS EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

First for Sports will be running a Holiday Club during the first week of the Easter break. Please see the attached information for further information and for details of the 'early bird' booking discount.

DOLCE WORLD BOOK DAY MENU

Please see the attached menu from Dolce for a World Book Day themed menu on Thursday 5th March.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

This year, we're celebrating World Book Day with a fun twist! We're inviting all children (and families!) to take part in our Potato Character Challenge — by decorating a potato as their favourite book character. Get creative with paint, fabric, paper and any craft supplies you have at home to bring your chosen book character to life! Please bring your decorated potatoes to school on Thursday 5th March so we can display everyone's imaginative creations. We can't wait to see which stories and characters inspire you!

WORLD BOOK DAY BOOK SWAP

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day we will be holding a book swap at both schools. During drop off (taking place in the MSJ hall and MSM hall), children are invited to bring along to school a book they wish to donate for a book swap. Upon receiving a book, a ticket will be given to your child and they will then be able to visit the book swap during the afternoon and choose a new, different book that has been donated. If you wish for your child to take part in this, please ensure they bring in a well-loved but good condition, age appropriate book on Thursday 5th March.

PASS AND MOVE FOOTBALL CLUB

We still have spaces available for funded places at Pass and Move Football club. The club is very kindly being funded by the PTFA, which is giving opportunity for our families to join an extra-curricular activity at no cost. The club is offered to children in Year 3 and Year 4 on a Thursday after school. The club is offering sessions for Year 3 and Year 4 Boys starting on Thursday 26th February through to Thursday 26th March and sessions for Year 3 and Year 4 Girls will be from Thursday 16th April through to Thursday 14th of May. There is still time to sign up and join. Parents and carers will be notified on ParentMail if your child has been provided a space. Please refer to the ParentMail sent on 27th January where you can access the link to sign up!

LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Please see the attached information for local events and activities.

ONLINE SAFETY

The Children's Commissioner has put together a fantastic guide for parents and carers managing children's digital lives. It goes into a lot of depth discussing:

- Screen time.
- When bad things happen.
- Artificial intelligence.
- Conversation starters.
- Actions to take checklist.
- And much more.

There is also an activity pack to share with children.
Click the link to find out more: What I wish my
parents and carers knew

Set up safe guide- Layer up for online safety
Setting up devices safely works best when you layer
up parental controls across networks, devices and
apps alongside regular conversations. This guide
shows you how to layer up in a simple, manageable
way, so safety grows with your child.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/setupsafe/>

The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice
of
St Saviour St Mary and St John St John Baptist
St Mary's School St John's School
Diocese of Oxford

THE BENEFICE LENT PRAYER

*As the days lengthen
and we spend longer in the light of day
grant that we may spend longer
in the Light of Your Presence O Lord
and may those seeds of Your Word
which have been long buried within me
grow like everything around us
into love for You
and love for all Your people.
Grant, Lord, that this Lent
there may be a Springtime
for my life in Christ.
Amen.*