

Friday 6th March 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.

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

Monday 9th March - Year 4 Times Table check parent/carer 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 – PTFA Discos - Foundation Stage (4.30pm to 5.30pm) and Year 2 (6.00pm to 7.00pm)

Monday 16th March – Parents' Evening virtual

Tuesday 17th March – Bag2School collection from school

Tuesday 17th March – Eco Warrior Leader litter picking around village

Wednesday 18th March – Parents' Evening face to face

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

Thursday 19th March – Year 5 Maths Masterclass – Willink School

Friday 20th March – 'Animal Kingdom' Year 2 Parent Share – 8.45am to 9.30am

Friday 20th March – 'Marvellous Mortimer' Year 1 Parent Share – 8.50am until 9.30am

Wednesday 25th March – Mortimer St. Mary's Lent Service – pupils only

Wednesday 25th March – Mortimer St. John's Lent Service – St. John's Church – 2.30pm

Wednesday 25th March – 'Incredible Iceland' Year 4 parent share 8.30am to 9.15am

Wednesday 25th March – 'Blood Heart' Year 6 parent share 2.45pm to 3.45pm

Thursday 26th March – 'Pirates' Foundation Stage Parent Share – 8.00am to 10.00am

Thursday 26th March - 'Smashing Saxons' Year 5 parent share – 3.00pm to 3.45pm

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

Monday 30th March until Friday 10th April – Easter Holiday

Monday 13th April – Term begins

Thursday 16th April – Mortimer St. Mary's Easter Service – St. Mary's Church – 11.00am

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.

YEAR 4 RESIDENTIAL – RUNWAYS' END

We would like to invite all Year 4 parents and carers to an online meeting about our upcoming residential visit to Runway's End Outdoor Centre, taking place from Tuesday 5th May until Wednesday 6th May. During the meeting, we will share key information regarding what children need to pack, the timetable of activities planned for the two days and important arrangements to ensure everyone feels fully prepared and excited. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions if you have them. If you are unable to attend, please do not worry - the meeting will be recorded and can be shared via email upon request so that all parents and carers have access to the information. The meeting will be held on Monday 20th April at 4.00pm. A Teams link will be sent out nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you there!

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE PTFA

The staff and pupils of the Federation would like to say a huge "thank you!" to the volunteers who gave up their free time on Sunday morning to help 'spring clean' the outdoor areas at Mortimer St. John's. The difference is noticeable and very much appreciated. A small army of parents/carers, co-ordinated by the PTFA, spent a few hours cleaning, weeding, raking, planting, clearing, and even painting! Thankfully the weather held and, fuelled by bacon rolls, the parents /carers and children made a huge difference to the classroom outdoor areas, flower beds, adventure playground and more.



If you would like to be part of the next phase, please keep an eye out for the PTFA flyer when the weather warms up a little.



CLUBS – END DATES

Due to Parents' Evening, all school run clubs will finish next week. Clubs run by external providers will finish the week commencing Monday 16th March.

MORTIMER ST. JOHN'S LENT SERVICE

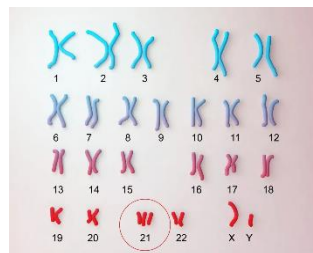
All parents/carers/grandparents, etc. are invited to attend Mortimer St. John's Lent Service at St. John's Church on Wednesday 25th March at 2.30pm. Please be aware that the Foundation Stage children will not be taking part in the service, however, they will be in church supporting with singing the hymns.

GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP

You are invited to share worship and crafts at the Good Friday Workshop at St. John's Church, Mortimer on Friday 3rd April at 9.45am. For further details please see the attached information.

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

This year, on Friday 20th March, we will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day in conjunction with Down Syndrome UK. Down Syndrome UK is a national charity passionate about empowering parents/carers and professionals to improve the lives of those with Down Syndrome, and their families, in the UK. World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on the 21st March to represent the 21st chromosome present in individuals with Down Syndrome. Not only will each class across the Federation learn more about Down Syndrome but, at the start of the start of March, each class will plant sunflower seeds and watch as the sunflowers grow during the countdown to World Down Syndrome Day. The message is simple: Just like sunflowers, we all grow and bloom in our own unique way.



We would love you to join us in celebrating Down Syndrome Day. You could plant your own sunflowers, sharing on Seesaw how each sunflower blooms uniquely, or you could donate to Down Syndrome UK. To do so, please follow this link: [Down Syndrome UK](http://DownSyndromeUK.org). Thank you for your support.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Please see the attached information for local events and activities.

FOUNDATION STAGE AND YEAR 2 DISCOS

The Foundation Stage and Year 2 discos will be taking place on Friday 13th March. Tickets are available to purchase on Classlist. If, however, you are not registered on Classlist and would like to purchase a ticket, please send your child into school with £3.00 in an envelope, stating your child's name, their emergency contact number, allergies (if applicable) and the name of the person who will be collecting them after the disco.

The Foundation Stage disco will start at 4.30pm and will run until 5.30pm. Children should be dropped off and collected from the main entrance. Please collect your children promptly at 5.30pm to ensure that we can start the Year 2 disco at 6.00pm.

The Year 2 disco will start at 6.00pm and will run until 7.00pm. Please do not arrive at school to drop off your children until 5.50pm. This will allow time for the Foundation Stage children to leave. We hope the children have an amazing time.

GREAT BIG SCHOOL CLEAN

The Great Big School Clean will take place from Friday 13th March 2026 until Sunday 29th March 2026. Every child has the right to live, play and learn in a clean and safe neighbourhood. That is why, for more than a decade, Keep Britain Tidy have run the Great Big School Clean. Last year, more than 265,000 pupils took part through their schools, and many other young people took part through events in their local communities.

To support this project and as part of our commitment to caring for the environment, The Mortimer Federation have pledged to take part in a litter-picking activity. The Eco Warrior Leaders, along with Miss Wood-Griffiths and Mr Hannawin, will be litter picking around the village on Tuesday 17th March.

POWER OUTAGE

We have been notified of an upcoming power outage, on behalf of SSE, for Mortimer St. Mary's. The planned outage date is Tuesday 7th April, from 8.00am until 4.00pm. Whilst this falls within the Easter holiday, we are not sure if this also affects the surrounding area.

BAG2SCHOOL

Bag2School raises money for Mortimer St. John's, Mortimer St. Mary's and The Willink schools through the collection of unwanted clothing and textiles. The next roadside collection will be on Monday 16th March, with a further collection from both schools on Tuesday 17th March (please drop bags by the double gates at Mortimer St. John's and at the courtyard gates at Mortimer St. Mary's, by 8.45am). The Bag2School collection bags were sent home with the children last week.



SUPPORT FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Please see below details regarding support for autistic children and their families that we have recently been made aware of.

Support for young autistic people:

- NeuroBears (8-14 and 14-25 years old)
- NeuroBears Cubs (under 8)

These groups provide psychoeducation about neurodiversity, a space to connect with other neurodiverse young people, a safe space to explore their neurodiversity and create positive self-identity.

Please click on the link below for further information
<https://www.pandasonline.org/>

Support for parents of autistic young people:

- Parent/Carer Meet Ups
- Anxiety Workshops
- Family Wellbeing Courses

Details about this can be found by signing up to the Centre for Autism newsletter, please email autism@reading.ac.uk and request to be placed on their newsletter mailing list.

UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

Please see the attached information regarding an Anxiety Workshop for parents/carers of primary aged children. The workshop will be held on Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 21st April from 12.00pm until 1.00pm)

PETS AS THERAPY DOG – MORTIMER LIBRARY

On Saturday 14th March, regular Pets as Therapy dog, Ruby, will be visiting Mortimer library from 10.30am, so the children can read to her!

Please also see attached (local activities) details of the extra events taking place at Mortimer Library during the Easter holidays.

STAGEABILITY – EASTER CAMP

Take a Bow by StageAbility is back by popular demand and will run from Wednesday 8th April until Friday 10th April at St John's Hall in Mortimer, with a full theatre performance on Saturday 11th April in Woodley, giving children a complete show experience!

Every child can bring something they love to perform; a song, dance, mini routine or talent (within reason!) and StageAbility will teach lively group numbers so everyone shines together. Ages 5 to 14 years.

Early Bird booking £89.00 until 10th March. Standard price £102.00. Booking link: <https://bit.ly/46cMMb7>

Come and join the fun!

FAMILY ADVICE – COMMUNICATION - EDUCATION (FACE)

Please see attached the latest timetable from FACE. FACE provides practical, accessible and affordable support to parents/carers and professionals who support children and teenagers.

ALL YOURS PERIOD PRODUCTS

Please see the attached information containing details on how to access period products over the Easter holidays. Please note that products can take some time to be delivered, so please request as soon as possible.

EDC DANCE SUMMER CAMP

Please scan the QR code, and complete the form to register interest for your child to attend the FIRST EVER EDCDANCE CAMP. The camp will be hosted at Whitewater Primary school in Hook (RG27 9BG) from Monday 3rd August to Friday 7th August. The camp will run from 8:30am until to 3:00pm, at a cost of £40.00 per day. There will also be an option for early drop off and/or late pick up, for an additional cost.



WELL READ AT WASING LITERARY FESTIVAL 2026

On Sunday **14th June 2026**, **Wasing Estate** is delighted to host the return of its acclaimed literary festival, **Well Read** - the perfect day out for families to spark curiosity, creativity, and a love of the outdoors.

Young explorers can enjoy hands-on activities with outdoor adventure company **Mud & Guts**, from den building and fire lighting to animal tracking and nature games - a fun, immersive way to connect with nature.

Adding extra magic, award-winning children's book author and illustrator **Yuval Zommer** will lead storytelling sessions, while headliners **Miranda Hart, Prue Leith, and Alexander Armstrong** will entertain and inspire across talks, readings, and panels.

Set within Wasing Estate's **enchanted ancient woodlands**, families can also enjoy live music and wellbeing experiences, making **Well Read** a captivating blend of words, wisdom and wellness for all ages.

Tickets: £55.00 for everyone aged 16+. Teenagers (13 to 16 years) £25.00, and under 12s are free (tickets still required)

For more information please click on the link below:

<https://www.wasing.co.uk/festivals/wellread/>.