

Friday 27th 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.

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

Monday 20th April – Year 4 residential parent information meeting 4.00pm - Teams

Monday 20th April – Start of Year 6 mock SAT's week

Friday 24th April – Mortimer St. Mary's disco

Wednesday 29th April – Year 5 Bikeability -Mars Class

Thursday 30th April – Year 5 Bikeability – Neptune Class

Tuesday 5th May – Wednesday 6th May – Year 4 residential trip to Runways End

Monday 11th May – Start of Year 6 SAT's week

Thursday 14th May – Year 2 trip to Milestones

Monday 18th May – Tuesday 19th May – Year 6 Bikeability Level 2 (group 1)

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May – Half term

Monday 1st June-Tuesday 2nd June – Year 6 Bikeability Level 2 (group 2)

Thursday 11th June – Year 3 trip to Englefield Estate

Friday 12th June – Mortimer St. Mary's Class Photos

Tuesday 23rd June – Year 1 trip to Fort Nelson

Wednesday 24th June – Year 5 trip to Paultons Park

Wednesday 1st July – Year 4 and 5 trip to the Hexagon – Symphony Story Quest KS2 Concert

Friday 3rd July – Move up morning

Monday 6th July – Tuesday 7th July – Year 6 Bikeability level 2 (group 3)

Wednesday 8th July – Sports day

Thursday 9th July – Reserve sports day

Tuesday 14th July – Year 5/6 Production 6pm

Wednesday 15th July – Year 5/6 Production 6pm

Thursday 16th July – Year 5/6 Production 9.30am

Thursday 16th July – Year 2 Leavers Party 5pm

Monday 20th July – Year 6 Leavers Party 6pm

Tuesday 21st July – End of term – Mortimer St. Mary's 1.30pm/Mortimer St. John's 2pm

END OF TERM

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Easter break. We hope the sun shines and we look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 13th April.

SAFEGUARDING CONTACT DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We are aware that sometimes parents or carers need to contact the schools during holiday times for urgent safeguarding matters. Therefore, we have set up a dedicated email (please see below) for you to be able to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The account will be monitored on a daily basis in **school holidays only** - Monday to Friday, and should only be used for emergencies or urgent safeguarding matters. Please use the school office email accounts for all communications in term time/weekends as per normal. Thank you.

safeguarding@mortimerschools.org

SUMMER TERM CLUBS

Club information for both schools has now been sent on ParentMail. Please sign up using the office forms link for school led clubs and contact the external clubs directly to sign up to any other extra-curricular clubs. Sign up closes for school led clubs on Monday 13th April.

SCHOOLGRID ACCOUNTS - MORTIMER ST. MARY'S

Could we please request that all SchoolGrid accounts are settled before we return to school on Monday 13th April. 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.

UNIFORM

We have a large amount of unnamed uniform/clothing in lost property at Mortimer St. Mary's. Please can you check for any missing items. All uniform/clothing which remains unclaimed on Friday 27th March will be donated to second hand uniform.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Please see the attached information for local events and activities.

BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION

We are delighted to advise that the amazing sum of £1302.40 (£434.13 for each of the three schools) was raised for March's Bag2School collection.

We would like to take this opportunity say a big thank you to the team of volunteers who coordinate the Bag2School collection. Their continued support enables additional funds to be raised to help support the teaching and learning of all children across the Federation.

DOLCE SUMMER TERM MENU

Please see attached the Dolce menu for school meals during the summer term. If you would like your child/ren to have a meal in school please ensure that this is ordered via SchoolGrid in advance. Thank you

PTFA NEWS

BAKE OFF

The bake-off event raised a fantastic £288.43 for our schools. Thank you to everyone who entered and took part!



WORLD BOOK DAY WONKA BARS

The PTFA raised a whopping £ 719.55 through selling their Wonka bars on world book day! Thank you to everyone who purchased and took part.

PLAYGROUND/PLAY EQUIPMENT – MORTIMER ST. JOHN'S

Due to Health and Safety requirements, please may we remind all parents and carers that bicycles and scooters are not permitted to be ridden on the playground. Please ask your child/ren to dismount before entering the school premises.

The Adventure Playground is only for use during school times when a member of staff is present. Please do not allow your child/ren to play on this equipment when dropping off or picking up from school.

YEAR 2 NETBALL/FOOTBALL AT WELLESLEY PREP SCHOOL

On Tuesday 10th March, some Year 2 children attended a netball and football festival at Wellesley Prep School. They all played against 12 other teams and did a fantastic job representing our school by demonstrating brilliant teamwork and respect for the other players.

Tamara - It was exciting and good playing against other teams. It has made me want to play more netball.

Freddie - I was good playing against lots of other teams. I liked everything about it and the cookies were amazing.

YEAR 4 TRIP TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Year 4 were very excited (as were the adults) to visit the Natural History Museum this term. A relatively smooth departure and journey gave us plenty of time to look round the incredible museum galleries. From astonishing animatronic adventures to glittering geological gemstones and wide-eyed wonder inducing whales we all had a fantastic time.

We were able to take part in the Volcano and Earthquake workshop with Seismologist Barbie. We saw a real Seismometer in action and saw the difference between effusive and explosive volcanoes. Year 4 were awarded their Earth Sciences diploma for managing to evacuate Volcano town before the eruption engulfed it.

Year 4 were great ambassadors for St. Mary's and our school community – well done to them. Thank you to the staff and parents who made this incredible experience possible – it is very much appreciated.



BRADFIELD COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY

MSM proudly took 24 pupils to compete in a highly competitive Cross Country event, with around 12 schools taking part in each race. Our pupils represented the school brilliantly across four teams: Senior Boys, Senior Girls, Junior Boys and Junior Girls.

The Junior Girls showed fantastic determination and resilience in a large field of 58 runners, finishing closely together and demonstrating great team spirit. The Junior Boys had an outstanding race, with Jessie (Year 4) securing an impressive 2nd place and Albie

(Year 4) finishing 3rd, supported by another strong top-25 finish.

In the Senior Boys race, the team delivered a consistently strong performance, with several runners finishing in the top 25, helping the team achieve an excellent overall result.

A standout moment of the day came in the Senior Girls race, where Melissa achieved a remarkable first place finish. Her success reflects her dedication and commitment to running both in and out of school. The team was further strengthened by additional top-25 finishes.

Overall, the combined efforts of our runners led to third place team finishes for both the Senior Boys and Junior Boys, a fantastic achievement in such a competitive field.

A huge well done to all 24 pupils who represented MSM with determination, pride and excellent sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of you all!

YEAR 6 TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

On Tuesday 3rd March, Year 6 set off bright and early for a very exciting day in London! We were very privileged to visit the Houses of Parliament for the day, which links to the 'Rulers and Government' project we did earlier in the year. After an early start and a long coach journey, we were very grateful to spot the Houses of Parliament, including Big Ben, when we got close! We even saw some other famous London landmarks like the London Eye on our way, too! Once we'd arrived, we started the day with a tour of the building, which was incredibly large with lots of details, portraits and artwork to look at while we were walking around. Some highlights of the tour included seeing the House of Lords, the robing room that the King gets dressed in when he's in Parliament once a year and the procession of the speaker going into the House of Commons. The children had lots of good questions throughout the tour and enjoyed seeing the history of such an important building. After the tour, we had a workshop in which we got to play lots of fun games linked to Parliament, including a Pictionary style game of relevant objects to the building and a sensory game where the children had to guess what was in a number of bags from feel alone! It turned out that some of these items were real bits of leather from the House of Commons and House of Lords!

Finally, we got the chance to have a Q&A session with someone who works for Olivia Bailey, the MP for where our school is located. It was interesting to hear what her job involves and how Olivia campaigns for the local area in Parliament. Overall, it was a fantastic day and it was great to put our learning on democracy and government into a real-life context. The children represented our school brilliantly and were so engaged throughout the whole trip. Olivia Bailey's advisor even commented that our school had the best questions she'd ever answered, so that was a real compliment and all credit to the children for their amazing focus!



"The trip was really exciting and it was interesting to learn that Henry VIII used to live in the Houses of Parliament." - Ted B

"Something interesting I learnt was that the king was banned from the House of Commons because he tried to arrest someone there!" - Arlo D

YEAR 5 TRIP TO WINCHESTER CITY MUSEUM

Year 5 had a fabulous day on Wednesday 25th in Winchester. The classes took part in some exciting and interesting Saxon activities at the Great Hall. We investigated Saxon artefacts and wrote a riddle about one of them. We hunted for runes and found the Coat of Arms for Saxon kings in the stained-glass windows. Finally, we had the opportunity to experience a Saxon market where we were bartering with 15 coins to purchase what we needed from our shopping list. There was even some trading of goods to get everything we needed. We were lucky enough to be allowed to have lunch in the beautiful Great Hall. We also went to Winchester Museum where we revisited our Roman knowledge and looked round the exhibits for Venta Belgarum and then explored the Saxon exhibits. We even played some Anglo-Saxon games! A great day



was had by all, and we certainly immersed ourselves in our new project. Even if the journey down was a little longer than planned, the children were beautifully behaved, and we had an impromptu history lesson and singing practise on the coach - even the driver joined in!

Joel W- I really liked doing all the different activities and playing the Saxon games.

Lucas E- it was really fun to play the Anglo-Saxon games.

Thea- I liked the Great Hall activities as they were fun.

Jack- I learned that the Anglo- Saxons bartered and traded in the market.



YEAR 2 CHILDREN

After the Easter break, where possible, we would like the parents/carers of our Year 2 children to drop them off at the gate in the morning. This is to help the children become more independent and support their transition to Year 3 in the autumn term. Please do not drop your children off at school before the classroom doors open at 8.30am. Thank you.

MILK YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2

Milk money for the first half of the spring term (Monday 13th April to Friday 22nd May) is £5.80 or 20pence per day. If you would like your child to have milk, please place the money in a named envelope and ask your child to give it to their Class Teacher. Milk for the Foundation Stage children is provided free of charge.

GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday 24th March, eight girls from Mortimer St. Mary's proudly represented our school at a football tournament held at Bradfield College. They competed against five other schools from across West Berkshire, some of whom included Year 6 pupils and county-level players. Despite the high level of competition, the team showed fantastic determination and improved with every match they played. They demonstrated great resilience throughout the tournament, never giving up even when faced with challenging opposition. This truly

reflected our school values in action. Most importantly, the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and showed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. We are now hoping to build on this enthusiasm by forming a girls' football team in the near future, as many of the players are already keen to return and compete again next year. Miss Pearson commented on how happy the children were upon their return, and parents also shared how much the girls had enjoyed the day. A big thank you to the parents who came along to support the team – your encouragement made a real difference.

YEAR 4 RESIDENTIAL -REMINDER

This is a reminder that the medical consent forms are now due for the Year 4 residential. The deadline for submitting the forms has now passed. Please ensure that these are handed in. Paper copies are available in the Mortimer St. Mary's school office.

BRIGADE UNIFORMS

We are delighted to advise that Brigade Clothing are offering a 10% discount for all orders placed this weekend – Friday 27th March (00.01) and Monday 30th March 2026 (23.59). To qualify for the discount please place your order via www.brigade.uk.com and enter the code BLOOM10 at checkout.

YEAR 5 TRIP TO BRADFIELD COLLEGE

A fantastic day was spent at Bradfield College with Year 5 on Thursday 19th March for their enrichment day! We had the opportunity to try out many different lessons such as performing as a Greek Chorus in the school's own amphitheatre (Mrs D enjoyed a little backstage tour!), becoming scientists in the labs for a Chemistry lesson where we looked at the litmus clock and cracking codes with the languages team. A great day and the children showed great manners and good attitudes to learning.

Joel: I liked playing the trumpets and the drums. I enjoyed the lunch of hot dogs!

Harry W-K: I liked the science session. We got to experiment with chemical reactions. In art we made pictures using different materials - We got to bring them home. I've put mine on display at home.

ECO LEADERS GO LITTER PICKING

On Tuesday 17th March, the Eco Warrior leaders from Mortimer St. John's and Mortimer St. Mary's completed a litter pick in the fairground as part of the Great Big School Clean. 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. The children were fantastic representatives of The Federation and demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm to caring for the environment.

Lacey E - I liked picking up all of the litter because it made the park nice and clean.

Liliana A - It was really fun because we picked up lots of litter and we got to chat to children at St Mary's. 'I like how we helped the environment and saved animals from getting hurt.'- Hunter Y4



'We found lots of big things. It was really fun. We got to tidy up the fairground and it was a lot cleaner afterwards. The environment was a lot better for animals.'- Minnie Y6

COFFEE MORNINGS

You are invited to join us again for a coffee morning, this time talking about change - particularly the upcoming transition. Change is hard to deal with and there are often a lot of emotions involved. Join us for a cuppa and a biscuit as we unpack these emotions and discuss strategies to help our children. Mortimer St. John's (staffroom) - Wednesday 17th June, 8.45am until 9.45am.

Mortimer St. Mary's (The Oaks) - Tuesday 7th July, 9am until 10am.

