

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

Tuesday 12th May: 'The Tiny Seed' Year 1 Parent Share – 2.45pm to 3.10pm

Wednesday 13th May: 'Everything Changes' Year 2 Parent Share – 2.45pm to 3.30pm

Wednesday 13th May – Year 3 Parent Share – 3pm – 3.45pm

Thursday 14th May: Year 2 trip to Milestones Museum

Friday 15th May: Colour Run – 3.45pm to 6.30pm

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

Friday 22nd May 2026 – Newbury Weekly News – Year 6 Leavers Photos

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May: Half term

Monday 1st June: Term begins

Monday 1st June: Foundation Stage - Astronauts and Aliens Dress Up Day

Monday 1st June to Tuesday 2nd June: Year 6 Bikeability Level 2 (group 2)

Tuesday 2nd June to Monday 8th June: Book Fair at Mortimer St. John's

Tuesday 2nd June – Year 5 Field trip to Reading

Wednesday 3rd June: PTFA Mortimer's Got Talent

Thursday 4th June – Year 6 Trip to Abu Bakr Mosque

Monday 8th June to Friday 12th June: Phonics Screening Week

Monday 8th June – Year 4 MTC week

Thursday 11th June: Year 3 trip to Englefield Estate

Thursday 11th June: Foundation Stage trip to Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium

Friday 12th June: Mortimer St. Mary's Class Photographs

Wednesday 17th June: Mortimer St. John's parent/carers coffee morning – 8.45am to 9.45am

Friday 19th June – Foundation Stage (4.30pm to 5.30pm) and Year 1 (6.00pm to 7.00pm) PTFA discos

Tuesday 23rd June: Year 1 trip to Fort Nelson

Wednesday 24th June: Year 5 trip to Paultons Park

Wednesday 24th June: Fox Class Swimming

Friday 26th June – Non uniform day

Tuesday 30th June: New to Year 3 parent/carers presentation

Wednesday 1st July: Hedgehog Class Swimming

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

Thursday 2nd July to Friday 3rd July: Year 6 transition days at The Willink School

Friday 3rd July: Move up morning

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

Tuesday 7th July: Mortimer St. Mary's parent/carers coffee morning – 9.00am to 10.00am

Wednesday 8th July: Sports Day

Thursday 9th July: Reserve Sports Day

Tuesday 14th July: Year 5/Year 6 Production – 6.00pm

Wednesday 15th July: Year 5/Year 6 Production – 6.00pm

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

Thursday 16th July: Year 2 Leavers' Service – St. John's Church – 2.00pm

Thursday 16th July: Year 2 Leavers Party – 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Monday 20th July: Year 6 Leavers' Service – St. Mary's Church – 2.00pm

Monday 20th July: Year 6 Leavers Party – 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Tuesday 21st July: End of term – Mortimer St. Mary's 1.30pm/Mortimer St. John's 2.00pm

LOCAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Please see the attached flyers for local events and activities.

PE KITS FOR SPORTS CLUBS

A polite reminder to all families that children attending school-run sports clubs do not need to come to school wearing their PE kit. However, they are expected to bring their PE kit with them and change into it prior to the club starting. This helps ensure that sessions can begin promptly and most importantly, supports the safety and comfort of all pupils during physical activities.

For clubs run by external providers (such as dance or judo for example), children may wear the specific kit required by the provider.

Thank you for your support in helping our clubs run smoothly and safely.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Help to Nurture a Passion for Reading!

The Mortimer Federation are seeking a volunteer to support with our school libraries. Do you love books? Do you have a passion for reading? Can you spare a few hours each week? If so, we would love to hear from you.

This is a wonderful opportunity to become involved within our Federation community and help to foster the love of reading among our pupils. The role will involve organising and shelving the books correctly, in addition to keeping the library spaces tidy. Previous library experience is not required – just an enthusiasm for books, a good eye for organisation and a willingness to help support our schools.

If you would like to volunteer for the role or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Please be aware the all volunteers require an Enhanced DBS Certificate obtained via the Federation or have a DBS Certificate that is registered with the DBS Update Service. For further information please contact the school office.

GARDEN VOLUNTEER

Help Keep Our School Grounds Blooming!

We are looking for a keen and enthusiastic volunteer, who can spare a few hours each week, to help care for the 'garden areas' at both of our schools. This is an opportunity for someone who loves gardening and enjoys growing and caring for a variety of plants. The role will involve helping to keep the garden spaces well maintained, tidy and thriving, as well as supporting the development of the diverse range of plants for our school community to enjoy. Whether you are an experienced gardener or simply have a passion for plants and the outdoors, we would love to hear from you.

Please be aware the all volunteers require an Enhanced DBS Certificate obtained via the Federation or have a DBS Certificate that is registered with the DBS Update Service. For further information please contact the school office.

PARENT/CARER WORKSHOPS

Please visit

<https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/advice/communication-and-hearing/school-age-language-development-workshops> to book onto useful parent workshops. Parents/ carers can register to attend these workshops using the above link.

BIKEABILITY COURSES

Please find a flyer attached advertising Bikeability's May half-term cycling courses. The Level 1 and 2 combined is aimed at children in Years 5 and 6 and above (so age 10 and over). Perfect for those who may have missed the opportunity owing to being absent when their peers took part. The Level 3 is particularly suited to those children in Years 7 and 8 who have started cycling to school (or transitioning to secondary school during the summer holidays) Children must have completed Level 1 and 2 to take part in Level 3.

TRAIN TO TEACH

West Berkshire Train to Teach are holding a Train to Teach information event on 13th May at St. Bart's School from 6.00pm until 7.00pm. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

YEAR 4 RESIDENTIAL – RUNWAYS END

On Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th May, Year 4 enjoyed an exciting residential trip to Runways End Residential Centre. During their stay, the children took part in a range of adventurous activities including canoeing, caving, low ropes, team building, the egg drop challenge and orienteering.



Throughout the trip, Year 4 demonstrated excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and resilience, representing the school brilliantly at all times. The experience helped to build confidence, strengthen teamwork skills and encourage all of Year 4 to challenge themselves in new ways. We are incredibly proud of all the children who were a real credit to our school. Well done Year 4 and a big thank you to all the staff who supported in making this residential trip so successful!

STAGEABILITY SUMMER CAMP

StageAbility's popular "A Show in a Week" Summer Drama Camp is returning to Mortimer this August for children aged 5 to 14 years. The camp will run at St. John's Hall, Mortimer from Monday 3rd August to Friday 7th August, with full theatre show in Woodley on Saturday 8th August. In just one exciting week, children will work together to create and perform a full theatre show, building confidence, creativity and friendships along the way. From drama games and ice-breakers to acting, singing and dancing, every day is packed with energy, encouragement and fun in a supportive environment. Parents love the camp because children are engaged all day, grow in confidence and finish the week with a real sense of achievement. Children love it because they make friends quickly, feel part of a team and get the thrill of performing on stage together. Families who pre-register by 21st May will receive first access to

booking and the very best price before places are released more widely. There is no obligation to book, but spaces are limited and priority places can go quickly.

Please use the link below to pre-register:

<https://stageability.eo.page/mortss2026>

NAVIGATING GROUP CHATS

Please see below a link to a video which provides a quick overview on group chats, potential risks, dealing with peer pressure and using the blocking and reporting tools.

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Group-Chats-May-2026.mp4>

PTFA EVENT UPDATES

The PTFA Colour Run takes place on Friday, 15th May, and we are looking forward to seeing lots of you there for a fun and colourful end to the week! Due to a change of date of wider village events and limited time and volunteers, despite the best efforts of the PTFA and The Federation, we have been unable to find a date for the summer fete to be able to take place on this year. Therefore, the Colour Run will be the big event of the summer term! Please make sure you come along and support it. There will be a BBQ, pizza van and bar for you to enjoy. The event will be take place for a longer period of time, not finishing until 6:30pm! A number of the key parts of the usual fete will take place at other points during the summer term, so they can be enjoyed as usual and we can raise as much money for a range of school projects as possible. The PTFA will be holding a raffle which will be drawn on Sports Day. Further details regarding this event will be sent out shortly. The Years 6 stalls/games will take place on the last Friday afternoon of the term – Friday 17th July. All Mortimer St. Mary's pupils will have the opportunity to visit and play the games in the afternoon and Mortimer St. John's pupils and other family and friends will be able to come and enjoy them after school. Further information will, again, be shared nearer the time. We hope you will come and support us at these various events and we would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for all their hard work in arranging the activities to raise money for our schools.