

Friday 22nd 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 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 Multiplication Tables Check week

Monday 8th June – 'The Iron Man' Year 4 Parent Share – 3.00pm

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/carer 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/carer 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/carer 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

Thursday 16th July – Parent/Carer drop in session for reports – 3.10pm until 4.10pm (Mortimer St. John's), 3.30pm until 4.30pm (Mortimer St. Mary's)

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

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 (please note this email will not be monitored on Bank Holiday Monday), 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

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH 100TH BIRTHDAY

On Friday 8th May, some of the classes across the Federation took part in a special virtual assembly to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough. The event was hosted by Picture News and we joined over one million children from all across the world. During the assembly we explored his work, learnt more about the wonders of the natural world, and why protecting our planet matters more than ever. Steve Backshall was a special guest who shared more about the legacy of Sir David's work. As an Eco School, we are passionate and committed to care for the world. We reflected on how one person's voice can inspire global change and what we can each do to care for the world around us.

'EVERYTHING CHANGES' – YEAR 2 PARENT SHARE

On Wednesday 13th May, Year 2 really enjoyed sharing their learning from this term during the 'Everything Changes' Parent Share. The children had been working really hard during Design and Technology lessons to create their own Victorian toy inspired by some real artefacts they explored from the West Berkshire Museum. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to play with the toys they had made and to also share their recent learning in English, History and Maths.



"I enjoyed it because I got to show my mummy my toy and she liked it." – Lucy

"Nanny and Grandad liked it because they saw my good learning. They played with my Jack in the Box." – Rory

YEAR 2 VISIT MILESTONES LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

On Thursday 14th May, Year 2 visited Milestones Living History Museum to bring together all of their learning about the Victorians from their 'Everything Changes' project. The children took part in a Victorian School and a Victorian Shopping workshop, as well as exploring



the museum and looking at Victorian streets and shops. The children were able to share all they had learnt across the term during the workshops and develop their learning even further. Everyone had a great time and lots of the children would like to visit again!

I liked it all, but my favourite parts were visiting the teddy bear room and working out which buildings to post the letters to, because I love teddies and I like trying to solve puzzles." – Flora



"I liked the school workshop where we pretended we went to a Victorian school because I got to dress up and be the assistant." – Abby

"I liked exploring because I had never been to that museum before." – Dylan

CHILDREN'S MILK – YEARS 1 AND 2

Milk money for the second half of the summer term (Monday 1st June to Tuesday 21st July) is £7.40 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.

FOUNDATION STAGE - ASTRONAUTS AND ALIENS DRESS UP DAY

The Foundation Stage team are all really excited about their upcoming topic 'Out of this World'. This project focuses on space, space exploration and life in the 1960's. To launch this project, we would like to invite the Foundation Stage children to come to school dressed as an astronaut or an alien on **Monday 1st June**.

The children will not need their school uniform as they will wear their costume throughout the day.

We are really looking forward to seeing the astronauts and aliens!

'THE TINY SEED' YEAR 1 PARENT SHARE

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed their project 'The Tiny Seed'. On Tuesday 12th May, the children were able to share their learning with parents and carers. A particular highlight of the project was planting marigold, sunflower and cress seeds and looking after them. Using their knowledge of fruit and vegetables the children also made delicious smoothies for their families to try. Year 1 were also very lucky to help the fantastic PTFA transform the wonderful Rainbow Garden!

"I enjoyed tasting my yummy smoothie and sharing my work with Mimi." - Gracie

"I liked tasting my group's smoothie and showing off the Rainbow Garden, particularly sharing the developments of the strawberry plant." - Vinnie

FIND THE RIGHT WORDS – TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE CONVERSATIONS

Conversations are a key part of keeping children safe online. Please see the attached guide 'Find the Right Words' and the video link below which have been created to help support parents/carers talking with their children about difficult safety matters.

<https://news.virginmediaio2.co.uk/find-the-right-words/>

RAINBOW GARDEN – MORTIMER ST. JOHN'S

We would like to say a great big thank you to the PTFA for the amazing transformation of the Rainbow Garden at Mortimer St. John's. The garden is now brightly coloured with a fantastic new bench, I am sure you will agree it looks incredible. The children will have so much fun exploring the garden and discovering new things to enhance their learning.



"I enjoyed planting lavender and looking at the wonderful rainbow path." - Lacey



"I love walking around the rainbow path looking for insects." – Nola



PTFA COLOUR RUN



We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTFA for organising our second Colour Run, which was held at Mortimer St. Mary's on Friday 8th May. Despite it being unusually cold for May, this was a wonderful event and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. Through the hard work of the PTFA and volunteers

who helped on the day, the fantastic sum of £4,750 was raised. The monies will be used to support all children across The Federation.

"I found the colour run fantastic and had a great time!" – Will P

"I thought it was a great experience. It was great fun! Not only was it fun running but it was also fun throwing paint at people!" – Harriet F



"This year's Colour Run was absolutely "toad-ally" unforgettable as I took part dressed as an inflatable frog! Leaping around the course proved much harder than expected, especially with tiny frog legs and very limited visibility. There were plenty of laughs, lots of colour, and I am pleased to report that the frog successfully hopped across the finish line without croaking! It was fantastic to see everyone having such a great time and showing amazing enthusiasm throughout the event." – Mr Anderson



LOCAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Please see the attached flyers for local events and activities.

BOOK FAIR – MORTIMER ST. JOHN'S

Mortimer St. John's will be hosting a '3 for 2' Book Fair on behalf of Travelling Books from Tuesday 2nd June until Monday 8th June. The book fair will be held in the playground (weather permitting) at the following times:

- ♦ Tuesday 2nd June – 3.15pm until 3.45pm
- ♦ Wednesday 3rd June – 8.10am until 8.30am
- ♦ Thursday 4th June – 8.10am until 8.30am
- ♦ Friday 5th June – 3.15pm until 3.45pm
- ♦ Monday 8th June – 3.15pm until 3.45pm

A large and varied selection of children's books will be available to purchase. We would encourage all purchases to be made by accessing the online system (www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay) by simply selecting the school name from the drop-down menu.

AUTISM ADVISOR FOR FAMILIES

Please see the attached information from West Berkshire Council's Autism Team introducing Lizzie Paterson, the Autism Families Advisor. Lizzie can provide guidance and support to families to enhance understanding of autism, explore autism informed approaches, and navigate available services through appropriate advice and signposting.

WEST BERKSHIRE IMMUNISATION TEAM AND MENINGITIS INFORMATION

Please see the attached information from the West Berkshire Immunisation Team, together with an information poster from the UK Health Security Agency regarding Meningitis and Septicaemia.

If you have any questions regarding immunisations, you can contact a member of the team using the contact details contained within the attached poster. The team can book clinics, check vaccine status and offer information and advice.

SEESAW COMPATABILITY WITH AMAZON DEVICES

It has been brought to our attention that the Seesaw app is no longer compatible with Amazon. In this respect we have contacted representatives from Seesaw who have given the following advice:

Currently, the Seesaw app is available on iOS and Android devices, but it is not compatible with Chromebooks or Amazon devices. However, parents/carers can still access Seesaw through the web using compatible browsers such as Google Chrome, Firefox, or Microsoft Edge by visiting app.seesaw.me

The webpage looks very similar to the app and all the elements within the webpage are exactly the same as the app including taking photographs and recording voice notes.

We hope that you find this information helpful, however, if you have any further questions or difficulties accessing Seesaw, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Class Teacher who will try their best to help!

BRIGADE CLOTHING 15% DISCOUNT

Brigade Clothing are offering one final promotion for the academic year. For all uniform orders placed between Friday 29th May (00:01) and Sunday 31st May (23:59) a 15% discount will be applied. To qualify for the discount please place your order via www.brigade.uk.com and enter the code **LASTCHANCE15** at checkout.

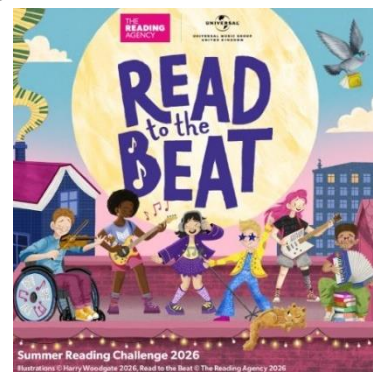
Brigade Summer Deadline Dates

• **Direct to School (Delivery to School)** – Order by **Friday 12th June** for free delivery to school before the summer holidays (*From Saturday 13th June, all orders will switch to Parents Direct (Home Delivery)).

• **Parents Direct (Home Delivery)** – Order by **Friday 17th July** for delivery before the new September term.

WEST BERKSHIRE LIBRARIES SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

West Berkshire Libraries will be challenging primary aged children to read up to six library books between Tuesday 1st July 2025 and Monday 15th September 2025. For each book that the children read they can collect incentives from their local library to mark their reading achievements.



From Tuesday 1st July, children aged 4 to 11 years can visit a library to sign up for the free Summer Reading Challenge. The theme this year is 'Read to the Beat' which is all about inspiring children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity

The Summer Reading Challenge is a great way for children to keep up their reading skills and confidence over the summer holidays and prevent the common holiday 'reading dip'.

WORLD CUP 2026 MENU CHANGE

To celebrate the World Cup Dolce have created a special menu for Thursday 11th June. The meal can be ordered via SchoolGrid in the usual way.



THE BIG FUTURE

For the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election at age 16, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century – yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them. That is why Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England, is carrying out a survey, 'The Big Future', to talk to a million children, to listen to them and to find out about what it is like to be a child today.

Dame de Souza is asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, she would like to know what they think a good childhood should look like, now and in the future.

Please could you support your child/ren to complete the survey via the following link by Friday 23rd October 2026. Thank you.

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

EDCD DANCE SUMMER CAMP

EDCD Dance will be holding their first ever summer camp from Monday 3rd August until Friday 7th August. To book a place for your child or to find out more information please email info@edcdance.co.uk.



STAGEABILITY – DRAMA CLUB

This term at Drama Club, the children have been exploring the exciting world of ensemble performance. Through fun games, creative activities and drama challenges, they have been learning how performers work together to tell a story as a team. Over the weeks, Drama Club will be focusing on creating atmosphere and setting the scene, developing individual characters, understanding subtext and using teamwork to bring performances to life. Each session includes engaging drama games designed to build confidence and skills in a fun, supportive environment, followed by practical drama activities where the children can put their new learning into action.



There are still two places available at drama club, at Mortimer St. John's, on a Tuesday so if your child would like to give it a try, you can book a trial here: <https://pbbl.uk/mortimer-st-johns-infant-school-drama>. Come and join the fun!

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM (MHST)

Please see attached the information from the Mental Health Support Team regarding parent/carer workshops that are taking place in June.