

Tuesday 20th July 2026

The Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's Schools **Newsletter**

A MESSAGE FROM MISS PEARSON

As we come to the end of another busy and successful school year, I would like to take a moment to celebrate all that has been achieved. It has been a year filled with personal successes, exciting trips and visits, and a wealth of wider learning experiences that have enriched the lives of all our pupils.

We have rounded off the summer term in style with a fantastic Sports Day, wonderful productions, and special celebrations that showcased the talents, hard work, and enthusiasm of our children.

We would also like to say a fond farewell to those children and families who are moving on to new schools and exciting new adventures. We wish you every success and happiness for the future. Please do keep in touch—we always love hearing how our former pupils are getting on and celebrating their achievements. Finally, we would like to thank all our families for their continued support throughout the year. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year ahead.

NEW TERM

We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Thursday 3rd September and welcoming our new children to The Mortimer Federation.

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 usual communications and we will respond in the new term. Thank you.

safeguarding@mortimerschools.org

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

Please see the attached information leaflets with activities taking part in the local area over the summer holidays.

SPORTS DAY

This year's Sports Day was a fantastic success and a wonderful celebration of teamwork, determination and school spirit. Due to the record-breaking temperatures, we adapted the timetable by holding the events during the morning and shortening some activities to ensure everyone remained safe and comfortable.

Despite these changes, the excitement and enthusiasm were evident throughout the day. The children threw themselves into every carousel activity, demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience and encouragement for one another. The track events were equally impressive, with fast-paced sprint races, exciting relays and determined long-distance runners who showed great perseverance from start to finish.

What made the morning truly special was the outstanding sportsmanship shown by all of our pupils. Children cheered each other on, celebrated one another's successes and embodied our school values of respect, resilience and aspiration throughout the event.

A huge thank you to all of our staff, volunteers and families for their support. We are incredibly proud of every child for the enthusiasm, effort and positive attitude they displayed, making this another memorable Sports Day for our school community.

WHERE IN THE WORLD!

Whether you're travelling abroad or exploring somewhere in the UK during the holidays, we would love to hear from you! Why not send or bring back a postcard from your trip? It is a wonderful way to share the places you've visited with everyone at school. Please include your name and class, and we'll display the postcards on our world maps in St John's and St Mary's for everyone to enjoy. We can't wait to see where your adventures take you.

MORTIMER LIBRARY

Throughout the summer holidays, Mortimer Library will be offering a range of free and low-cost activities for children and families. All events posters are attached and are drop-in.

- Mortimer Library – Saturday Chess Meet – Saturday 25 July, 10.30am-12pm
- Mortimer Library – Children's Activity – Monday 27 July, 2pm-4.30pm
- Mortimer Library – Children's Activity – Friday 31 July, 2pm-5pm
- Mortimer Library – Compose Yourself: Music as a Storyteller – Tuesday 11 August, 12.30pm to 1.15pm, booking essential
https://booking.westberks.gov.uk/library_events.html#?event_id=3575189&companyId=37005

A GUIDE TO PARENTAL CONTROLS

Please see the below link which includes useful information with regards to parental controls and privacy settings to help support keeping your family safe online. <https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Parental-Controls-booklet-2026.pdf>

YEAR 5/6 PRODUCTION –TREACHERY AT TRAITORS QUAY

'Quite! Well I mean no... um... Last week, parents and carers were entertained brilliantly when Year 5 and 6 performed their summer production of 'Treachery at Traitors' Quay'. The play was full of secrets, spies and mystery, and the acting showcased by Year 6 delivered just that! Filled with wonderful singing and lively dancing by Year 5, the children should be proud of the dazzling performance

they created. Thank you also to the parents and carers who helped learn lines and source costumes—we couldn't have done it without you!"

FREE

FREE TALK FOR PARENTS

SMARTPHONES & CHILDHOOD

The new guidance every parent needs to understand



 Why governments are changing the rules

 What the research really says

 Practical advice without fear or guilt

 **ADHD and so much more!**
the new parenting app from FACE

The app is FREE to download and the talk is completely FREE.
No subscription needed

click here to go straight to the app
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/adhd-and-so-much-more/id6776284078>

NEWBURY SHOW

🏆 Could YOUR child be a Newbury Show winner this September?! 🎉🍰🥰
Newbury show are excited to announce that the Produce Tent at this year's Newbury Show will be hosting four brilliant children's classes — and we'd love to see your little ones take part! 🌟(plus all children's entries get free entry into the Show!)
Here's what's on offer...

🍰 P26 — Countryside Sponge Cake
Bake a sponge cake to your own recipe (any flavour!), decorated with a countryside theme. Entries must be on a plate covered with cling film and accompanied by a list of ingredients as they'll be tasted during judging — so bake your best! 😊

🌱 P27 — Seed Tray Garden

Create a miniature garden in a seed tray — any shape and any theme! Let those imaginations run wild. 🌱

🌱 P28 — Recycled Bird Feeding Station

Design and build a bird feeding station using recycled materials. Any size, any design — the more creative the better! 🐦

🥚 P29 — Decorated Egg Competition

Decorate an egg (minimum of 1 per entry) in any theme you like! From farmyard friends to wild and wacky designs — we love them all.

All classes are open to children aged 3–14 years. Please state your child's age on the entry form — where numbers allow, classes will be split into age groups (3–5, 6–9, 10–14 and SEND students).

🥚 Entry fee: £1.50 per class

📅 Entries close: Monday 7th September 2026 —
LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

🖱️ Enter online at:
<http://showingscene.com/.../produce-fruit.../classes>

GREAT BRITISH SUMMER SAVINGS

Rising prices can make life's little treats harder to afford, especially during the school holidays when costs build up for families. Last month the Chancellor announced the *Great British Summer Savings* scheme. From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

Use the below link to locate attractions near you!

https://summersavings.gov.uk/?es_c=94CBBB746C0EF9F1A82D6C446DC85ACA&es_cl=4B5792677EA94279E590705CE261C46A&es_id=ph7%c2%a3o1

ALL YOURS PERIOD PRODUCTS

Please see the attached flyer with information on how to claim free period products.

PTFA

The rainbow hamper raffle raised a fantastic £1265 for our schools! Thank you to our PTFA for organising and to everyone who purchased a ticket! We hope the hamper winners enjoy all the wonderful hampers over the holidays!

LEAVERS' SERVICE – YEAR 6

On Monday, whole school held a tremendous Leavers' Service at Mortimer St Mary's Church. The Year 6's shared wonderful memories, the choir performed a wonderful song as a farewell, and the rest of the school supported them in wishing them all the luck in their future endeavours!

LEAVERS' SERVICE – YEAR 2

On Thursday 16th July, Year 2 hosted their Leavers' Service. They spent time reflecting on their time at St John's and thinking about all of their favourite memories. The Year 2 children then did a wonderful job reading these out in the church, applying the fluency skills they have developed in lessons. Some of the children choreographed and performed a dance to a song they had learnt in Music lessons called 'The Friendship Song'. It was a wonderfully special service, which all of the children and adults thoroughly enjoyed.

LEAVERS' PARTY – YEAR 2

The Year 2 children had an amazing time at their Leaver's party. A huge thank you to the PTFA for organising such a great event for the children and to all the parent helpers for setting up, running the event and clearing up at the end. It was a huge success and all the children had a brilliant time!

Mia - I liked the party because the decorations were pretty and I had lots of fun.

Myles - I really liked the football game, it was really fun kicking the ball at the target.

Tamara - It was very fun that we could dye our hair and we could decorate our own hats, I liked the snacks and the photo booth.

LEAVERS PARTY – YEAR 6

On Monday evening, the PTFA kindly organised a fantastic Leavers' farewell festival, filled with wonderful activities such as an inflatable obstacle

course, face paints, a disco and a photo booth. The evening was one they will all cherish forever.

MONTHLY WELLBEING TOOLKIT

Please find below a link to a free monthly resource for families — packed with practical, honest tips to support your child's emotional wellbeing at home. This month is perfectly timed for the summer holidays — covering how to help anxious children thrive when routines change and big feelings can creep in.

Throughout the school year the resource will cover:

- 🍁 September — helping children settle into a new school year
- 🌪️ October — big emotions and what to do when feelings overflow
- 👯 November — friendships, belonging and social anxiety
- 🎄 December — managing the festive overwhelm
- ❄️ January — building resilience after the holidays
- 💛 February — self esteem and confidence
- 🧠 March — the anxious brain and learning under pressure
- 🌙 April — sleep and the anxious child
- 🍌 May — exam and test anxiety
- 🌱 June — transitions, moving up and moving on
- 🎉 July — celebrating growth and looking ahead

Completely free. For less 'life admin' — you can also get this directly to your inbox.

<https://www.anchorandbounce.com/freetoolkit>

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>

NEWBURY RACES – FREE RACING

This day will see school-age pupils and two family members invited to enjoy a day of racing – and a host of entertainment and activities – during the summer holidays for free. Further information (and a video) is available here - <https://newburyracecourse.co.uk/racing/news-and-information/pupils-parents-to-enjoy-racing-for-free-this-august/>



SPOTLIGHT UK DISCOUNTED DAYS OUT

Please see the attached flyers with information on discounted days out for families over the summer holidays.