

15th November 2024

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 18th November - Year 6 Child Measurement Programme – Nursing team visiting

Monday 18th November – Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents/Carers – 1.30pm to 3.00pm

Friday 22nd November – Mortimer St. Mary's Discos

Monday 25th November – Year 3 trip to Butser Farm

Wednesday 27th November – Performing Arts Day

Wednesday 27th November – Year 2 to Year 4 'Lion King' theatre trip

Wednesday 27th November - Year 5 and Year 6 'Matilda' theatre trip

Friday 29th November – Non-Uniform Day supporting the Christmas Fair

Monday 2nd December – Year 5 Space Dome

Wednesday 4th December – PTFA Christmas Wreath Making – St. John's Village Hall – 7.30pm

Thursday 5th December – 'Where in the World? Alaska' - Year 2 Parent Share – 8.00am to 8.35am

Thursday 5th December – Foundation Stage Production – 9.30am

Friday 6th December – PTFA Christmas Fair

Tuesday 10th December – Year 3/Year 4 Production of 'The Apprentice' – 9.30am

Wednesday 11th December and Thursday 12th December – Year 3/Year 4 Production of 'The Apprentice' – 6.00pm

Thursday 12th December – Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Christmas Service – St. John's Church – 2.00pm

Friday 13th December – Christmas Celebration Day including Christmas Lunch and Christmas Parties

Monday 16th December – 'Reach for the Stars' – Year 5 Parent Share – 9.15am to 10.00am

Monday 16th December – Key Stage 2 Christmas Service – St. Mary's Church – 2.00pm

Monday 16th December – 'Great Fire of London' – Year 1 Parent Share – 2.45pm until 3.15pm

Thursday 19th December – End of term

Monday 6th January 2025 – Spring term begins

JOB OPPORTUNITY

We currently have a vacancy for a Key Stage 2 Higher Level Teaching Assistant. Please see the attached advert for further information.

COATS

Now that the weather has become more autumnal please can you ensure that your child comes to school with a coat. **Can all coats please be named Thank you.**

EDCDANCE – CHANGE OF DAY – MORTIMER ST. MARY'S

Due to the school discos taking place at Mortimer St. Mary's on Friday 22nd November, the EDCDance club session has been rearranged and will now take place on Tuesday, 19th November at 8.00am. We would like to take this opportunity to apologise in advance for any inconvenience that this may cause.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE FOR YEAR 1 AND 2

All parents/carers/grandparents, etc. are invited to attend our Key Stage 1 Christmas Service at St. John's Church on Thursday 12th December at 2.00pm. Please be aware that the Foundation Stage children will not be taking part in the service.

MORTIMER ST. MARY'S CAROL SERVICE

All parents/carers/grandparents, etc. are invited to attend our Key Stage 2 Christmas Service at Mortimer St Mary's Church on Monday 16th December at 2.00pm.

FOUNDATION STAGE PRODUCTION

The Foundation Stage Production of 'The Mixed-up Fairytale' will take place on **Thursday 5th December at 9.30am**. Doors will open at 9.15am, the production will finish at approximately 10.15am.

Due to the space available within the school hall, we would request that no more than two adults per child attend the production. Younger siblings can attend if required (seated on an adult's lap). We would ask that if younger siblings attend, and they become restless, they are removed so as not to spoil the production for the children and other parents/carers.

Please note that all buggies or similar items need to be left in a sensible place outside the school building. Thank you.

PERFORMING ARTS DAY

We are all really excited that our Performing Arts Day is fast approaching. As previously advised, on Wednesday 27th November the children in Year 2 to Year 6 have been invited to take part in a theatre trip to London. The children in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 will be watching the 'Lion King' at the Lyceum Theatre, and the children in Year 5 and Year 6 will be watching 'Matilda the Musical' at the Cambridge Theatre.

It is also with huge excitement that we can announce that the children in Foundation Stage and Year 1, will have the opportunity to watch a production of 'Dick Whittington' by a visiting theatre company, as well as taking part in various different activities during the school day.

We would like to pass on an enormous thank you to the PTFA who have very kindly agreed to cover the cost of the theatre company visit, in addition to covering the costs of the transport to London. This kind generosity will help to ensure that the children have an amazing day.

CHRISTMAS AT SHAW HOUSE

Please see the attached details regarding events being held at Shaw House across the Christmas period.

PTFA CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PTFA will be holding a Christmas Fair at Mortimer St. John's on Friday 6th December, 3.30pm until 5.30pm. Please come and join us for some festive fun. You may be lucky and win on the Tombola or raffle or even the lucky dip, or you may prefer to take part in some crafts or enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a delicious cake or two! Refreshments will be available to purchase in the playground from 3.00pm.

Non-Uniform Day

In support of the Christmas Fair, the children are invited to come into school on Friday 29th November wearing non-uniform (**we would appreciate your support in not allowing the children to wear football kits/rugby kits/sports kits**). Please can the children bring a donation for the Fair, for further details please see the attached posters (Mortimer St. John's Chocolate Tombola, Mortimer St. Mary's Rainbow donations). All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Donations

If you have any unwanted children's 'party bag' toys such as pencils, rubbers, bouncy balls etc that you are willing to donate, please could you take these to either school office by Friday 22nd November. Thank you.

Volunteers

To help make this event a success and raise much needed funds to support the children at The Mortimer Federation, the PTFA are seeking volunteers. If you are able to spare an hour or two to help out on the day please sign up via Classlist. Thank you in advance for your support.

Cakes and Bakes

Further details to follow in due course.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

The children will be enjoying Christmas dinner on Friday 13th December. If you would like your child to have Christmas dinner please order in the usual way via SchoolGrid. Please can all orders be placed by Monday 2nd December to ensure the Christmas dinner is ordered for your child/ren! Thank you.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 13th December the children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school, together with their school uniform, they will also be enjoying their Christmas dinner and a Christmas party. We would request a donation of £1.00. All monies raised will be donated to our twinned school CSI, Nandyal.

THE MORTIMER FEDERATION CHRISTMAS CARD POST

The Mortimer Federation Christmas card postal services will be operational from Monday 2nd December! If your child wishes to send Christmas cards to their school friends, they should post them in the post box located outside the office at Mortimer St. John's or within the school hall at Mortimer St. Mary's. Please write the recipient's class as well as their name on the envelope. Thank you.

YEAR 3/YEAR 4 CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

The Year 3/Year 4 Christmas production of 'The Apprentice' will be taking place on Tuesday 10th December (9.30am), Wednesday 11th December (6.00pm) and Thursday 12th December (6.00pm). A letter containing further information including details of how to obtain tickets will be forwarded, via ParentMail, to the parents/carers of children in Year 3/Year 4 in due course.

100 CLUB WINNERS

The 100 club winners for October 2024 are as follows:

1st prize – Louise L
2nd Prize – Victoria G
3rd Prize – Laura G

CHILDREN'S MILK – YEARS 1 AND 2

Milk money for the remainder of this half term (Monday 18th November to Thursday 19th December) is £4.80 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.

YEAR 2 - MORTIMER ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

During the afternoon of Monday 9th December, the Year 2 children will be going to Mortimer St. Mary's to watch the Year 3/Year 4 Christmas production of 'The Apprentice'. We will walk the children to Mortimer St. Mary's. Parents/carers will need to collect their child/ren from the **courtyard at Mortimer St. Mary's at 3:10pm**. If your child/ren attend The Oaks after school club at Mortimer St. John's, the Year 2 staff can walk with your child/ren children back to Mortimer St. John's, however, we will require your written permission. Please email the school office (officemsj@mortimerschools.org) providing your consent. Thank you

If you are able to help us to walk children to Mortimer St. Mary's please see Miss Green, Mrs Rook or Miss Wood-Griffiths. You will be required to have a DBS obtained via the school or be registered with the DBS Update Service. Thank you

DOLCE CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

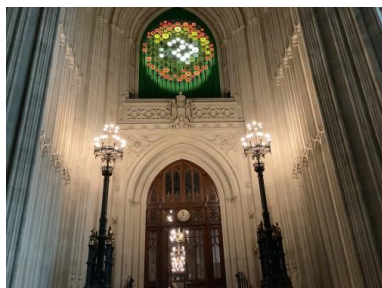
Please see the attached leaflet regarding a Christmas Card Design Competition being run by Dolce (school caterers). The children are invited to design an A4 winter themed picture using paint, crayons, pencils or chalk. Please remember to write your child's full name, age and school on the reverse of their design. The national winning card will be produced and given to the winning child, in the form of a pack of Christmas cards which can then be sent to friends and family. The winner will also receive an iPad. All entries need to be returned to the school office by 9.00am on Tuesday 19th November.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please ensure if your child/ren are having a school lunch, that these are ordered in advance on SchoolGrid. In recent weeks, a number of children have not placed orders. An order must be placed by 8.55am (Mortimer St. John's) or 9.15am (Mortimer St. Mary's) to ensure the cooks, within both schools, are able to provide a meal. Thank you in advance of this.

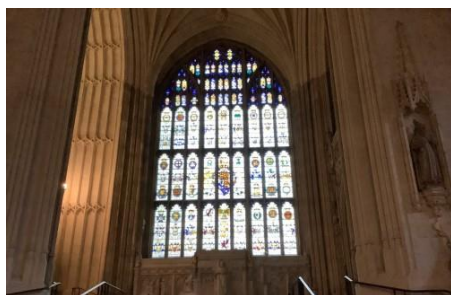
YEAR 6 VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

On Thursday 7th November, Year 6 were very lucky to visit the Houses of Parliament in London. This trip linked really well with the 'Rulers and Government' project that Year 6 completed prior to October half term. Not one child complained about arriving very early to school in the morning, which was admirable! Once the children arrived, the day started with a tour of the building. They got to see the House of Commons, House of Lords, the King's robing chamber and parts of Westminster Palace! The children asked lots of insightful questions and showed superb respect during the tour. They were also really lucky to meet and ask questions to the senior advisor of the Reading and West Berkshire MP, Olivia Bailey. Finally, the children ended the trip with a workshop where they got to explore sensory bags with different items linked to parliament in them. Everyone had a great time guessing what was in the bags just by touch and smell! Overall, it was a brilliant day and the children did the school proud, as always!



"I enjoyed the workshop and pulling the items out of the sensory bag. It was really fun!" - Harry L

"I found it interesting that the House of Commons and the House of Lords had their own separate rooms." - Lily D



"I enjoyed when we had our workshop and enjoyed trying out parliamentary ping pong when deciding whether all children should eat vegetables every day!" - Rudy R

WEST BERKSHIRE FOODBANK – THANK YOU

The West Berkshire Foodbank would like to say a great big thank you for the kind donations from parents/carers/staff, that were collected as part of The Mortimer Federation Harvest Festival celebrations. In total 166kg of food and essentials were donated, providing 347 meals, helping to feed 17 people with three meals a day for 7 days. You are all amazing, thank you.

BE A CHORISTER FOR AN AFTERNOON

Please find attached information about a 'Be a Chorister for an Afternoon' event, to be held at Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford on Saturday 11th January 2025 at 2.30pm. Boys in current Years 2, 3 and 4 are invited to join for an afternoon to look around the School and Boarding House, rehearse with the Cathedral Choir, and sing at Evensong with the Choristers in the Cathedral.