

7th March 2025

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 10th March – Bag2School collection from the village

Monday 10th March – Year 6 Visit to Mortimer St. John's to share picture books with Year 1

Tuesday 11th March - Bag2School collection from the schools

Thursday 13th March – Year 4 trip to the Natural History Museum

Friday 14th March - Foundation Stage Disco, 4.30pm to 5.30pm – Year 2 Disco, 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Monday 17th March – Parents' Evening (except Hedgehog Class) – virtual appointments

Wednesday 19th March – Parents' Evening (except Hedgehog Class) – Face to Face appointments

Thursday 20th March – Mortimer St. John's Class Photographs

Thursday 20th March – Year 2 'Animal Kingdom' Parent Share – 2.45pm to 3.30pm

Friday 21st March - Year 1 'A Creature in the Sky' Parent Share – 9.15am to 10.00am

Friday 21st March – Eco Warrior Leader litter picking activity

Wednesday 26th March – Junior Music Festival – Mortimer St. Mary's Choir

Thursday 27th March – Foundation Stage 'Pirates' Parent Share – 8.15am to 10.00am

Monday 31st March – Year 5 'Smashing Saxons' Parent Share – 3.00pm to 3.45pm

Monday 31st March – PTFA Bake Off Event for Mortimer St. Mary's children

Monday 31st March – Year 5 Level 1, Group 1 Bikeability

Tuesday 1st April – Mortimer St. John's Lent Service – St. John's Church – 2.00pm

Tuesday 1st April – Year 6 'Blood Heart' Parent Share – 2.45pm to 3.45pm

Tuesday 1st April – Year 5 Level 1, Group 2 Bikeability

Wednesday 2nd April – Year 4 'Down the Nile' Parent Share - 8.30am to 9.15am

Wednesday 2nd April – Mortimer St. Mary's Lent Service (pupils only)

Wednesday 2nd April – Year 5 Level 1, Group 3 Bikeability

Thursday 3rd April – Year 5 trip to Reading Museum

Friday 4th April - End of Term - Mortimer St. Mary's 1.30pm, Mortimer St. John's 2.00pm

Tuesday 22nd April – Summer Term begins

Thursday 24th April – Mortimer St. Mary's Easter Eucharist Service – St. Mary's Church – 11.00am

Friday 2nd May – PTFA Colour Run Event at Mortimer St. Mary's

Friday 9th May – Mortimer St. Mary's School Disco

Thursday 12th June – Mortimer St. Mary's Class Photographs

JOB OPPORTUNITY

We currently have a vacancy for an Office Administrator. Please see the attached advertisement for further information

SCHOOL CLUBS - CANCELLATION

Due to Parents' Evening we are unable to run any school run clubs (Disney, Craft, Art, Singing, Wellbeing, Hockey, Eco, Running, Lego and Football at Mortimer St. Mary's) during the week beginning Monday 17th March. StageAbility, Football (Mortimer St. John's), Judo, EDCDance and First for Sports will be running as normal.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

BAG2SCHOOL

Bag2School raises money for Mortimer St. John's, Mortimer St. Mary's and The Willink Schools through the collection of unwanted clothing and textiles. The next roadside collection will be on Monday 10th March, with a further collection from both schools on Tuesday 11th March (please drop bags by the double gates at Mortimer St. John's and at the courtyard gates at Mortimer St. Mary's, by 8.45am). The Bag2School collection bags were sent home earlier this week.

Items that can be placed in the bags are: good quality adult's and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together), handbags, hats, bags, scarves, ties, jewellery, socks and belts (for further information click on the following link <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>). **Please do not put school uniforms (with and without logos) or corporate clothing in the bag, or anything soiled, ripped or wet.**

MORTIMER ST. JOHN'S LENT SERVICE

All parents/carers/grandparents, etc. are invited to attend our Lent Service at St. John's Church on Tuesday 1st April at 2.00pm. Please be aware that the Year 2 and Foundation Stage children will not be taking part in the service, however, they will be in church supporting with singing the hymns.

GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP

You are invited to share worship and crafts at the Good Friday Workshop at St. John's Church, Mortimer on Friday 18th April at 9.45am. For further details please see the attached information.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please ensure if your child/ren are having a school lunch, that these are ordered in advance on SchoolGrid. 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. Unfortunately, an increasing number of children are requesting a school lunch and an order has not been placed. Thank you.

FOUNDATION STAGE AND YEAR 2 DISCOS

The Foundation Stage and Year 2 discos will be taking place on Friday 14th March. Tickets are available to purchase on Classlist. If, however, you are not registered on Classlist and would like to purchase a ticket, please send your child into school with £3.00 in an envelope, stating your child's name, their emergency contact number, allergies (if applicable) and the name of the person who will be collecting them after the disco.

The Foundation Stage disco will start at 4.30pm and will run until 5.30pm. Children should be dropped off and collected from the main entrance. Please collect your children promptly at 5.30pm to ensure that we can start the Year 2 disco at 6.00pm.

The Year 2 disco will start at 6.00pm and will run until 7.00pm. Please do not arrive at school to drop off your children until 5.50pm. This will allow time for the Foundation Stage children to leave. We hope the children have an amazing time.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN AND GREAT BIG SCHOOL CLEAN

The Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean will take place from Friday 21st March 2025 until Sunday 6th April 2025. This is the 10th year that Keep Britain Tidy have run the campaign and this year it is all about highlighting that the environment belongs to everyone, and encouraging everyone to love where they live. As part of our commitment to caring for the environment, the Eco Warrior Leaders, along with Miss Wood-Griffiths and Mr Hannawin, will be taking part in a litter picking activity around the village on Friday 21st March.

FIRST FOR SPORTS EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

First for Sports will be running a Holiday Club at Mortimer St. Mary's during the first week of the Easter break. Please see the attached letter for further information.

PTFA EASTER BAKE OFF EVENT FOR MORTIMER ST. MARY'S CHILDREN

The PTFA are Holding an Easter Bake Off Event on Monday 31st March. All children at Mortimer St. Mary's are invited to enter their homemade bakes into one of the following categories: Cupcakes, Easter Show Stopper, Victoria Sponge, Tray Bake and Cookies/Biscuits. Entry tickets can be purchased for £3.00 via Classlist. All entries to be submitted by Wednesday 26th March. Winners will be announced, along with a cake sale, from 3.30pm. Good luck everyone, we cannot wait to see your wonderful creations.



LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Please see the attached flyers with information on events and activities.

MS LEWIS – SPONSORED WALK

Ms Lewis is will be participating in a sponsored walk throughout the month of March to raise money for Cancer Research UK. She is walking in memory of her niece, Jessica, and to support other families affected by cancer.

If you would like to support her and help make a difference Ms Lewis would be delighted if you could donate to Cancer Research UK via the link below. Every little bit helps bring hope for the future! Thank you.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/sarahs-giving-page-19675606>

MHST INFORMATION EVENING AT KENNET SCHOOL - THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025

Kennet School is pleased to invite parents/carers to a live information evening on Thursday 13 March delivered by the Mental Health Support Team (MHST). The event will run from 7:00pm until 8:00pm with the focus on 'Understanding self-harm and how parents/carers can help'. The evening will involve a short presentation, followed by opportunities for networking and smaller group discussions with members of the MHST. Refreshments will be available during the evening. Please see the attached letter for further information.

LONG HAIR

In the interest of hygiene and safety children with long hair, shoulder length or longer, should wear it tied back at all times. Headbands, hair bands, scrunchies or hair clips should be plain and in school colours, large bows are not permitted.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

There are only 7 days left to order from our latest Scholastic Book Club. To place an order please click on the link below. Every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club will earn 20p for our school in Scholastic Rewards.

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/mortimer-st-john/digital-book-club>

WORLD BOOK DAY 2025!

What a fantastic World Book Day we had at The Mortimer Federation! Both schools were buzzing with excitement as children and staff came together to celebrate their love of reading in so many wonderful ways.

One of the highlights of the day was our Book Swap, where children had the chance to bring in books from home and exchange them for something new to read. It was lovely to see so many pupils discovering new stories and sharing their enthusiasm for books with friends.

Throughout the day, pupils enjoyed a range of fun and book inspired activities. From puppet making, drama, book trailers using iMovie, quizzes and of course art. Staff and children had a wonderful time! Free writing sessions were a wonderful way to let imaginations run wild too!

Year 1 and Year 6 were also very excited to be able to come together to celebrate World Book Day. Year 6 walked to Mortimer St. John's during the afternoon and had the opportunity to share some picture books that they had made in their 'Northern Lights' project with the Year 1 children. The aim of this task was to make the novel more accessible for a Year 1 audience, which was done through creating picture books inspired by the book. It was a lovely afternoon and all children across both year groups were so engaged and excited by the prospect of enjoying a book together!

Of course, no World Book Day would be complete without dressing up as our favourite book characters and we were absolutely delighted by the incredible costumes on display! From classic fairy-tale heroes to modern-day literary favourites, the school was transformed into a world of imagination and adventure.

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who helped with costumes, book donations, and encouraging their children to take part in the fun. It was a fantastic day celebrating the magic of reading and we hope the children feel inspired to keep exploring the wonderful world of books! Happy reading!

