



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. We will provide you with further information concerning each event nearer the time.

Tuesday 15th December: Christmas Lunch and Class Christmas Parties

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Nativity Trail

Thursday 17th December: End of Term Mortimer St. Mary's 1:30pm, Mortimer St. John's 2pm

Monday 4th January 2021: Back to School

CHANGE TO 'PICK UP' TIMES – THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER

To assist with social distancing, we will stagger the times that the children finish school on Thursday 17th December.

Foundation Stage – leave from the double front gates:

Rabbit 2.00pm

Butterfly 2.05pm

Year 1 – leave from the side gate:

Badger 2.00pm

Deer 2.05pm

Year 2:

Hedgehog 2.00pm – leave from single front gate

Fox 2.10pm – leave from side gate

Year 3 – leave from the front black gates:

Saturn 1.30pm

Jupiter 1.35pm

Year 4 – leave from the side gate:

Venus 1.30pm

Mercury 1.35pm

Year 5 - leave from the side gate:

Neptune 1.35pm

Mars 1.30pm

Year 6 – leave from the front black gates

Gemini 1.40pm

Orion 1.40pm

END OF TERM

Following advice from the Department of Education (DfE) The Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's will finish for Christmas on **Thursday 17th December**. This is to support the health and wellbeing of the staff while working with Public Health England (PHE).

The DfE has agreed with PHE, a six-day window after the final day of teaching, in which schools are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced.

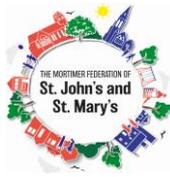
Mr Gibbs, Minister of State for School Standards said "We want to make sure that they (school staff) can have a proper break over Christmas. We know they've been under huge stress. I don't think some of these senior leadership teams of schools have had a break at all since the pandemic began."

The DfE requests that parents and carers are aware of the following:

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than **48 hours since** being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first six days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **within 48 hours** of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

Please be aware that if our schools have a positive test for coronavirus (COVID-19), families may be contacted and will be asked to self-isolate.

We thank you for your support and we hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas break.



SHARE YOUR LIGHT AWARDS



The following children have been awarded a Share Your Light Award by their class teacher

Week ending 4th December 2020

Butterfly Class: Amarii Kuffour and George Zaicev
Rabbit Class: Ellie Priestman and Quinn Shannon-Little
Deer Class: Arlo Dawson and Harry Kirkpatrick
Badger Class: Annie Rogers and Harrison Curtis
Fox Class: Daniel Lambert and Nicole-Rose Nichols
Hedgehog Class: April Hodgman and Lottie Mordecai
Jupiter Class: Kobra Cross and Sophia Richardson
Saturn Class: Penny Giles and Niamh Hallahan
Mercury Class: Ethan Warner and Jack Barratt
Venus Class: Jasmine Hill and Lily Brookfield
Mars Class: Fleur Hunt and Holly Mordecai
Neptune Class: Sam Thomas and Becky Brandwood
Gemini Class: Bayley Smith and Louis Fulker
Orion Class: Alicia Richardson and Sophie Milne

Week ending 11th December 2020

Butterfly Class: Ananya Pednekar and Harry Sheriff
Rabbit Class: Amelie Jones and Matthew Davidson
Deer Class: Jayden Andrew and Sebastian Vymazal
Badger Class: Andrei Cismasu and Jenson Vasa
Fox Class: Cedrick Padurariu and Phoebe Siertsema
Hedgehog Class: Ada Onur and William Brown
Jupiter Class: Isabella Lloyd and Rees Cox
Saturn Class: Casey Mann and Erin Everied
Mercury Class: Bluebelle Harkins-Lord and Barnaby Goodwill
Venus Class: Benedict Francis and Amelia Hunter
Mars Class: Alice Chesterman and Melissa Everied
Neptune Class: Taylor Scutter and Kate Whistler
Gemini Class: Hazel Turner and Lila Curtis
Orion Class: Summer Paterson-Neild and Alfie Hill

DATE CHANGE - CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The Christmas parties will now be taking place in classroom bubbles on **Tuesday 15th December**.

The children are welcome to wear their party clothes or their Christmas jumper to school, school uniform not required. Sensible shoes must be worn and coats for playtime and lunchtime are required.



CALLING ALL ECO WARRIORS! CREATIVE DRAWING COMPETITION for Year 1 and Year 2

The Don Hanson Charitable Foundation have launched a drawing competition across the United Kingdom with some spectacular prizes up for grabs!

1st prize - £500 book vouchers/ learning resources
2nd prize - £300 book vouchers/ learning resources
3rd prize - £200 book vouchers/ learning resources

Can you investigate one of the weird and wonderful creatures on our planet? We have so many exciting and unusual animals - from pangolins to flying frogs, alligator snapping turtles to walking fish!

Use books, or look online to create your own imaginary creature, the more imaginative the better!

Where would it live?
What would it eat?
What adaptations would it have?

Once you have drawn a picture of your fantastic beast, label it so we can read all about its special features, then send it digitally via www.hansonbox.org, all entries need to be received by 31st December.

The winners will be announced in January 2021.

GOOD LUCK!



ADMISSION POLICIES

West Berkshire Council are consulting on the Admission Arrangements for West Berkshire Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2022/2023 and are seeking the views of Parents/carers. For further information, please click on the link below:

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/admissionarrangements>



KEEPING OUR FAMILIES SAFE

The School Governors have been liaising with the Parish Council with regard to the overgrown hedges, to enable a safer walk to school.

The school have also been liaising with the Police, Traffic Wardens and West Berkshire Traffic Department about how to encourage parents to park safely and not in dangerous areas. Yellow zig-zag lines outside schools indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. We would also ask that parents/carers are respectful towards professionals who are trying to carry out their duty in this respect.



FINANCIAL HELP FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Like all Local Authorities West Berkshire Council want to support their local communities as much as possible during the current coronavirus pandemic. Below is a link regarding financial support, which is available to people who have been affected.

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-support>



ANXIETY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS/CARERS

The Emotional Health Academy will be delivering a workshop for parents/carers regarding anxiety. This workshop will provide an introduction to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and look at how this approach can help support children and young people with anxiety. There will be practical tips and techniques for parents/carers to use to support and opportunities to see these in action. The workshop will also look at how parental anxiety can impact on our children's thoughts and feelings and ways to help minimise this, as well as giving advice on supporting emotional regulation.

The workshop will take place via Zoom on Monday 18th January 2021 from 1pm to 2.30pm. Tickets are available to purchase at a cost of £5 and need to be booked online at <https://booking.westberks.gov.uk/>. Please navigate to the date of the workshop (18th January 2021) and click on 'Book Event'. We are advertising this event to surrounding schools so please book early to secure your place!

Merry Christmas from all at
The Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's



SOCIAL DISTANCING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS

We attach a leaflet produced by West Berkshire Council regarding social distancing outside of schools.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Attached is a leaflet called "Conversation Starters". We hope you will find it helpful for starting conversations with your children.



COLLECTION FOR HOMELESS

Our Eco Warriors are delighted to announce that Adam & Eve Hairdressers have agreed they will be a collection point for new hats, gloves, socks, underwear and scarves for the homeless of Reading. If you would like to donate please kindly drop off to any donation's at Adam & Eve, Mortimer from Thursday 3rd to Tuesday 15th December. The Eco Warriors would like to thank Adam & Eve's Hairdresser's for helping The Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's with the collection this year. Please note Adam & Eve Hairdresser's are closed on a Sunday and Monday.



WINTER LANTERN TRAIL

Our children really enjoyed making some lanterns for the Winter Lantern Trail. They can see them between Friday 11th December and Sunday 13th December. Further information is on the link below.
<https://cornexchangenew.com/event/winter-lantern-trail>