



## 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 give you information concerning each event nearer the time.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November** – Nasal Flu Immunisations

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Lunch

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - End of Term Mortimer St. Mary's  
1:30pm, Mortimer St. John's 2pm

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**- Back to School



### SHARE YOUR LIGHT AWARDS

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

#### Weekending 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Butterfly Class** - Elsie Webb and Teddy Dunn

**Rabbit Class** - Ivy Ball and Ted Hutchinson

**Deer Class** - Clara Peacock and Nathaniel Grevatte-Ball

**Badger Class** - Jack Appleton and Jasper Robinson

**Fox Class** - Olly Edlin and Theano Simmons Hughes

**Hedgehog Class** - Lincoln Nuccoll and Morgan Hunt

**Jupiter Class** - Isla Hulett and Esme Banks

**Saturn Class** – Aiden Wood and Samuel Thomas

**Mercury Class** - Charlotte Bone and Nikita Jepeikin

**Venus Class** – Charlie Nicholls and Cece Jallow

**Mars Class** - Isaac Looker and Melanie Powell

**Neptune Class** - Sam Chaimbault and Bethan Tetlow

**Gemini Class** - Josh Yeardeley and Noah Steadman

**Orion Class** – Elena Davies and Noah Verster

#### Weekending 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Butterfly Class** – Jack Ward and Ruben Cull

**Rabbit Class** – Joel Webster and Toby Hulett

**Deer Class** – Charlie Argrave and Elsie Lambourne

**Badger Class** – Finn Beake and Stella Ivanova

**Fox Class** – Jennifer Lister and Max Nicholls

**Hedgehog Class** – Charlotte Baker-Gabb and Rosie Vasa

**Jupiter Class** - Amelia Prime and Bertie Wright

**Saturn Class** - Lucas Hicks and Cameron Lunnon

**Mercury Class** - Clara Moran and Lyra Browne

**Venus Class** -John Webb and Thea Goodwill

**Mars Class** - Annabelle Baker-Gabb and Aiden Williams

**Neptune Class** – Danton Simmons-Hughes and Taylor Scutter

**Gemini Class** – Toby Grover and Phoebe Lambert

**Orion Class** – Max Rolton and Lola Harkins-Lord

### PARKING

Please may we politely request that parents/carers are courteous to our neighbours by not-parking in Gordon Palmer Close or using the **private** road as a drop off/pick up point or to turn around in. Thank you.

### ONLINE TUTORS - KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Every year, parents and carers employ the services of private tutors to help children catch up with missed work or address areas they are struggling with, or with extra-curricular activities such as music. Lockdown has led to major growth in this area, especially online, and this is expected to continue with further bubble and possible school closures. Did you know that anyone can set up as a tutor and there are no registration procedures? There is also no requirement for the private tutor to hold an Enhanced DBS check.

LGfL have prepared guidance to help support parents and carers select the right tutor, establish clear rules with the tutor and explain to their child the rules in place to help keep them safe. You can find out more and download the guidance leaflet here:

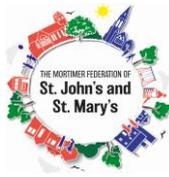
<https://static.lgfl.net/LgflNet/downloads/online-safety/posters/LGfL-DigiSafe-Online-Tutors-Safeguarding-Guidance.pdf>

### PARENTS/PUPILS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

As we are now in a second period of lockdown, please can we remind everyone that only one person from a household can meet another single person from another household outdoors, small children are not included in these figures. Pupils and their parents/carers should not be meeting or travelling to and from school in groups. Outside the school gates parents/carers need to socially distance when dropping off and collecting children from school. Social distancing of two metres should be maintained at all times by parents/carers and children. We fully support the wearing of masks/a face covering when dropping off/picking up your children from school.

### MORTIMER ST. JOHN'S SIDE ACCESS

We are aware that the track to the side of the school, where some of the children enter and leave the school site, is occasionally subject to vehicular traffic, both contractors and residents. It has been requested that construction traffic avoid school drop off and pick up times however, this is not always possible. Please can you ensure that you remain



vigilant and stay safe giving way to vehicles as necessary.  
Thank you for your co-operation.

#### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

We have been working hard to develop Worship Leaders across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Worship Leaders are children who support the school in planning and delivering acts of Collective Worship. Worship Leaders may help plan the music that is used at the beginning and end of Worship, help to deliver the call and response, read out prayers or passages from the bible, take part in drama in front of their class or the school and give their thoughts and opinions on the themes conveyed in Worship. To become a Worship Leader, children had to listen to what was involved before completing an application form. We are proud to present our Worship Leaders to you:

#### **Mortimer St. John's**

**Deer Class**- Nathaniel Grevatte-Ball and Marnie Shepperson

**Badger Class**- Jasper Robinson and Eleanor Grant

**Fox Class**- Charlotte Davidson and Samuel Looker

**Hedgehog Class**- Henry Hatherall and Jessica Stewart

#### **Mortimer St. Mary's**

**Jupiter Class** - Amelia Prime and Alisha Patel

**Saturn Class** - Oliver Fernando and Cameron Lunnon

**Mercury Class** - Christian Peake and Louie Flowerday

**Venus Class** - Abi Williams and Maddison Aubrey

**Mars Class** - Alice Chesterman and Fiorella Brown

**Neptune Class** - Jacob Ball and Becca Tilley

**Orion Class** - Elena Davies and Christian Peake

**Gemini Class** - Hazel Turner and Jasmine Lawrence

#### **ANXIETY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

We are pleased to share with you that 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 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 (18<sup>th</sup> January 2021) and click on 'Book Event'. We will be advertising this event to surrounding schools in the coming weeks so please book early to secure your place!

#### **ROAD SAFETY**

As we are now in another lockdown we have been assured that the Road Safety programmes can still be accessed. The two primary pedestrian programmes, Safer Steps and Road Rangers, are now available online. It is anticipated that over the next few months' additional programmes will be made available.

Research has shown that the majority of access to these online programmes was at its highest when the children were not in school. Why not take advantage of the extra time we are now all spending at home and register for an online programme. Helping your child improve their road safety skills, especially now evenings are darker, is invaluable.

To register for Safer Steps (pedestrian programme for Year 3 and Year 4) or Road Rangers (pedestrian programme for parents and Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2) please use the following links:

Safer Steps - <http://safersteps.co.uk/login/>

Road Rangers- <http://theroadrangers.co.uk/login/>

**Username:** Westberkshire

**Password:** Saf3rst3ps201920

*(The first "s" in the password is in capitals. The password is case sensitive).*

#### **SCHOOL PHOTOS - MORTIMER ST. JOHN'S**

School photos were due to take place at Mortimer St. John's on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately, due to the current lockdown and the restrictions in place this had to be cancelled.

We are hoping to be able to rearrange these in the new year, however, this is dependent on future guidance from the government regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER**

Please find attached this month's online safety newsletter which includes advice on apps and social media.

#### **PARENTS' EVENING**

We would like to say a big thank you to all parents/carers for your patience and understanding with the introduction of our Teams Parents' Evenings. These meetings seemed to have been successful, however, if like to provide any feedback, please can you email the relevant school office.

#### **FLYING START TO SCHOOL**

Please see the attached West Berkshire Council information leaflet for Family Hubs. It called "A Flying Start to School" and is aimed at the 0-5 age group.



#### THE STRATFIELD MORTIMER BENEFICE

Please find attached a letter from The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice regarding the changes to Church Services due to the current restrictions in place.

#### RESILIENCE RANGERS

The Resilience Rangers is an after school club for Key Stage 2 children, promoting understanding of emotions and resilience, by providing a space for children to explore and build on their existing knowledge. This will take place at home, via Zoom, on a Wednesday, starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 4.15pm for 45 minutes per session. These sessions will run on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December and then on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. The cost of the course is £36.00. Places are limited to 10, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

The programme consists of six sessions, exploring a different topic each week. These topics will comprise of:

- Introduction – goals, strengths and achievements.
- Resilience.
- Making choices and knowing the difference between right and wrong.
- What are different feelings and how to manage them.
- Co-operating, solving arguments and communication.
- Review of what has been learnt.

If your child would be interested in taking part in the Resilience Rangers, please contact the School Office on 0118 933 2491.

#### NASAL FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Nasal Flu Immunisations are due to take place in school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

Please complete the electronic consent form (one per child) via the following link and insert the schools unique code:

<https://www.berkshireimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> and

Mortimer St. John's C.E. Infant School - unique code:  
**BK109978**

Mortimer St. Mary's C.E. Junior School - unique code:  
**BK109977**

**To ensure your child receives their vaccination please ensure you register your consent by 12pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

#### LEARNING GEMS - MORTIMER ST. JOHN'S

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been focusing on the following learning gems:

##### Sapphire Power - Coping with Monster Distractions:

We will:

- Stay focused
- Have good listening
- Keep trying
- Enjoy learning

##### Amethyst Power - Working as part of a group:

We will:

- Share our ideas with others
- Take turns
- Listen to the ideas of others
- Learn from our friends' ideas

#### WISDOM WINNING WAYS - MORTIMER ST. MARY'S

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been focusing on the following Winning Wisdom Ways:

##### Pick N Mix

**We will suggest by:**

- Considering new ways of working.
- Reflecting on strategies available

##### Evaluating Eagles

##### Weigh In

**We will evaluate by:**

- Reflecting on what went well/didn't go well.
- Deciding how we can improve.
- Identifying what I have learnt to use in the future

#### MORTIMER SCHOOLS PARENTS, FRIENDS AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The first meeting of the new PFTA was held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. This meeting was to establish the constitution and to introduce the new committee members.

There were lots of ideas for fund raising discussed, including Christmas craft bags and a silent auction. The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 8pm on 19<sup>th</sup> November. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact the committee members at

[mortimerschoolsptfa@gmail.com](mailto:mortimerschoolsptfa@gmail.com)

#### HEADLICE

Headlice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. Please could we remind all parents/carers to regularly check your child's hair and treat as necessary. Further information and guidance can be found on the NHS website via the following link <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>.