



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.

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October - Half Term
Monday 9th November to Thursday 12th November – Virtual Parents' Evening Mortimer St. John's and Mortimer St. Mary's
Thursday 12th November – Mortimer St. John's Pupil Photos
Wednesday 18th November – Nasal Flu Immunisations
Tuesday 15th December – Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December - End of Term Mortimer St. Mary's 1:30pm, Mortimer St. John's 2pm
Monday 4th January 2021- Back to School

ONLINE SAFETY

A video reinforcing the importance of parents ensuring that their children are safe online 'Where's Klaus?', is a safety video where the boy's mother keeps opening the door to various unsuitable people from 'The Internet'. Where's Klaus can be found on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4GKXsAOYZE>

Please take time to view the following videos illustrating the different challenges for parents online

Pornography:

<https://www.keepitrealonline.govt.nz/pornography/>

Online Bullying:

<https://www.keepitrealonline.govt.nz/online-bullying/>

Online Grooming:

<https://www.keepitrealonline.govt.nz/online-grooming/>

Inappropriate Content:

<https://www.keepitrealonline.govt.nz/controls-and-settings/>

DOLCE MENU

We are delighted to advise that with effect from Monday 2nd November we will be providing a cooked school meal instead of the current 'grab bag' option. Please continue to order your child's meal via SchoolGrid **by 8.55am**, the menu has been updated accordingly.

If you are experiencing any issues accessing SchoolGrid please contact the school office.

ACTION FOR PARENTS

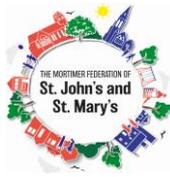
We are writing to urge **all parents to check the parental control settings of all electronic devices** that their children access i.e. Playstations, mobile phones, computers, tablets, television, virtual assistants and others. Sadly, safeguarding breaches regarding internet safety are regularly being brought into school. These breaches involve items such as photographs of the children displaying weapons and video clips of children acting in a sexually provocative manner. Children have also searched and circulated to each other a range of inappropriate images, such as sexual images of anal sex and oral sex. These incidents are a serious concern and are reported as safeguarding concerns.

We would again request that parents do not allow their children to access social media platforms that are age inappropriate. Social media includes apps such as WhatsApp, Tiktok Messenger and electronic communication includes online chat, in video gaming on Playstation, X-Box or Nintendo etc. Primary school age children do not have the emotional maturity to cope with the demands of electronic communication. This results in children feeling anxious, bullied and sometimes expressing suicidal thoughts.

Although we are aware of the benefits and positives that social media can have e.g. by exposing children to important issues and people from all over the world, by offering a sense of belonging. However, children of primary school age should **NOT** be using social media.

Below are some signals of a young person who is spending too much time on social media platforms or on their mobile device in general:

- Withdrawing from face-to-face social interaction.
- Consistent anxiety, stress or feeling overwhelmed by normal routines.
- School work beginning to slip, assignments reflecting poor work or are left undone.
- Avoidance of real-life responsibilities, such as chores or homework.
- Ill at ease, ill-equipped or unresponsive to people in front of them.
- Phones begin to create conflict in their closest relationships.



SHARE YOUR LIGHT AWARDS

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

Week Ending 16th October

- Butterfly Class** - Jemima Hinder and Maddison Winlow
- Rabbit Class** - Nancy Aldmington and Thea Chivers
- Deer Class** - Olivia Dewdney and Rosa Brown
- Badger Class** - Jenson Norcott and Sebastian McFarlane
- Fox Class** - Harry Lang and Samuel Looker
- Hedgehog Class** - Dominic Reed and Elliot Baker
- Jupiter** - Peggy Jenkins-Hall and Bertie Dearing
- Saturn** - Lida Maré and William Whitehouse
- Mercury** - Alicia Antoniou and Maggie Bilek
- Venus** - Freddie Hayward and Miley Dalgleish
- Mars** - Sebastien Furness and Jasmine Hillier
- Neptune** - Logan Howell and Taylor Scutter
- Gemini** - Jason Allen and Sarah Furey
- Orion** - Evie-Mai Lambourne and Blake Davis

Week Ending 23rd October

- Butterfly Class** - Evan Hunt and Sienna Carvell
- Rabbit Class** - Jacob Selley and Saffron Chapman
- Deer Class** - Harry Kirkpatrick and Harry Williams
- Badger Class** - Ian Vigo Pires and Stella Ivanova
- Fox Class** - Alice Hambly and Eddie Oke
- Hedgehog Class** - Millie Rogers and Oliver Williams
- Jupiter** - Lleyton Norcott and Mac Plumridge
- Saturn** - Oliver Fernando and Orlando Bedward-Broomes
- Mercury Class** - Addison Smith and Jonathan Grevatte-Ball
- Venus Class** - Tayla Croshaw and Izzy Harriss
- Mars Class** - Florence Taylor and Maisie Foster
- Neptune Class** - Becca Tilly and Izzy Lambourne
- Gemini Class** - Alice Moran and Louis Fulker
- Orion Class** - Jude Harlen and Sophie Milne

HEADLICE

Head lice 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/>.

SAFETY AND ROAD USE

Please could we ask that all parents/carers park courteously and drive responsibly when bringing their children to school by car. The yellow lines and zig zags outside the schools are not for parking at any time. We have received complaints from the local community regarding inconsiderate parking and vehicles being driven at inappropriate speeds. We have also received reports of children running across the roads and riding their bikes unsafely. Please could you remind your children about the importance of road safety. Thank you.

LEARNING GEMS - MORTIMER ST JOHN'S

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been focusing on two further Learning Gems:

Diamond Power

We are learning to be independent:

- Knowing what we need to help us
- Organise our own resources
- Plan our learning
- Try things in a different way and say what we have found out.

and

Ruby Power

We are learning about being kind:

- We listen to others
- Support others in their learning
- Celebrate other success.

WINNING WISDOM WAYS – MORTIMER ST MARY'S

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

Planning Puffins

Route Master

We will **plan** by:

- Deciding what we are being asked to do.
- Thinking about what we have used before that might be useful.
- Thinking of ways of working.
- Choosing your strategy.
- Organising resources.

and

Monitoring Meercats.

Checking Station

We will **monitor** by:

- Checking what we are doing is working.
- Thinking whether we need to try something different.
- Deciding whether we need to adapt my approach.



CHILDREN'S MILK – YEARS 1 AND 2

Milk money for next half term (2nd November to 18th December) is £7.00 (35 days at 20 pence 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.

We are currently limiting the number of items being sent between home and school, we would therefore request that if you would like your child to have milk, please could you pay for the whole half term or alternatively on a weekly basis. Milk for Foundation Stage children is provided free of charge.



NASAL FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Nasal Flu Immunisations are due to take place in school on Wednesday 18th 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:
BK 109977

To ensure your child receives their vaccination please ensure you register your consent by 12pm on Tuesday 17th November

PARENTS' EVENING

Due to the current restrictions in place Parents' Evening will take place online via Teams. To book an appointment slot with your child's class teacher please complete your booking via ParentMail. An invitation to book an appointment will be sent by email on Sunday 1st November. Guidance on how to complete your booking can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/applications/parents-evening-manager/>

Once all bookings have been finalised you will receive an invitation from your child's class teacher to a meeting via Teams.

If your child has a Support and Achievement Plan and you have already had a meeting/discussion with their class teacher, you do not need to book a separate Parents' Evening appointment. However, if you feel that you would like a further meeting you are most welcome to do so.

ECO WARRIOR LEADERS

Children from Year 1 and Year 2 were invited to complete an application form if they wanted to become an Eco-Warrior Leader and interviews duly took place. There were some incredibly amazing application forms and some equally enthusiastic interviews, which made the task of choosing the Eco Warrior Leaders very difficult! We are delighted to advise that the following children have been selected to be our Eco Warrior leaders:

Badger class – Etta Thompson and Jack Marks

Deer class – Alice Prime and Samuel Vidal

Fox class – Phoebe Siertsema, Mabel Quarterman and Bethan Roberts

Hedgehog class - Lottie Mordecai, Molly Nicholas and Ranulph Jones

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mortimer St. Mary's has a very enthusiastic and productive School Council. Being elected is a great responsibility, one which St. Mary's children embrace with enthusiasm! This year our elected council members are:

Jupiter - Chloe Vidal and Mac Plumridge

Saturn - Oscar Selley and Albie Priestman

Mercury - Maggie Bilek and Hugo Rolton

Venus - Erin Tyers and Charlie Nicholls

Neptune - Sophie Kempson and Alfie Hill

Mars - Lorraine Quarterman and Holly Mordacai

Orion - Noah Tyers and Sophie Milne

Gemini - Isabelle Vine and Olly Medhurst

The first meeting of the school year has been held and we are looking forward to helping with projects around the school.

SCHOOLS' NURSE NEWSLETTER

Please find attached a newsletter produced by the School Nursing team which we hope you find it of interest

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Please see attached the latest Online Safety newsletter containing good practise ideas for keeping your children safe whilst they are online.