

27th November 2020

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.

Tuesday 15th December: Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Nativity Trail

Thursday 17th December: Class Christmas Parties

Friday 18th December: End of Term Mortimer St. Mary's 1:30pm, Mortimer St. John's 2pm

Monday 4th January 2021: Back to School



SHARE YOUR LIGHT AWARDS

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

Week ending 20th November 2020

Butterfly Class: Darcy Day and Dylan Toms

Rabbit Class: Cameron Young and Connie Reed

Deer Class: Ronnie Steele and Samuel Vidal

Badger Class: Olivia Thompson and William Gilbert

Fox Class: Joey Webb and Rudy Railton

Hedgehog Class: Ava Young and Jenson Bracey

Jupiter Class: Poppy Monkhouse and Finlay Harlen

Saturn Class: Charlie Borrett and Jacob Glover

Mercury Class: Harry Burnard and Bluebelle Harkins-Lord

Venus Class: Martha Bloxham and Abigail Williams

Mars Class: Ellie Shaw and Daisy Downer

Neptune Class: Layla Williams and Siena Baxter

Gemini Class: Rory Hunter and Lilly Butler

Orion Class: Jeremy Reed and Violet Hawkins

Week ending 27th November 2020

Butterfly Class: Elivia-Rose Williams and Seb Nutchey

Rabbit Class: Harlyn Collins and Imogen Lister

Deer Class: Jude Taylor and Melissa Hillier

Badger Class: Vinnie Massarella-Bargus and Zach Davies

Fox Class: Bethan Roberts and Remy Dalton

Hedgehog Class: Jenson Choules and Rayan Abdenbi

Jupiter Class: Freddy Downer and Juno Shepperson

Saturn Class: Angel Foster and Grace Russell

Mercury Class: Amelie Clemison and Christian Peake

Venus Class: Albert Prior and Dexter Carvell

Mars Class: Savannah Harris and Josh Kelly

Neptune Class: Ellie-Lee Mohan and Ariella Bedward-Broomes

Gemini Class: Caylon Cooke and Sarah Furey

Orion Class: Beth Matthews and Ava Morgan



YOUNG WRITERS

On Thursday 19th November a 100-word creative writing competition was launched in school. The Young Writers Organisation has invited Mortimer St. Mary's to take part in an exciting and mysterious mini-saga competition called 'A Wander in the Woods'. To find out more please visit this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wasjQAcXZQg&feature=youtu.be>

If your child would like to take part, they must let their class teacher know. Supportive materials (a planning frame and entry sheet) will then be uploaded as an activity via Seesaw Home Learning. All entries must be submitted on Seesaw by **Friday 11th December** for your child to have a chance of winning a fantastic goody bag or have their story published in to a book. All entrants will receive a sticker, a bookmark and a certificate of merit.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Unfortunately, this year due to the restrictions in place regarding the COVID-19 pandemic we regret to advise that the children will not be able to send (or receive) Christmas cards in school.

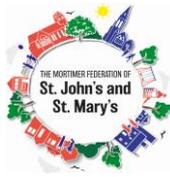
Additionally, many of our kind parents/carers generously send lovely gifts into school for school staff. This year due to the government guidelines in place this will also not be permitted.

We are looking at other ways to celebrate this wonderful time of the year. Hopefully everything will return to normal in 2021.



MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

As schools we are happy to assist with giving medication to children, providing that it has been prescribed by a doctor. If your child has a valid prescription and you would like us to give the medication in school, we require you to complete a 'Request to Give Medication Form' (available from the school office or on the school website) and hand this, together with the medication (clearly labelled), to a member of office staff or your child's class teacher. Do not send the medication into school with your child. Calpol and Nurofen will only be given if a valid prescription



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Christmas parties will be taking place in classroom bubbles on Thursday 17th December.

The children are welcome to wear their party clothes or their Christmas jumper. Sensible shoes must be worn and coats for playtime and lunchtime are required.



BBC STORY EXPLORERS

The BBC have launched a new children's radio and podcast series called **Story Explorers** which is all about stories for 7 to 11-year-olds. Children will be able to tune in on weekdays at 6.15pm on the national children's radio station **Fun Kids**.

The series is hosted by **CBBC presenter Ben Shires** and will feature a different children's author and group of school children each week.

Budding young podcasters will interview and chat virtually with top authors about their work, the stories they love and also take part in fun games together. Each interview is broken down into five episodes, each five minutes in length. New episodes will be released weekdays at 6.15pm throughout November and December.

https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/top-authors-join-story-explorers-new-podcast-kids-kids/?mc_cid=7743370b68&mc_eid=6fa433e5f1



CHRISTMAS DINNER

The children will be having their Christmas Dinner on **Tuesday 15th December**. If your child would like a Christmas Dinner, please ensure you order their meal online via SchoolGrid by **Tuesday 8th December**.



ECO COUNCIL

The Eco Council have met twice this half term with Miss Sims. They have spent time considering our 3 main priorities; waste, biodiversity and energy. The councillors have then led discussions with their classes about what extra we can carry out at Mortimer St. Mary's to improve in these areas to help us try and achieve our Silver Award for Eco Schools. The councillors have gathered lots of great ideas which you will be hearing about soon! The Eco Council have also agreed with classes to relaunch the Mortimer St. Mary's paper weigh-in competition which we were sadly unable to complete last year. The aim of the competition is to reduce the amount of paper we use unnecessarily. Over the coming weeks, the councillors will be busy preparing a launch video which they will share on the Eco Council area of the school website and with the children at school early next term.



SCHOOL COUNCILLORS: MORTIMER ST. MARY'S

The Mortimer St. Mary's School Council members this year are:

Jupiter Class: Chloe Vidal and Mac Plumridge
Saturn Class: Oscar Selley and Albie Priestman
Mercury Class: Maggie Bilek and Hugo Railton
Venus Class: Erin Tyers and Charlie Nichols
Mars Class: Lorraine Quarterman and Holly Mordacai
Neptune Class: Sophie Kempson and Alfie Marks
Orion Class: Noah Verster and Sophie Milne
Gemini Class: Isabel Vine and Olly Monkhouse

The School Council have met for the second time and were keen to discuss the role of a School Councillor during a pandemic. All of the members agreed that they would like to take responsibility for keeping up morale in what can be a challenging and anxious time and to help promote the ways in which their peers can keep safe. With this in mind, we have launched a competition to design a poster which could be displayed around the school, to remind children and staff of the measures they should be taking to keep themselves and each other clean and safe.

Posters need to be uploaded to Seesaw by **Friday 11th December**. There will be a prize for each year group.



STRAWBERRY FIELDS

We have been made aware that a number of parents and carers are parking in the Strawberry Fields area of Mortimer and appear to be staying longer than necessary and obstructing driveways. This is causing undue stress to local neighbours and can also be dangerous for those when trying to enter and leave their property. Please can we remind parents and carers to be courteous of local residents by picking up and dropping off your children as quickly as possible.



FOUNDATION STAGE - READING

We have noticed that some of our children need a little further support with their knowledge of stories and traditional tales. Please could you support your child at home by reading stories and repeating rhymes? Can you tell your child the story of Little Red Riding Hood, Three Billy Goats Gruff and Jack and the Beanstalk? Say the rhymes in this story, can your child identify any rhyming words? Other great books to read with your children are Each Peach Pear Plum, Hairy Maclary and We're Going On a Bear Hunt. Julia Donaldson also has a range of books to support your child with stories and rhymes.

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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



CORONAVIRUS: HOW TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- New research shows that being in a room with fresh air can reduce the risk of infection from particles by over 70%

• The film (see below) is part of the 'Hands. Face. Space' campaign which urges public to adopt simple health behaviours to help reduce the risk of the virus spreading. The film illustrates how coronavirus lingers in the air in spaces with no fresh air, increasing the risk of people breathing in infected particles, and how the risk can be reduced significantly by regularly ventilating enclosed areas.

As we spend more time indoors, experts are recommending that people either:

- open windows for short, sharp bursts of 10 to 15 minutes regularly throughout the day
- leave windows open a small amount continuously

This is to remove any infected particles lingering in the room.

Additionally, it is advised that any household systems that use outdoor air, including kitchen or bathroom extractor fans, are used correctly and regularly as an additional method to remove infected particles.

Airing indoor spaces is particularly important when:

- people have visitors (when permitted) or tradespeople in their home, for example for construction or emergencies
- someone from a support bubble is meeting with another household indoors
- a care worker is seeing a patient indoors
- someone in the household has the virus, as this can help Coronavirus is spread through the air by droplets and smaller particles (known as aerosols) that are exhaled from the nose and mouth of an infected person as they breathe, speak or cough. They behave in a similar way to smoke but are invisible. The majority of virus transmissions happen indoors. Being indoors, with no fresh air, the particles can remain suspended in the air for hours and build up over time.

The longer people spend in the same room as these particles, the more likely they are to become infected.

As we approach winter, and inevitably spend more time indoors, fresh air is extremely beneficial. For COVID-19, it is important to ventilate indoor spaces if someone in your home has the virus as this can help prevent transmission to other household members.

You should also let fresh air into your home when you have any visitors and just after they leave in case they are infected. Remember, opening windows alongside washing your hands, covering your face and making space is also essential in reducing your risk of COVID-19.

<https://vimeo.com/479780249/984a55318f?scrllybrkr=13c5477f>



BAG2SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Through the generosity of local residents, three times a year Bag2school run an event to raise money for Mortimer St. John's, St. Mary's and

Willink schools. These events are only possible thanks to volunteers who deliver the bags around the village or who drive around the village to collect the filled bags. As some of the volunteers are moving on or wanting a well-earned rest, they are looking for new people to help.

What is involved?

Bag deliverers are allocated small area and usually have about 2 weeks to distribute the bags. The time commitment is usually less than an hour, three times a year and can be combined with a walk!

Bag collectors are also allocated an area and on the Monday morning of collection week drive round collecting bags from driveways before delivering to a house in the village.

Any new volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

THE PARENTS, TEACHER AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION Christmas Craft Goodie Bag!

Could you use something to keep your little ones busy the week before Christmas? Then how about a Christmas craft goodie bag?

The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association have put together craft bags to raise funds for the Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's.

They will be suitable for children who attend St. John's and will include a mug and sparkly porcelain pen, as well as 3 other Christmas craft activities.

They will be available to order on Classlist for £5 and you will be able to collect them from the community centre car park. The bags will be available for collection from the car park between 3pm and 3:30pm on Monday 14, Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 December.

We hope the children enjoy the crafts and we thank you for supporting our schools.

PARENT AND PUPIL QUESTIONNAIRES

Please can we remind all our parents/carers that the pupil questionnaires need to be returned to school by 30th November. Another copy is attached if you require it.