

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 21st May – Year 2 Animal Kingdom Parent Share – 8.30am to 9.15am

Wednesday 22nd May – Year 1 Rainforest Parent Share – 2.30pm to 3.10pm

Thursday 23rd May – FS Fantastic Farming Parent Share – 2.30pm to 3.10pm

Friday 24th May to Friday 31st May - Half Term

Tuesday 4th June – Mobile Planetarium visiting school

Tuesday 4th June – Dress Up Day – Aliens or Astronauts

Wednesday 5th June – Class Photos

Friday 7th June – Badger Class Assembly

Thursday 13th June – Mortimer Bonfire Night Planning Meeting – 8pm Turners Arms

Friday 14th June – Rabbit Class Assembly

Tuesday 18th June – Sports Day – AM

Thursday 20th June – Reserve Sports Day – AM

Friday 21st June – Whole School Space Parent Share – 8.30am to 10.00am

Friday 21st June – Butterfly Class Assembly – 10.15am

Wednesday 26th June – Race for Life Event

Wednesday 3rd July – Fox Class Swim at MSM

Friday 5th July – Moving Up Morning

Tuesday 9th July – School Production

Wednesday 10th July – Hedgehog Class Swim at MSM

Thursday 11th July – School Production

Monday 15th July – Year 2 to watch MSM Summer Production

Monday 22nd July – Parent Drop In

Monday 22nd July – Leavers' Party

Tuesday 23rd July - Leavers' Service

Wednesday 24th July - End of Term – 2pm

dressed as an alien or astronaut. We look forward to seeing a variety of costumes, however, please ensure that the children wear sensible footwear.



TRAVELLING BOOKS – BOOK FAIR

TUESDAY 30TH APRIL TO FRIDAY 3RD MAY

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along to the Book Fair and purchased a book or two. The monies raised have enabled the school to purchase £96 worth of books.



SPONSOR THE MORTIMER ST JOHN'S BONFIRE & FIREWORK NIGHT!

Preparation has already begun for the school's biggest fund raising event – our Bonfire and Firework Night!

This event is made possible thanks to the wonderful generosity of our sponsors. We use all sponsorship funds to cover the cost of the fireworks, equipment hire, printing costs, security, first aid hire and toilet hire... to name but a few!

Do you own a business or work for a company who would be willing to sponsor our event this year? Do you have friends or family with a business who may wish to support us?

In return for sponsorship, we will promote the company through our online and print media, as well as on the night itself. Any donation, however big or small, is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to make an offer of sponsorship or just learn a little more please contact mortimerbonfire@gmail.com or alternatively speak to Emily Lambert & Fran Hambly (Foundation parents) or Helen Murphy (Year 1 parent).

Thank you.

MAY FAIR

What a beautiful day we had for the May Fair. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone that supported this event; whether you donated items, purchased raffle tickets, gave up your spare time on Friday to help set up or even run a stall on the day. However, you got involved we would like to say thank you. We would especially like to thank the group of hardworking parents on the Parents and Friends Committee for their continued commitment to the school, so much preparation goes into arranging this major fundraising event and this is greatly appreciated.

Whilst the final total has not been confirmed, it is anticipated that approximately £4200 has been raised. This is a fantastic sum of money and will be used to support the children in school.



ALIENS AND ASTRONAUTS DRESS UP DAY

To launch our whole school project on space the children are invited to come to school on Tuesday 4th June

BONFIRE & FIREWORK NIGHT PLANNING MEETING

The Bonfire & Firework Committee will be holding a planning meeting in the Turners Arms at 8pm on **Thursday 20th June**. If you would like to be involved in the biggest fundraising event of the year, please come along. Everybody is welcome; it is always nice to see new faces.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Mortimer St Mary's have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Controller. Please see the attached advert for further information.

ZEBRA CROSSING

Please may we ask that all drivers are courteous and follow the Highway Code when approaching or leaving the zebra crossing. We have been advised that some drivers are not waiting until the zebra crossing is clear before continuing with their journey.

Mortimer St John's Infant School, West End Road, Mortimer, Berkshire, RG7 3SY

Tel: 0118 933 2242 email: office@msj.w-berks.sch.uk

www.msj.w-berks.sch.uk



Smartphones
view here.



FOUNDATION STAGE TRIP TO RUSHALL FARM

On Wednesday 8th May the Foundation Stage children went to Rushall Farm. Despite the wet weather the children had a fabulous day out. The children took part in lots of activities including a woodland walk, pond dipping, stroking a lamb, a tractor ride and feeding the pigs and chickens. The children learnt lots of new things about farming.

"I liked it when I found a leach when pond dipping." – Henry

"I loved looking at the pig and piglets." – Maisy

"I loved pond dipping I caught lots of tadpoles." – Jessica

"Walking in the woods listening to birds was lots of fun." - Harvey



YEAR 1 TRIP TO THE LIVING RAINFOREST

On Friday 3rd May the Year 1 children visited the Living Rainforest. They were taken on a tour of the rainforest in small groups and shown lots of different animals and plants. They learnt lots of new facts and information about the rainforest, especially what the different animals eat; whether they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. They had a fantastic day!

"We learnt that pythons can eat mice three times as big as their head." – Charlie

"The armadillo was spikey, hairy and scaly. He is called Harry and he likes to dig in the mud." – Angel

"The poison dart frogs are only poisonous if they eat poisonous ants." – Esme

"I liked the bird eating spider." – Freddy

"Rainforests are hot and humid." - Oscar



BUTTERCUP THE COW VISITS FOUNDATION STAGE

On Thursday 16th May, Buttercup the cow came to visit Foundation Stage. Buttercup needed some help from the children as she needed milking. We learnt all about Buttercup's cow passport, which contained stamps from all of the different schools she has visited this year. The children also learnt that farmers cut the grass in the summer, then store this for the cows to eat during the winter, this is called silage. We were astounded to learn that one cow can produce 30 litres of milk per day!

"I learnt how to milk a cow." – Rayan

"I enjoyed learning that milk can help make lots of different food such as cakes." – Ranulph

"I know that cows eat hay." – Charlotte

"Baby cows are called calves." - Matilda

READING RECORDS

We appreciate that sometimes it is difficult for parents to know what type of comments they should be including in their child's Reading Record. With this in mind we have compiled the following list of valuable comments that you could include about your child's reading:

"Joe read enthusiastically and understood the story."

"Jessica was able to tell me about the book after we read."

"Fluent, confident reading and enjoying the book."

"Paula used her phonics knowledge to read some words."

"Rahul recognised the exclamation mark and full stop."

"The tools on page 8 helped us to explore the story further."

"Sarah confused the 'b' and 'd' sound at the beginning/end of the word but self corrected when she realised it didn't make sense. Well done!"

"Peter was mistaking 'was' and 'saw'."

"Lorraine loved the pictures and we enjoyed talking about them."

"Louise found the word 'after' very tricky."

"Wow! The first story read to the end without any help."

"Daniel is beginning to talk about the book."

"We looked at the title and discussed what Mary thought the book was about."

"Thomas did not think that the title of the book we read matched the story."

"Oliver read at a steady pace."

"I am delighted with how his/her reading is improving."

"Tim noticed that the picture on the front of the book was colour unlike the ones inside the book."

"Alisha predicted what she thought would happen, she thinks..."

"Meera did not like the ending of the book and she could tell me why...."

PARENTMAIL

With effect from 20th May we are now using ParentMail to send communication to parents/carers. A copy of the letter that was sent to parents/carers on 14th May advising of this change is attached. This newsletter has been sent via both ParentMail and Teachers2Parents to ensure parents/carers are aware of the change. No further correspondence will be sent via Teachers2Parents.

ECO WEEK – SUNFLOWER PLANTS

Your child will be coming home with a sunflower plant that they planted during Eco Week. If you are willing to make a donation for the plant it would be greatly appreciated (suggested donation 50pence). The monies raised will be used to support the Eco Warrior projects in school. Please hand any donations to the school office. Thank you.

MAYING SERVICE

The Mortimer Maying Service, the service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for the Parish of Stratfield Mortimer, was held at St Mary's Church on Sunday 19th May. It was a wonderful service celebrating the members of the local community.

"I really enjoyed taking the candles and putting them on the shelf." – Dominic

"I liked going through the nice pattern with my candle." – Isabella

"It was so much fun, we sang songs and everyone got to take a candle to the front where the choir was." - Albert

"I had to walk up to the front of the church to place my candle to create a really nice display. I enjoyed it because you had to wait your turn and then you got to put your candle there in front of everyone." - Abigail

