

Newsletter



Welcome back. We hope you all had a relaxing and happy Easter break. We have a busy and exciting term ahead for the children.

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 6th May – Bank Holiday
Wednesday 8th May – FS trip to Rushall Farm
Saturday 11th May – May Fair 11am to 2pm
Thursday 16th May – Buttercup the Cow visiting Foundation Stage
Friday 17th May – Deer Class Assembly
Monday 20th May – P&F Meeting – 8pm Horse & Groom
Tuesday 21st May – Year 2 Animal Kingdom Parent Share – 8.30am to 9.15am
Wednesday 22nd May – Yr1 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
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 – Yr2 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

INDIVIDUAL CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Below are the dates for each class assembly. You are invited to come along and watch the assembly. Each assembly starts at 9.00am and last for approximately 20 minutes.

Friday 17th May – Deer Class

Friday 7th June – Badger Class
Friday 14th June – Rabbit Class
Friday 21st June – Butterfly Class – **10.15am**

FOUNDATION STAGE TRIP TO RUSHALL FARM - BIOSECURITY

To help prevent the spread of infection the children need to wear appropriate footwear that are clean and **have not been worn on another farm**. When arriving and departing from Rushall Farm we will be required to use Biosecurity mats. Thank you.

LENT MISSION 2019

Thank you to everyone who kindly contributed to the collection at our Easter Service. A cheque for the sum of £180.68 has been forwarded to the church for the Lent Mission.

MAY FAIR REMINDERS

Raffle tickets – please remember to send any sold and unsold raffle tickets to school by Friday 10th May. You can either return these to the school office or put them in the collection box in the school playground.

My Fair King And Queen – This year we will be running a fancy dress competition for the best dressed 'King' and 'Queen' of the Fair. Children can come to the Fair in fancy dress (they do not necessarily have to be dressed as Kings and Queens) and the best dressed will be awarded with a prize and a sash to wear. There will be a short parade at 12.30pm followed by the presentation

Cakes/Biscuits/Savouries - The children will be coming home with a paper plate on Tuesday 7th May. It would be greatly appreciated if these can be filled with cakes, biscuits or savouries that we can sell at the May Fair. If you are not a keen baker please do not worry as shop bought donations will be greatly received. Please can all contributions be brought into school on **Friday 10th May** and placed on the lockers outside the office. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S MILK – YEARS 1 AND 2

Milk money for the remainder of the Summer term is £10.20 (£2.60 and £7.60 if you prefer to pay each half term) or 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.

YEAR 2 CHILDREN

Could we please ask that you leave your child at the school gate and allow them to come into school on their own. This is to prepare the Year 2 children for the move to their next school.

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Of course, if you need to see the class teacher, please do not hesitate to come to the classroom. Thank you.



ATTENDANCE

This is Simon. He is in Year 1 and has 90% attendance. Simon thinks this is pretty good, so do his parents. Are they right?

90% attendance = ½ day missed every week!

90% attendance in one school year = 4 weeks of lessons missed!

90% attendance over five school years = ½ school year missed!

Each year there are only 190 statutory school days, which means that if your child has 90% attendance or below, they have missed at least half a day a week. Ofsted regards attendance below 90% as persistent absence.

LATENESS TO SCHOOL

There has been a noticeable increase in children arriving late to school. The classroom doors open at 8.40am, ready for registration at 8.55am. A child who arrives late to school causes disruption to the class and leaves the child feeling unsettled. Any child who arrives after 8.55am without leave of absence being authorised will be marked as late.

FAMILY LUNCHTIMES

As a parent/carer, grandparent or other adult family member you are welcome to join your child for lunch. No siblings are, however, able to come. If you would like a cooked meal please let the office know by 9.30am. Alternatively you are welcome to bring a packed lunch. The cost of an adult school meal is £2.64.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

You may recall back in September we asked for a voluntary contribution of £30 per annum for each child at Mortimer St. John's. This was for enrichment activities to enable a variety of different curriculum experiences for the children. We have already used the funds towards Dance Workshops, Hot Chocolate and Story Time, a Chinese Workshop, visiting author Adam Guillain, Art Week when the children had the opportunity to work with our artist in residence and a visit from the Life Bus. This term the children will all get the opportunity to explore space when a mobile planetarium visits school! We hope to be able to offer more exciting activities.

Without asking for these funds we would be unable to offer extra events to enhance the curriculum. If you have not yet donated and would like to do so please send in cash or cheque payable to St. John's School Fund. Please note that school trips will be in addition to this donation.

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

FLOWERBEDS

The flowerbeds around the school are looking lovely and with the help of the super compost that has been produced from our recycled food waste, the plants within them are beginning to grow and will hopefully soon be full of flowers. However, unfortunately some of the compost and soil is ending up on the floor! Please could we ask that parents/carers remind their children not to dig in the flower beds when being dropped off and collected from school. Thank you.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS' MEETING

There will be a P&F Meeting in the Horse and Groom on **Monday 20th May** at 8.00pm. Everybody is welcome, it is always nice to see new faces.

The P&F run many successful events including the May Fair and Bonfire Night. We are really proud of our P&F and are extremely grateful for the time they give to run many exciting events to raise much needed funds for the school.

THANK YOU MRS KENNEDY

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Kennedy for coming into school and sharing her knowledge of Sikhism with the year 2 children. It was interesting to learn that Sikhism is one of the world's youngest religions being founded in 1469 by Guru Nanak.

"Ladies wear a scarf when they go into a Gurdwara and they take off their shoes." – Abbeigh

"The men sit on the left and the ladies sit on the right in the Gurdwara," – Mia

"I learnt that men and women are both as important as each other in Sikhism." - Bella

ECO WEEK

During Eco Week the children enjoyed walking a mile through our lovely village, they planted sunflower seeds, they learnt about how their daily routines affect their carbon footprint and discussed ways to reduce it. The children listened to Andrea from "Plastic Free Mortimer" talk about how plastic impacts our carbon footprint and how to try to find alternatives to single use plastic. Every child took part in gluing plastic lids to make a wonderful mural! You will be able to see this at the May Fair!

Here are some of their ideas how to reduce our carbon footprints:

Turning off taps to save water.

Switching lights off or the TV off when you leave a room.

Turn off computers when not in use.

Turn your heating down a degree or two.

Hang your washing outside to dry.

Recycle if possible.

Compost foodwaste.

Don't waste paper. Use both sides.

Walk, cycle or scooter instead of using the car.

Take reusable bags to the shops.

Competition winners!

We were delighted to see such wonderful useful items made by recycling unwanted things! We had a cushion made from an

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old school PE T-shirt stuffed with plastic bags, stationery pots, pencil pots, bird feeders and bird houses, bug hotels and toys and even a hand-made shopping bag. Our winners were **Amelie, Bertie, Chloe and Riley.**

Fox class won extra Golden time for weighing in with the most toothpaste tubes and pens for recycling. Well done Fox Class!

All of these pens and oral care products that have been bought into school for recycling have been boxed up and have been sent off to Terracycle for recycling. We have recycled an amazing 16kg of pens and 1.6kg of oral hygiene products. Most importantly this has all been saved from going into landfill! Well done Eco Warriors.

Please remember to still recycle pens and toothbrushes at school. We no longer need plastic bottle lids. You can recycle plastic milk bottle tops at the Baobab and other lids can be recycled at Lush.

Don't forget to have a look at our Eco Warrior News page on the school website, under 'School Community' tab. We will keep this updated with all of our Eco Warrior news.

STEM INTERNSHIP 2019 APPLICATION

Are you or do you know an undergraduate studying a maths, physics or STEM degree that is willing to commit to a 4 week duration of an internship and is interested in exploring a career in teaching at some point in the future? If the answer is yes then please see the leaflet attached. The application window is open until **Friday 10th May**. Good luck.

NATIONAL CHILD MEASUREMENT PROGRAMME

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is a nationally mandated public health programme. It provides the data for the child excess weight indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework, and is part of the government's approach to tackling child obesity.

The proportion of Foundation Stage children in Mortimer St. John's who were overweight or obese for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 combined was 16%, 19% were overweight or obese in the West Berkshire local authority. The data shows that this not improving as the children get older, for the same assessment period 32% of the year 6 children (Mortimer St. Mary's) were classed as overweight or obese, 28% in the West Berkshire local authority.

A child's weight status affects their health and wellbeing and there are several reasons to take action. Growing healthily and maintaining a healthy weight is important not only for a child's physical, social and mental wellbeing but also for their capacity to do well at school

