

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 4th October 2024



Thank you!

A few 'thank yous' to begin this week...

Firstly, the response to our request to take up a lunch on Census day was really appreciated. In these times when budgets are stretched and funding hard to come by, the fact that so many of you supported us on this day meant a lot to the team and it will make a difference.

Next, a huge thank you from the children to all families who support the School Association. Because of the fundraising efforts of the SA and your support, we have been able to begin adding equipment to our outdoor areas to make the space more interesting, playful and fun for your children. They have loved the new dens and wooden play blocks- hopefully we'll be able to add even more in time. It is lovely to see the children playing together and creating new games with the new equipment.



Message from Miss Jolliffe

Another week whizzes by...

This week Class 3 went out on 2 school trips. On Monday they had their annual science day at QMC and on Thursday, they were in Stubbington for an exciting day by the sea. Class 4 are continuing with their weekly swimming lessons and all children in school took part in our annual SCARF workshops. These workshops build on the work that the children do in their PSHE lessons- our workshop leader was incredibly complimentary about the school and the children's positive attitudes to learning and how welcome they made her feel.

Next week, we will be welcoming the team from the NSPCC to run workshops with Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6. These workshops will help the children to understand key safeguarding themes in an age-appropriate manner and reiterate the school's priorities around safeguarding. Remember, if you or your child ever has a safeguarding concern, the safeguarding leads are Miss Jolliffe, Mrs Johnston and Mrs Rolmanis. Please do come and see us.

Have a lovely weekend.
Miss Sarah Jolliffe

New attendance rules!

There are new rules for unauthorised absences, whether this is due to holiday, irregular attendance, or otherwise. Don't get caught out!

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

Make sure you use the absence request form. Your holiday will not be authorised. Let the school know before you book anything. As your child will miss 5 school days, you'll be given a penalty notice fine.

1 parent & 1 child = £160
Reduced to £80 if paid in 21 days



For each child a penalty is given...



1 parent & 4 children = £640
Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

For a family of 2 parents & 4 children



£1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

What happens if school suspects children are actually on holiday?

Photos on Facebook?
Foreign mobile dial tone?
Other children talking about your holiday?
Amazing sun tan?
Home visit shows no-one at home?



Please don't be offended if we ask for evidence or mention these questions to you. We're required to do this to ensure a fair system!

2

What about subsequent absences? Is it still the same penalty amount?

No, not anymore. If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised, then...

2nd TIME

2 parents and...
1 child = £320
2 children = £640
3 children = £960
4 children = £1280

NO DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT

3rd TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2,500 for each child.

1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
2 parents and 4 children = £20,000

3

What about irregular attendance? Could I get a penalty notice?

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks, and their absences are unauthorised, then the school is required to consider penalty notices / prosecution.



So, half a day here and day there could all add up to 10 sessions in 10 weeks. If unauthorised, then it would be a penalty notice. Remember, 1 day is 2 sessions (morning and afternoon).

YES

4

What are typical reasons given that won't be authorised?

Examples of unauthorised absences

A family member's birthday
Shopping for uniforms
Inadequate clothing for school
Child being used as a carer
Problems with transport

Sickness of parent or sibling
Sibling's school closed
Refusing to attend, but able to
Poor family organisation
Family holidays
No absence request completed

Where attendance is irregular, or historically poor, sickness absences may be unauthorised unless medical confirmation by a GP surgery is given.



EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Key Dates:

07.10.24: NSPCC workshops
 09.10.24: Class 4 swimming
 11.10.24: School Association Quiz Night
 16.10.24: Class 4 swimming
 16.10.24: 2.15pm Harvest Festival at Church
 17.10.24: Individual children's photos
 WB21.10.24: Parent consultations
 23.10.24: Class 4 swimming
 25.10.24: INSET DAY (school closed to children)
 28.10.24-03.11.24: Half Term
 04.11.24: Children back to school. Welcome Mrs Rennison!
 06.11.24: Class 4 to Henley Fort
 07.11.24: Year R Autumn Walk
 11.11.24: Year 1 to QMC
 11.11.24: Remembrance- wear club uniforms
 15.11.24: Children in Need Cake Sale
 22.11.24: Dress down day for Fayre donations
 25.11.24: Festive Photo opportunity for families
 29.11.24: Christmas Fayre
 02.12.24: Christmas postbox OPEN!
 WB09.12.24: Infant Nativity
 12.12.24: Christingle making for Church
 13.12.24: Whole school to Panto
 15.12.24 (Sunday): Christingle service for families at Church
 16.12.24: Movie Mob
 18.12.24: 2.15pm Christmas Collective Worship at Church
 19.12.24: Christmas lunch
 20.12.24: End of Term 2pm
 06.01.25: Children back to school

Collective Worship

We have continued learning about the value of Trust this week. We thought about how we can trust in Jesus- He helps us when things are hard.

Our Bible reading this week came from Luke 5:1-11 and was about the miraculous catch of fish.

Admissions

We currently have spaces in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. If you know of anyone looking for a new school, please do let them know. We'd love to welcome new families to the community.

We also have our prospective parent tours coming up and our Ambassadors are looking forward to showing everyone around!

Harvest Festival Sunday 6th October

10.30am

Harvest Service for all ages
St Andrew's Church Sherborne St John

12noon

Community Lunch
Sherborne St John Village Hall

(suggested donation: £5)



All donations received will go to support the work of Basingstoke Foodbank



Macmillan COFFEE MORNING

Monday 7th October 2024
9am- 12noon
Sherborne St John Village Hall



Lots of cakes, muffins, loaves, tea, coffee and a raffle.

Cash or card
All proceeds towards a great cause.

INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

We've got some exciting news to share with you.

Parentkind – a charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. To support our school, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com.

Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 – every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our Primary school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage!

It's as easy as 1,2,3

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools (make sure you have the latest version of the app installed)
2. Choose our Primary School – either searching by name or postcode
3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop

Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

Remember, anyone can sign up – so start spreading the news and raising funds for our school.

This initiative is on top of the existing Asda Rewards benefits you get as a shopper – so you won't lose out on any of your own earnings or Cashpot, so everyone is a winner!

For more details, visit asda.com/cashpotforschools

