

# Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 11th October 2024



## Harvest

It is our Harvest Collective Worship on Wednesday and you are all invited to join us at Church for the service beginning at 2.15pm.

Mrs Hale has shared some of the items that are needed by the Food Bank this year as part of the Harvest offering.

All classes will either be sharing a song or poem to celebrate this special time of year and Rev. Stewart will lead the Collective Worship.

After the service, we will bring the children back to school but they can be collected as soon as they have their belongings which means we are usually dismissing all children around 3pm. If you cannot make it, usual end of day collection procedures are followed.

Thank you in advance of your generosity towards the Harvest donations and we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday in Church.



## Message from Miss Jolliffe

Firstly, a big thank you from the school office for signing up to Parent Consultations so quickly. The teachers are looking forward to meeting with you and sharing your child's progress so far this term. Class 4 meetings begin next week, for everyone else, they will be held in the last week of the half term.

On Thursday, we have the school photographer in to take photos of your child. Sibling photos will also take place on this day. You will receive information on how to buy your photos from the school office. In November, we have also arranged the return of the photographer to carry out Festive Family Photos. More information will be sent out nearer the time but we hope this will be a popular addition to the calendar.

Finally, the conkers have started to fall and so we have now shared information about the upcoming Conker Competitions in school. Please read the email from the office carefully about what your child will need and when.

See you next week.  
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!

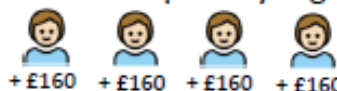
## 1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

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

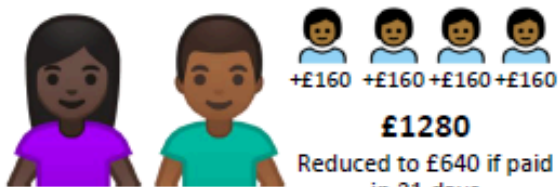


For each child a penalty is given...



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

### For a family of 2 parents & 4 children



### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised, then...

**2<sup>nd</sup> TIME**  
2 parents and...  
1 child = £320  
2 children = £640  
3 children = £960  
4 children = £1280  
**NO DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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? **YES**

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).

## 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:

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

## Road Safety Team

I have been asked to share the following information and link with you regarding 'In Car Safety'. Please take time to read and ensure the safety of your family.

The Road Safety Team are responsible for educating young people and their families on the importance of keeping safe when travelling in a vehicle. Part of this education includes ensuring young people are travelling with correct restraints. Are you aware that 37% of children are in the wrong type of seat for their age and/or height? The Road Safety Team would like to share this car restraint leaflet with you to ensure you know how to always keep your child(ren) safe - in the correct restraint. There are also hints and tips about choosing the right seat, transporting other people's children and how to fit different types of car seat. To read this informative leaflet, please visit - [https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/fc\\_parents\\_guide\\_v4\\_16pp\\_issuu\\_27baad3d346c52](https://issuu.com/firstcar/docs/fc_parents_guide_v4_16pp_issuu_27baad3d346c52)

## 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



## 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.



# 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](https://asda.com/cashpotforschools)

