

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 18th October 2024



Conker Tournament!

There has been much excitement this week with the annual conker competition getting underway.

Each class hosts their own mini competitions leading to the Grand Final which took place on Thursday afternoon.

I am pleased to announce that this year's winners are Erin, Elliott and Zach.



Message from Miss Jolliffe

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to the Church for our Harvest Festival on Wednesday. It was the Reception children's first experience of our Collective Worship in Church and I'm sure you'll agree that their performance of Dingle Dangle Scarecrow was superb. A big thank you to Rev. Stewart for leading the worship for us.

The children had their school photos taken yesterday and you will have received a paper slip which gives you the information you need to view your child's photo and make your order. These make great keepsakes and gifts for you as a family. For each order, the school receives a small commission so it is a great fundraising opportunity for us as well.

Next week is the last week of the half term and my last week in school with the children before my maternity starts. We have the Christmas Shoebox collection on Tuesday, final swimming for Class 4 on Wednesday and parent consultations on Monday and Wednesday so lots still to pack in. Please remember that school is closed to the children for an INSET day on Friday.

Have a lovely weekend.
Miss Sarah Jolliffe

Key Dates:

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

School Association Update

Last week's Quiz Night was another big success. A huge thank you to our School Association and the Social Club for organising a great night.

Steve also needs a big thanks for hosting the evening as our Quizmaster!

The event raised around £440 which is fantastic and it all goes towards providing opportunities for the children in school and supporting us with trips and resources. Thank you!

The GREAT NEWS is that the quiz will be back in Spring 2025- watch this space.

In other news, the School Association met earlier this week to begin planning for the Christmas Fayre. This will come round very quickly after the half term break so please do make a note of the date. We'd love to welcome you all and your families along. There will also be a dress down day for the children where we ask for your help in providing some donations- more information will follow but there is a poster below to get you ready....

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!



Collective Worship

As well as our Harvest Festival this week, we have been thinking about the value of Trust. We understand that Jesus loves us and knows our need and if we trust in him and pray to him to ask for help, he hears our prayers.


merry
CHRISTMAS

SSJ SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

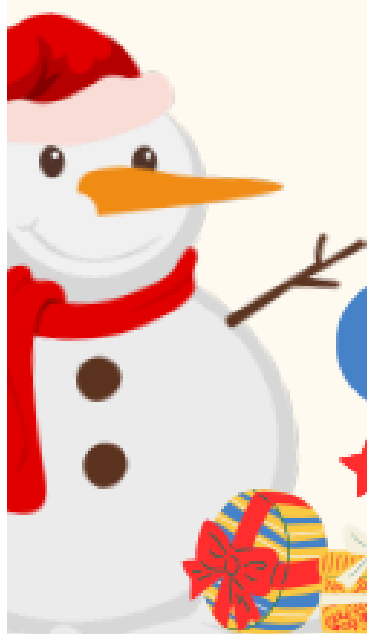
SANTAS GROTTTO, WINTER BBQ, ADULTS BAR,
XMAS CAFE, RAFFLE, CAROL SINGING & STALLS

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING FULL OF
GAMES, TREATS AND LOTS OF FAMILY FUN!

FRIDAY 29TH
NOVEMBER

5PM TO 7PM

SSJ SCHOOL



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

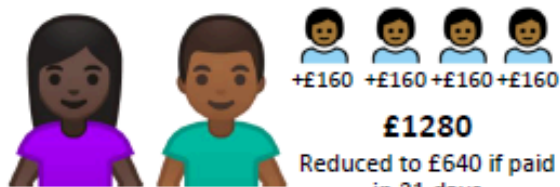


For each child a penalty is given...



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

For a family of 2 parents & 4 children



+£160 +£160 +£160 +£160

£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? **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	Sickness of parent or sibling
Shopping for uniforms	Sibling's school closed
Inadequate clothing for school	Refusing to attend, but able to
Child being used as a carer	Poor family organisation
Problems with transport	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

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

