

# Sherborne St John C of E Primary School

# Newsletter

Thursday 24th October 2024



## Message from Miss Jolliffe

Well, we find ourselves at the end of our first half term of the year (tomorrow is an INSET day).

It has been a full on 8 weeks and so much has been achieved in this time. The new Reception children have settled brilliantly and have now got used to the routines and expectations of school life. The Juniors have all been out on school trips and all children are enjoying their learning, particularly their projects. They very much deserve a good rest over the half term break.

For me, today, is full of mixed emotions. I love teaching and I am so proud to be the Headteacher in a school with so many wonderful children and families. I am going to miss you all enormously over the next year; you'll never be far from my thoughts. I am, of course, also very excited to meet my little girl and learn a whole new set of skills. Thank you to you all for the care and warmth shown over these past few months. To anyone who has offered advice or given gifts, I am so grateful. I will be sure to share news with you when the time comes and I will be back for visits later in the year.

Enjoy a lovely half term. The staff are looking forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4th November.

Miss Sarah Jolliffe

## Shoebboxes

Thank you so much for all your kind donations to the Rotary Shoebox appeal this year.

Every child in the school formed a line around school and passed the gifts along to be loaded and taken away.

These gifts will help make Christmas special for children who are in need, so thank you!



## Key Dates:

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



**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**

The poster features a festive design with a snowman on the left, a decorated Christmas tree on the right, and several wrapped gifts at the bottom. The text is arranged in a clear, celebratory layout with various colors and fonts.

# 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

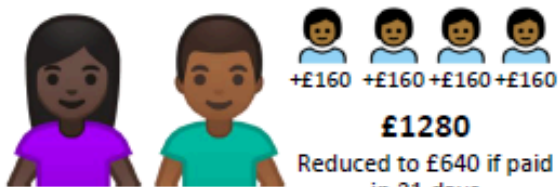


For each child a penalty is given...



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

