

# Sherborne St John C of E Primary School

# Newsletter

Friday 15th November 2024



Your paragraph text

## Dress Down Day 22.11.24 for Xmas Fayre donations!

We will be holding a dress down day (no uniform) on Friday 22nd November to help raise donations, so please could you send in one or more of the following items on the day:

- Stocking filler-type toys and games (new please, suitable for stall prizes)
- Chocolate or sweets for the children's tombola
- Bottles for the adult tombola
- Gift items for the "Secret Room" (such as toiletries or novelty items suitable for the children to buy as gifts for parents/carers)
- Jam jars filled with sweets or small toys (covered with Christmas wrap/ribbon if you wish)

Thank you in advance for supporting our Christmas Fayre.



## Message from Mrs Rennison

Can you believe we've got to the end of week 2 already? In just 5 weeks' time, we'll be breaking up for Christmas! For me, it already feels like I've been here much longer, as I am settling in quickly. I am doing my best to learn everyone's names - but as I only see a flash of a child on the way in, or in the corridor, or in class, they don't stay in my brain very well! But I'll keep persevering, as knowing every child individually is such a big part of this wonderful school.

We have had a great week in school this week. Our professional School Ambassadors brilliantly represented the school at the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Monday, which was very poignant. It was lovely to see so many children in their cub, scout etc uniforms during the school day, as our own act of remembrance. I understand our Tag Rugby team did us proud yesterday at the competition at Burnham Copse Primary School, representing our school with great teamwork and enthusiasm. Finally, we have ended the week with our usual Children in Need celebrations, in that brilliant Sherborne community spirit.

The next few weeks will be very busy, with preparations for the infant nativity (letters coming out soon), and all things Christmassy that are on the horizon, so there is much to look forward to!

I am on the gate most days, so if you've not yet introduced yourself, or you like to talk to me about something, please do so when you can. I will look forward to meeting more of you over the coming weeks.

Mrs Mel Rennison

## Key Dates:

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

## Tag Rugby Update!

The Year 5/6 tag rugby team played in their first league matches yesterday at Burnham Copse. It was a great afternoon and we managed to conclude the matches before it got too dark! All the children played really well and the team won 3 matches and lost one. They currently stand at the top of the league with more matches to follow! Elliot and Megan did a great job of organising the team and working out the substitutes. Well done everyone!



**merry CHRISTMAS**

**SSJ SCHOOL**

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

SANTAS GROTTO, 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

## Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'Children of the bible'. This week we learnt that God has a special plan for each of our lives, just like He did for Samuel. We talked about how God wants us to listen and obey Him today just like Samuel did. We talked about how to really listen to God, and the ways in which He may talk to us, including how we can learn from God through the bible.

## Messages from the School Sports Organising Crew!

This is made up of 4 Year 4 children. They will help share to the school what everyone is doing in sport and PE. They might help organise competitions within school and come up with new suggestions on how we can all be more active.

Hello! My name is Feyi and I am 8 years old. I do swimming, dance, gymnastics, judo and girls football. My favourite is swimming and dance. Once I went to a judo competition on my birthday. Sometimes, in dance, we go to dance shows but we don't compete.

My name is Iona. I am 8 years old. My favourite sport is dancing; I do it 7 times a week. I also enjoy athletics although I do not have a club for it. I am proud to have been invited to the school sports organising crew also known as SSOC. We meet every Friday. In PE, Class 3 are doing football and a dragon dance. I like being active and getting involved. Not a lot of sports disappoint me!

My name is Leo and I am 8 years old. My favourite sport is rugby and I do it every Sunday. I also do contact rugby. My favourite subjects are Art, PE and swimming.

Hello! My name is Izzy and I am nearly 9 years old. My most favourite sport of all is swimming and dancing. Also I go swimming at QMC and me and some other people went to the dance world cup. Did you know SSOC stands for School Sports Organising Crew. On Tuesdays, Class 3 have been learning a dragon dance based on the movie 'How to train your dragon.' The song is called Forbidden Friendship. Also on Thursdays we do football with a sports coach called Mr Moria.

# Keeping it local fundraising challenge



Can you help by fundraising for Spotlight UK throughout November and December to help us provide Christmas presents, and to help us to create new positive memories and friendships through free and low cost fun activities.

Visit [www.spotlightuk.org](http://www.spotlightuk.org) or email [admin@spotlightuk.org](mailto:admin@spotlightuk.org) for our fundraising pack

# 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)

