

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 22nd November 2024



Message from Mrs Rennison

It's been a lovely week of learning this week, interspersed with Christmas songs and lots of other things too. The weather seems to have taken a definitely turn to the cold, but this doesn't tend to put a dampener on things! Please do ensure your child has a warm coat and, if they prefer to wear them, gloves, scarf, etc. I would also ask that you are careful about naming everything; it just makes returning things to the right person so much easier!

With this weather, brings the return of all the sniffs and sniffles. Your child's attendance at school is really important so please ensure that they are in school where possible. We are happy to administer prescribed medicine and calpol where permission is granted, so that your child can be in school with mild coughs and colds. Thank you for your support with this.

The school council and I met with Mr Rowley this week, a local Parish Council member. He asked for ideas for their planned reimagining of the 4-7 playground in The Chute. The School Council had lots of wonderful ideas, not just for what they do and don't like currently, but also ideas for new things, and even possible themes. They were so brilliant that Mr Rowley asked if he could come back in the Spring term and show them the possible plans, to get further feedback.

The photos on this page are of Class 3 reading their stories - The secret of Black Rock - to Years 1 and 2 this afternoon. Year 1 and 2 made a very willing audience and it was wonderful to see how proud Class 3 were to share their amazing stories!

Xmas Fayre - next Friday! 29th November 2024

Thank you for your donations towards the Fayre today, we are very grateful!

Raffle tickets need to be returned to school on Wednesday 27th November so that they can be prepared for the Christmas Fayre.

The Christmas Fayre takes place on Friday 1st December from 5pm- 7pm. This is always a popular event and we are looking forward to seeing you.

Thank you to those families who have offered to help run stalls or signed a Class 4 child up to support us. It is really appreciated.

Finally, a huge thank you to the members of the School Association who are working so hard to make this another successful event!



Key Dates:

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 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

Christmas Decorations

Please don't forget to make your child's decoration for our Christmas tree this year. It is a lovely school tradition that our tree is decorated each year with a home made decoration from each child in the school.

We can't wait to see them up!



Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'Children of the bible'. This week we have been talking about what it means to be courageous and brave, and learning about important people who have been brave, and about standing up for what you know is right. The bible focus was the story 'A Shepherd Boy Who Was Brave: David(1 Samuel 17 v 32-51).

★ Do you want to work in a school, that fits in with your family? Fully Funded (FREE) NCFE | CACHE School Support courses available in levels 1, 2 & 3, starting on 2nd December!



Fully Funded School Support Course

www.studysmartuk.online



Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

CACHE Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
CACHE Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
CACHE Certificate in the Principles of SEN

Six Week Course Mon - Fri

1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2:30pm
3rd session 4 - 4:30pm
(optional session for reflection and support if needed)

Sessions will be available with Aspire Education's employment engagement officers after course completion! We run ONLY in term time and not during half term/ end of term periods. This is a six-week intensive course, with online live webinars with Aspire Education's friendly tutors, starting at 9:30am and finishing at 2pm (with lunch break period) from Monday to Friday. All you need is access to the internet and a laptop or tablet. These courses are fully funded by the ESFA (Education Skills Funding Agency). If you are earning less than £23,500 per year OR claiming benefits (including Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits, carers allowance or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit) you are eligible for a fully funded place on our courses. *Please see more details about our eligibility on our website. Take advantage of this opportunity while it's still available. Please go to: www.studysmartuk.online for more information.



The Christmas House is back!

Stop by from 2nd December 2024 until 1st January 2025 to enjoy the show!

Location:
55 Brackley Way,
Basingstoke, RG22 6LL

Showtimes:
4.30pm, 6.00pm & 7.30pm

Donate to St. Michael's Hospice here



Dads and Kids

Saturday 30th November
SSJ Village Hall
10-11.30am

Suitable for under 7s
Toys, bacon sandwiches,
games and craft

£3 per family
(cash or card)



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 or email admin@spotlightuk.org for our fundraising pack



Christmas Holiday Club!

Monday 23rd December 2024
 10am to 3pm with stay and play options available

Beech Village Hall

To Book -
<https://tingurl.com/sciencechristmas24>



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!

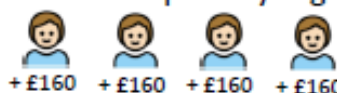
1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

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

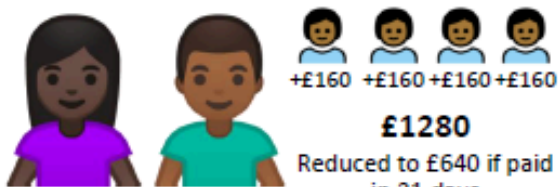


For each child a penalty is given...



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 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

