

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 29th November 2024



Message from Mrs Rennison

This week, I've been lucky enough to spend a bit more time out and about, seeing children and their learning. It's been lovely putting a few more names to faces and seeing what amazing things are happening in each classroom. I spent some time with Class 4, talking about what they think makes this school special. The things they told me matter to them, are all part of why Sherborne St John School is so special. I thought you might all like to hear what they said!

- we are a small school - so you get to know everyone really well
- the teachers and adults really care about us, and help us when we need it - for learning or when things go wrong
- there are 2 year groups in each class - so you get to know more people and have more friends
- the children are keen and determined to do well, and always do their best - even if something is tricky, or we feel we can't do it - we never give up!
- we are lucky for all the things we get to do - trips, clubs before school, fun learning like DT

And my favourite two of the ideas shared with me:

- we're all different and unique here, with different personalities; no-one's perfect, and that's ok - and being different is good!
- everyone is included, everyone makes sure you feel like you fit in, everyone is a part of our school!

I couldn't agree more.

Mrs Mel Rennison

Xmas Fayre... TODAY!

We hope to see you all at the Christmas Fayre... today!
It will be busy, and exciting and fun, and hopefully also raise lots of funds to be spend on your wonderful children.

Do drop in if you can - for a drink at the bar, or something to eat from the BBQ, or a chance to play lots of games and activities.

The Class 3 choir will sing at 5.30pm and 6.30pm, and the raffle will be drawn straight after the second performance, at approximately 6.45pm.
This Friday night, Sherborne St John is the place to be!
See you all there.



Key Dates:

29.11.24: Christmas Fayre - TODAY!
 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

Thank you for making and sending in your child's Christmas decoration. Hopefully you will see them on our wonderful Christmas Tree, donated by Elm Park Garden Centre, in Pamber End. A big thank you to Elm Park, for a truly wonderful tree that JUST fits in the hall. DO go and look for your child's decoration when you come to the fayre!

Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'Children of the bible'. This week we have been talking about **A Girl Happy To Help: Naaman's Maid** (2 Kings 5 v1-14), and the **Good Samaritan**, and other people who have shown that you can be small or young and still make a difference; like **Greta Thunberg**, for example. We've also talked about the importance of helping other people, and the feeling that brings to the person who has helped, even if they receive nothing in return.

★ 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

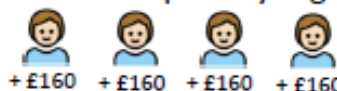
I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

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



£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?

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).

YES

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

