

# Sherborne St John C of E Primary School

# Newsletter

Friday 6th December 2024



## Message from Mrs Rennison

what a busy, Christmassy week it's been for us in school! Last minute nativity practices, the Christmas Post-box was opened and is being well used, and the school remains looking very Christmassy after the wonderful Christmas Fayre! Class 3 also walked to The Grange Nursing Home and sang their Christmas repertoire for all who live and work there. What a wonderful link to the local community, and I understand that children represented our school professionally and respectfully - although I'd expect nothing more from our kind, caring children.

I also enjoyed a visit this week from Sue Bowen, who works for the diocese education team, who support all church schools in all things ethos-wise. She met with myself and two of our governors and was just thrilled to hear about all the wonderful things we do in school, like worship, church events, pupil voice e.g. the school council, and all the ways in which we embrace our church school identity. We identified lots of ways in which we can continue to build and enhance this, so as the months roll forward next year, I'll keep you all updated with our plans, some of which I might need your help with.

One of the things I love about Sherborne St John school, and there are many, is having time to greet everyone in the mornings on the gate. I really enjoy meeting children and parents and am slowly getting to know more of you. I am blessed on some mornings to see the sun shining beautifully on the church, from where I stand on the gate. Each time I see it, it makes me smile, so I thought I'd share the image with you above, as I know many of you are busy getting to work in the mornings and may not notice. What a lovely view!

Mrs Mel Rennison

## Xmas Fayre... what a success!

I hope that you all enjoyed the wonderful Christmas Fayre last week. What a huge success it was! So many parents/carers and staff worked tirelessly, both on the run up, before, during and after, to put on such a wonderful community event for our school. And wasn't the singing from Class 3 amazing!

I am thrilled to announce that the total raised was **£1,975!**

What a fantastic result, alongside of course all the joy that the Fayre itself brought to us all. A huge thank you to all the PTA team who gave up so much time, and to all the staff that also gave up their Friday night. I'm now looking forward to the Summer Fayre too!



## Key Dates:

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

## Parking

I am more than aware that parking is tricky for our little village school that is nestled right in the middle of the village. I am sure that all of you park as carefully as you can. However I've been made aware that at times, people are parking in the disabled bay just along from the school path. Please can I ask you to keep this bay free, unless you have a blue disabled badge. We do have some parents with accessibility or mobility challenges, so keeping this space free would benefit them. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this.

## Requesting Absence

We have recently been receiving a lot of requests for absence, coming through to the office as an email request. We understand this is the quickest way to let us know. However, I wanted to just make sure everyone is aware that any absence, no matter how short, must be requested on an absence form. You can get a copy from Mrs Hale or Mrs Lok at the school office, or you can request that we put a copy in your child's bookbag, or it is now on the school website for you to download and fill in. Please give as much information as you can, as that will allow me to make an informed decision as to whether I am able to authorise the absence or not. There are quite strict guidelines as to what I can and can't authorise. The more information you give me, the easier it is. If you are unsure whether the absence can be authorised or not, please either chat to me on the gate, or put the form in anyway with as much information as possible, and we will let you know. Thank you.

## Collective Worship



**In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'Children of the bible'. This week we have been talking about A Boy King Ready to Serve: Josiah (2 Kings 22 v 3-13 & 23 v 1-3) and discussing that although Josiah was only young, he was ready to work hard with God's help and bring the whole nation back to God and true happiness. We talked about always trying our hardest, and never giving up - such an important life skill!**

# Adventure, fun and skills for life...

You're invited to join us at Sherborne St John Cubs



**Cubs are young people age 8 to 10.5 who:**

Master new skills and try new things

Have fun and go on adventures

Are curious about the world around them

Help others and make a difference, on their own doorsteps  
and beyond

**Our Cub Pack meets on Thursdays, 18:30 - 20:00**

**If you're interested in your young person joining, email-  
[ellie.selwood@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:ellie.selwood@hampshirescouts.org.uk)**

# 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



*Christmas Holiday Club!*

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 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)

