

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 13th December 2024



Asda Cashpot for schools - thank you

The Asda Cashpot for Schools initiative has now closed as of 30th November, but the PTA have asked me to say a big thank you to those of you who got involved with this, It raised a brilliant £95.27 which the PTA are thrilled with. So if you were part of this - thank you! I know the PTA will continue to look for ways like this to raise additional funds for our school, so thank you to them for all that they continue to do.

Message from Mrs Rennison

It has been a fantastic week in school this week. I was privileged to be able to watch the infant nativity four times - how lucky am I? Each time was wonderful and special in its own way; differences in the singing, or acting, or a particular child achieving a particular thing. I love how inclusive the nativity was, in terms of every child in the infants being able to be included in a way that was right for them. Thank you so much to all who came to watch, and of course a huge thank you to the infant staff team, who worked so hard to produce an amazing performance. And of course, a huge well done to the stars of the show - the children!

Year 3 also performed their brilliant Vikings play. Again lots of great singing, acting and performing. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I know many of you who came did too. Thank you for supporting it, and well done to Class 3 staff for putting it on during this busy time of year.

We also went on our annual trip to the Panto - oh yes we did! As usual, it was filled with fun, laughs out loud, and jokes galore, as well as some amazing singing and performing. It was lovely to be able to sit back and watch the pure enjoyment on the children's faces. I think my favourite thing was watching the Y6 children looking after their buddies; helping them on and off the bus, reassuring them when it was loud, and generally being their friend. What a special system, and one I intend to take back to St Martin's, my other school, for the future.

Next week is the last week of term - just one more week to go! We have lots going on - Christmas parties, Christmas lunch, Church service and, just as a reminder, we finish at 2pm on Friday 20th December. What a great week it will be!

Mrs Mel Rennison



Key Dates:

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.

Uniform

I'd like to please remind everyone of the expectations of school uniform and, in particular, shoes/boots. We've had a few children coming to school in chunky boots, and wearing these all day isn't ideal as they can trip up in them etc. Our uniform policy for this time of year is:

Grey/black trousers, skirts or pinafores

White shirts or polo shirts

Red sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo

Plain grey, black or white socks

Plain grey, black, or red tights

Black shoes (low heels, no trainers or ballet pumps)

Note: During the winter, sensible boots or wellingtons may be worn to school but must be changed into shoes on arrival.

Thank you in advance for your help and support with this.

Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'Children of the bible'.

This week we have been talking about A Child Willing To Give: The Boy who gave his lunch away (John 6:1-14) and discussing that giving what we have to God and others can have a wonderful positive impact! The idea that we can help others, or give to others, even if it's our time, or ideas, or support, can make us feel good too. Thoughtfulness and kindness can make such a difference, and we talked about ways we can use these important skills to help others.




Christingle Service

This Sunday
4PM

St Andrew's Church
Sherborne St John



 Sherborne St John

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**

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

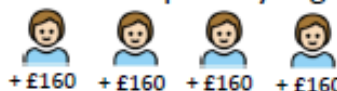
I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

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