

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024



School Quiz coming soon - save the date!

The School Association are delighted to announce that after the continued success of the community Quiz Nights, hosted in partnership with the SSJ Social Club, and support by the absolutely brilliant Steve Howe as Quiz Master, the next Quiz Night will be held on Friday 7th February at 7pm. More details to follow in the new year but for now please Save the Date!



Message from Mrs Rennison

In the words of our wonderful nativity - a baby has been born! What lovely news to have at the end of the term, and so close to Christmas, that Miss Joliffe's baby has finally arrived. Welcome to the world, Isla Mae Lackey! It is difficult not to make a connection to this wonderful time of year, when we are thinking about another very special baby being born. I am absolutely certain that Isla will be just as loved as that other special Christmas baby! I thought I'd share the photos again as they are just so lovely.

It has been a great final week before Christmas. Whilst nativity is over, we have still had lots of Christmassy activities going on, and the school has seemed very festive and full of promise. In particular I'd like to thank those of you who came to join us at our Christmas Church Service on Wednesday. What a lovely time to share readings and prayers, and to sing God's praise at this special time of year. Stewart spoke about the real reasons for Christmas and it was a wonderful reminder of the importance of this time of year.

I'd like to take this chance to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's been a long and busy term, and I think that all children (and all staff!) are more than ready for a proper break. I hope that whatever your holidays look like, you get a chance to sit back, relax and enjoy spending time with your loved ones, family and friends. We look forward to welcoming all children back into school on Monday 6th January.

Merry Christmas!
Mrs Mel Rennison



Key Dates:

06.01.25: Children back to school AND teaparty for Stars of the Term Aut 24 with Mrs Rennison!
Further dates to follow soon.

A couple of reminders please

Firstly please can I ask everyone to try to remain in credit when it comes to lunch money - this really helps us in terms of managing finances. Mrs Hale will remind you by email if you drop into debit, but it's easier when that doesn't need to happen! If there is ever any funds remaining e.g. at the end of the school year, we can easily refund that back to you.

Secondly - please can I remind you all that registers are taken at 8.45am and it's important to be in school by then. I've noticed more children arriving late recently.

Thank you for your support with both of these.

Parking

I know I have mentioned this concern in a recent newsletter. I have now had a number of parents raise with me, that parents without a blue badge, are still regularly parking in the disabled bay just along from your school path. I know that it is hard in the mornings to find a space - the village was not designed for 2024! But I need to ask you to please consider the needs of our parents with restricted or challenging mobility, and remember to leave the disabled bay free.

Thank you to those of you who are raising this issue with me and keeping me aware.

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 Baby Born To Save: Christ is born (Luke 2 v 1-20) and discussing that Christ Jesus came into the world to save us! We've been talking about the amazing wonderful truth of the most precious baby ever born under the starry skies, and that his very hands had made so that we can know true life today. What a lovely focus for us to learn about in worship together this week.

Family Carols



This Sunday

10.30am | St Andrew's Church, SSJ

Come dressed as a Nativity character if you'd like to or borrow one of our costumes!

"DANCE PHAZE HAS MASSIVELY BOOSTED MY CONFIDENCE.
IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN AN ACTIVITY CLUB"

DANCE PHAZE

SSJ PRIMARY



EXCITING NEWS! Dance Phaze will be returning to Sherborne St John Primary for the **spring term!** Children are invited to take part in the Before School Dance Club from 7.50am - 8.35am in the school hall with Coach Faye! Year R to Year 6 are welcome to attend, with all children working towards a showcase performance on 28th March. .

12 week term starting Wednesday 8th January 2025

To book your space, please visit...

WWW.BOOKWHEN.COM/DANCEPHAZE

Club places available on a first come, first served basis.
The club is often very popular so please book now to avoid any disappointment.

NEON JUDOKWAI

Fun Judo lessons taking place at your school.

Gain Confidence from learning new skills and grade to the coveted Black belt by following the B.J.A syllabus with Neon Judokwai.

Students can train and compete at BJA Events*, some players have also gained places in the Hampshire, Southern Area and GB Squads.

WHO IT FOR?

Boys and Girls of all abilities

Children aged from 5yrs+

WHEN & WHERE?

Monday—Tadley Primary School

Tuesday—Sherborne St John C Of E School
& Compton C of E School

Wednesday—Whitewater CofE School

Thursday—Burnham Copse Primary School
& Ditcham Park School

Friday—Four Lanes Junior School

ONLY £70 PER TERM (10 LESSONS P.T.)

PAYMENTS SPREAD OVER 4 MONTHS @£17.50P.M.

Payments taken via the club management system Coacha.

Suits are available to hire or buy direct. (Speak to the Sensei)



COACH

Paul Hamilton 2nd Dan

- Basingstoke Pro-Coach of the Year 2015
- BJA Level 2 Coach
- DBS Checked
- First Aid Trained
- Child Protection Qualified

BENEFITS?

Fitness

Balance

Co-Ordination

Confidence

Flexibility

Self Defense

Discipline



Approved Provider

MORE INFO & SIGN UP CAN BE FOUND AT
WWW.NEONJUDO.CO.UK

*Players must be a member of BJA to grade and compete.

BJA membership available at:
www.britishjudo.org.uk



Sherborne St John Primary School Gymnastic Club!

Thursday Mornings - 07:50 - 08:35

Please come in comfortable clothes and bring a water bottle.

First Half Term

Thursday 9th January

Thursday 16th January

Thursday 23rd January

Thursday 30th January

Thursday 6th February

Thursday 13th February

Second Half Term

Thursday 27th February

Thursday 6th March

Thursday 13th March

Thursday 20th March

Thursday 27th March

Thursday 3rd April

£5 per session.

This club is open to all years!

Book via our website, on the 'Join Us' Page or email us at info@edcdance.co.uk

Payment and booking is required at the beginning of each half term!



edcdance.co.uk



info@edcdance.co.uk



Everyone Deserves The Chance To Dance



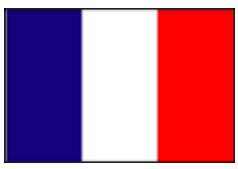
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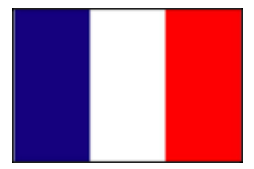
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edcdance1



French Club



at Sherborne St John CE Primary School
with



Tuesday Lunchtimes

Languages...

Encourage
empathy

Increase
self-confidence

Promote
other academic
skills

Boost
brain function

Broaden
horizons

We teach through...

Art & Craft

Fun

Drama

Books

Games

Sport

Group and individual lessons also available outside of school in:

French, German, Spanish and Italian

Private tuition available in additional languages.

Sign up
now!

e-mail: info@linguatastic.com

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!

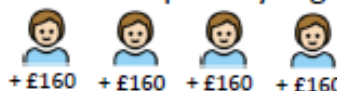
1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

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

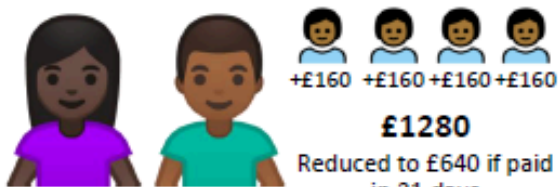


For each child a penalty is given...



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