

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 17th January 2025



**School Quiz Night
Friday 7th February**

Please remember to hold the date for the School Association Quiz Night 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.

A belated Happy New Year!

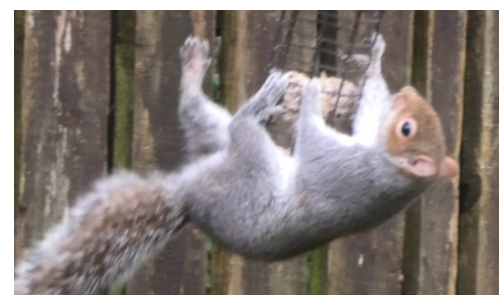
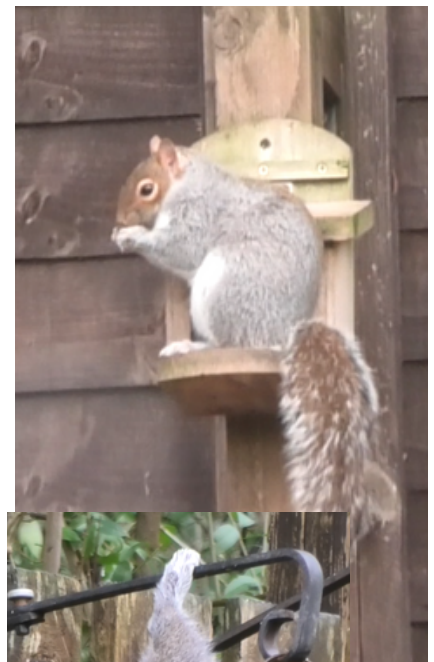
I didn't manage a newsletter at the end of our first week back, as we had such a busy week welcoming children back to school. So, this is my first newsletter of the year! I hope you all had lovely Christmases and celebrated the start of the new year in style.

The start of a new term is always busy - new topics, new learning, and always with a thought to the future. We were lucky enough to have a visit from Sue Bowen, who is part of the Winchester Diocese Education Team. Sue came to help me with our school preparations for SIAMs - the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, which could be as soon as September so we are working to record all the wonderful things we do as a result of being a Church of England school, of which as you can imagine there is a lot. As part of this visit, some children met with Sue and said some wonderful things related to our church school ethos, such as 'I find worship comforting as it's time to spend with God and share your thoughts with him', or 'we learn about other faiths, because it shows respect; other people's faith is important to them, the same way our faith is important to us.' What insightful views.

I also mentioned in worship this week, a new friend from my garden; a disabled squirrel with a back leg and tail that doesn't work, whom my husband and I have named Wiley because of his wily ways. I showed the children videos of how he has learnt to feed, not only on my squirrel feeder but also by hanging off my bird feeder - by one leg! The children were so proud of him and I had many follow up questions about him. Their acceptance of his right to the same as all the other squirrels was admirable - we can learn so much from how our children accept everyone the same no matter their differences - even squirrels!

I've added some photos just in case your children have mentioned him. And I've promised to update the children on his progress soon!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Mel Rennison



Key Dates:

27.1.25 Year 5/6 to QMC
30.1.25 Sports Hall Athletics – Year 5/6 Costello
3.2.25 KS1 to Windsor Castle
4.2.25 Class 4 Newbury Rainforest trip
5.2.25 KS1 gymnastics Active Life
7.2.25 Quiz night – School Association
wb 5th and 10th Feb Parent consultation weeks
11.2.25 Cross Country competition – all Juniors
13.2.25 Last day of term (erm)
wb 17.2.25 - HALF TERM
24.2.25 all back to school
3.3.25 Year 2 to QMC
6.3.25 Class 3 trip to Tower of London
7.3.25 School disco – School Association
14.3.25 The Vyne Football festival
26.3.25 Class 3 trip to The Vyne
2.4.25 Year 3/4 gymnastics
2.4.25 2.15 pm church service
4.4.25 Last day of term – finish at 2pm

Message from Mrs Clarke

Please be aware that my next SENDCo surgery will be taking place on Wednesday 5th March. These days provide an opportunity for you to book an appointment with me to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's progress. This includes concerns about their mental health and wellbeing as well as worries about their learning. Whilst we always encourage you to approach your child's teacher as the first port of call should you have any concerns, these sessions will provide a further option for you to talk things through should your concerns continue.

SENDCo surgery appointments are open to all parents, not just those with recognised SEND and can be booked by emailing me directly at s.clarke@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk.

Thank you.

Mrs Clarke

School site clear up

I am very lucky that over the last couple of weeks, Mr Price has been kind enough to come and help us clear up the school site. We have been sadly very let down by the company that we were contracted to, who have not been fulfilling their contract, hence we still have leaves everywhere! Thank you to Mr Price for his time, and also to Mr Fenton who as one of our governors, is investigating options for a new gardening contract. Hopefully our school will be looking in top top shape again soon!

Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'Beginnings'.

This week we have been talking about the story of how God Made Man and Woman (Genesis 2 v4-7 and 18) and discussing how God created mankind because God is love and he wanted to share this love with us all. We've talked about how God saw that everything was good, and we should aim to be like God in all that we do - to try to be the best we can be.



<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ssjsa-events/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=92226>



Quiz Night

When: Friday 7th February 2025

Time: 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Where: SSJ Social Club, Elm Road

SSJ School Association are delighted to host our popular quiz night in partnership with SSJ Social Club.

Join us for a great evening at our adults only quiz night whilst helping raise vital funds for our school.

Raffle on the night £1 per ticket

Tickets are £4 per person

Teams of 6 maximum

Scan the QR code or book via the link above

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**

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

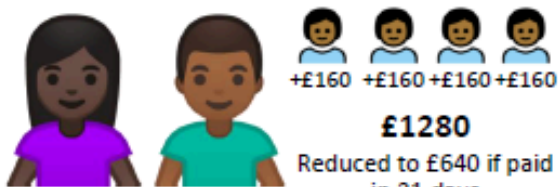


For each child a penalty is given...



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
Shopping for uniforms
Inadequate clothing for school
Child being used as a carer
Problems with transport

Sickness of parent or sibling
Sibling's school closed
Refusing to attend, but able to
Poor family organisation
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