

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 31st January 2025



School Quiz Night Friday 7th February - A week today!

How exciting - a week today is the Quiz Night at the SSJ Social Club! I hope you are all busy preparing your teams and watching lots of QI or The Weakest Link to pick up random facts in order to try to win!

The PTA need YOU!

As you know, our amazing PTA work so incredibly hard for the benefit of the whole school community. Not only do they put on amazing events that bring our whole school community together, they provide fun activities for children, and also raise lots of money for us as well. We cannot afford to be without the PTA.

However, I know that it is made up of a few core members who take responsibility for the big events. Some of these brilliant people will not be with us much longer as their children move on and there are real concerns around needing new members to support keeping the PTA going, so that we don't lose it.

If you are someone who thinks they could help, it doesn't have to be a huge commitment! Although they really need a few people to join as part of the core team, they also need people to commit to running just one event, or to helping out in some way. If you think that's you, please do get in touch - you could contact us through the PTA email address which is School.Association@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk. If you feel you can help even just a little bit - please get in touch. We need you!

A message from Mrs Rennison

What a busy week we have had! We were lucky to have a visit from Miss Jolliffe and of course baby Isla. The children were so pleased to see her, as of course were all the adults! Miss Jolliffe asked me to share a message:

Dear Parents,

I had a lovely afternoon visiting the school with Isla on Thursday. I have missed the children enormously, so it was great to introduce them to Isla. They were all very gentle with her and had lots of questions too. I have promised another visit with her soon.

Dan and I would also like to say a huge thank you for the generous gift from SSJ parents. We will find something special for Isla to use the voucher on. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Best wishes,

Miss Jolliffe

I know Miss Jolliffe can't wait to come back and visit again soon.

We have also had a team of children go to the Sports Hall Athletics Competition - and come joint first! Wow. Joint with St Mary's, which is a 3-form entry junior school, so with a much bigger field of children to choose from. However, far more important to me is to hear how our children behaved whilst at the comp: I am told by Mrs Kimber that they represented us so well, they showed great sportsmanship, they didn't show off when they won a race, and they really looked after each other, watching each other's races and supporting one another. That's the SSJ spirit that I love. Go Team!

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Mel Rennison

Key Dates:

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 (m)
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

Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'Beginnings'. This week we have been talking about the story of the Great Flood (Genesis 6 v 13 – 22; 8 v 6 – 12; 9 v 8-13) and discussing how the perfect world had become very bad, and it was time for a fresh start, so one man, Noah, listened to God and after water had covered the earth, a new world began. We've talked about new beginnings and how to challenge yourself to keep working at new plans and ideas.



<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**

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MORE

Life
is an
ADVENTURE



Standard Day 08:45 - 16:30 Extended Day 08:45 - 18:00*

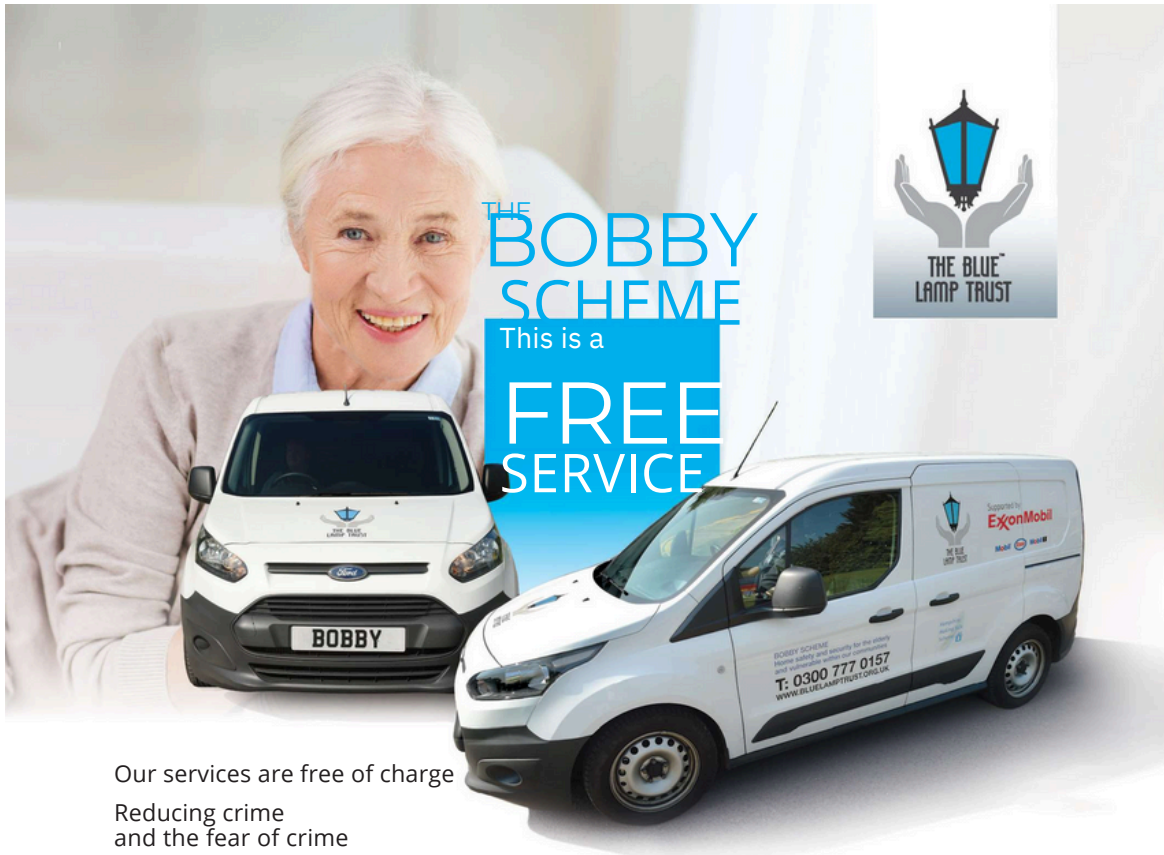
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SEWING CLASSES

7-11YRS

Osborne
Room- Viables
Community
Centre, The
Harrow Way,
Basingstoke
RG22 4BJ

February
18th & 20th
2hrs session

£25
only 8 slots

SOCIAL MEDIA:



Book now www.2bobbins.com

Register

07584 220966

KIDS CLUB

LIMITED
AVAILABILITY

NEW IN BASINGSTOKE, Mar. 2025



Viables Community Centre, Viables Craft Centre
The Harrow Way, Basingstoke. RG22 4BJ

SATURDAYS

Time 1.15pm - 2.15pm

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROL YOUR 7-11yrs kids
TO LEARN THIS LIFETIME SKILL

REGISTER TODAY

sew learn shine

2 Bobbins Sewing Club

Creativity Hub

2hrs workshop
February
18th & 20th
10am-12noon

Location: Osborne Room. Viables
Community Centre, The Harrow Way,
Basingstoke RG22 4BJ

Register now

07584 220966

website: www.2bobbins.com
IG & FB: 2bobbins

Spaces
8 only
7-11yrs

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!

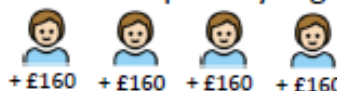
1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

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? **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