

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School

Newsletter

Thursday 13th January 2025



Woohoo - it's Halfterm!

we've made it! it's been a busy half term but we've reached that holiday time again. I hope you all manage a lovely break spending time with your friends and family. if you need something to do, please check your email or read on page 2, about the 'Get Caught Reading Challenge' in advance of World Book Day!

A plea re driving and parking

We had a second parking/driving near miss on Friday, reported by one of our local residents. Mrs Hale took a call from a concerned and shaken villager who had an almost head-on collision. This was a direct result of the parking situation outside school. My understanding is that some people are parking on the triangle bit, near the new painted lines and more and more cars are squeezing in to the road that is not safe. The villager has lived here a long time and said the situation has never been so bad.

Please can we continue to consider safety when driving and parking near school, as well as our neighbours. I know the parking is tricky, but my number one concern is keeping everyone safe. Please can we all try to go a bit slower, or check that extra time. We do not want anyone in our school or local community hurt, least of all a child, and I am worried that with two near misses in one week, it could happen.

Thank you.

A message from Mrs Rennison

What a great day! I'm so impressed at how the school community has embraced Mad Hair Day, in aid of St Michael's Hospice. Almost every child had some kind of mad hair, from subtle little bits to some serious hair styling - kudos to the parent who used a Yazoo bottle to create something that wouldn't look out of place in Hairspray the musical! A huge range of colours, plaits, backcombing and fun. The staff, as you can see from the picture above, have also embraced the day! I'm so pleased the school council wanted to go ahead. I am thrilled to share that £230 has been raised for the hospice. An excellent result for a fabulous day. Thank you for all your donations. I hope that this will become a staple of the SSJ year.

As part of the day, Mrs Sutton, one of our governors, came and talked to some children from across the age ranges, about the reason why we were having a Mad Hair Day. The children were very clear with her that it is not just about having fun - although it is fun! They explained carefully that it's about the hospice being able to look after people and make them feel at home, even when they are at the end of their life. Mrs Sutton asked them all for a word describing today, and our caring community, and their words were: empathy, kindness, helpfulness, excellent, caring and generous. I think that sums things up brilliantly.

And that brings us to the end of another half term! Please remember that tomorrow is an INSET day, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 24th February. And now I wish you all luck at washing out that hair dye... may your bathrooms remain white in the face of adversity! Have a lovely half term break, everyone.

Mrs Mel Rennison

Key Dates:

14.2.25 - INSET DAY
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 and 4 gymnastics
2.4.25 2.15 pm church service
4.4.25 Last day of term – finish at 2pm

Collective Worship



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

This week we talked about when God Fixes Things (Jacob & Esau, Genesis 27 v 1 – 26 & 33 v 1-4). we thought about how things might look like they are going wrong – Jacob seems to behave in a way that God would not like. But God sets things right – all part of God's wonderful plan. nations.

World Book day- 7th March!

As part of our world Book Day celebrations this year, we are inviting the children to dress up as a character from their favourite book. We ask that children bring their book to school with them on the day in order to promote reading for pleasure and for children to share extracts from their books with each other. We encourage parents not to spend money on costumes and to use things you already have or to make things where possible. Follow the link for some ideas!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/resource/world-book-day-2025-low-cost-dressing-up-pack/>

We would also like to launch the "Get Caught Reading Challenge!" Over half term, you are challenged to do some extreme reading: celebrating books and the pleasure of reading them. To enter you need to get a photo of you being caught reading somewhere unusual, funny or surprising! You might be posing with a book up a mountain, relaxing with book somewhere cozy or visiting somewhere amazing, or unexpected. Let your imagination fly! Just get someone to take a photo and enter the "Get Caught Reading Challenge". The idea is to celebrate books and readers. The photos will be shown in our worship on World Book Day and may be used on display at school.

Please send your photos to the admin office by Wednesday 5th March.

Have fun reading!

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**

OFSTED REGISTERED SPECIALIST MULTI-ACTIVITY HOLIDAY CLUBS FOR 5-11YRS.

MAGNA CAMPS



FEBRUARY 2025

MONDAY 17TH - FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2025



SCAN ME FOR



CAMP LOCATIONS

Be an
EXPLORER



EXPLORER'S WEEK

EXPLORE
MORE

Life
is an
ADVENTURE



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

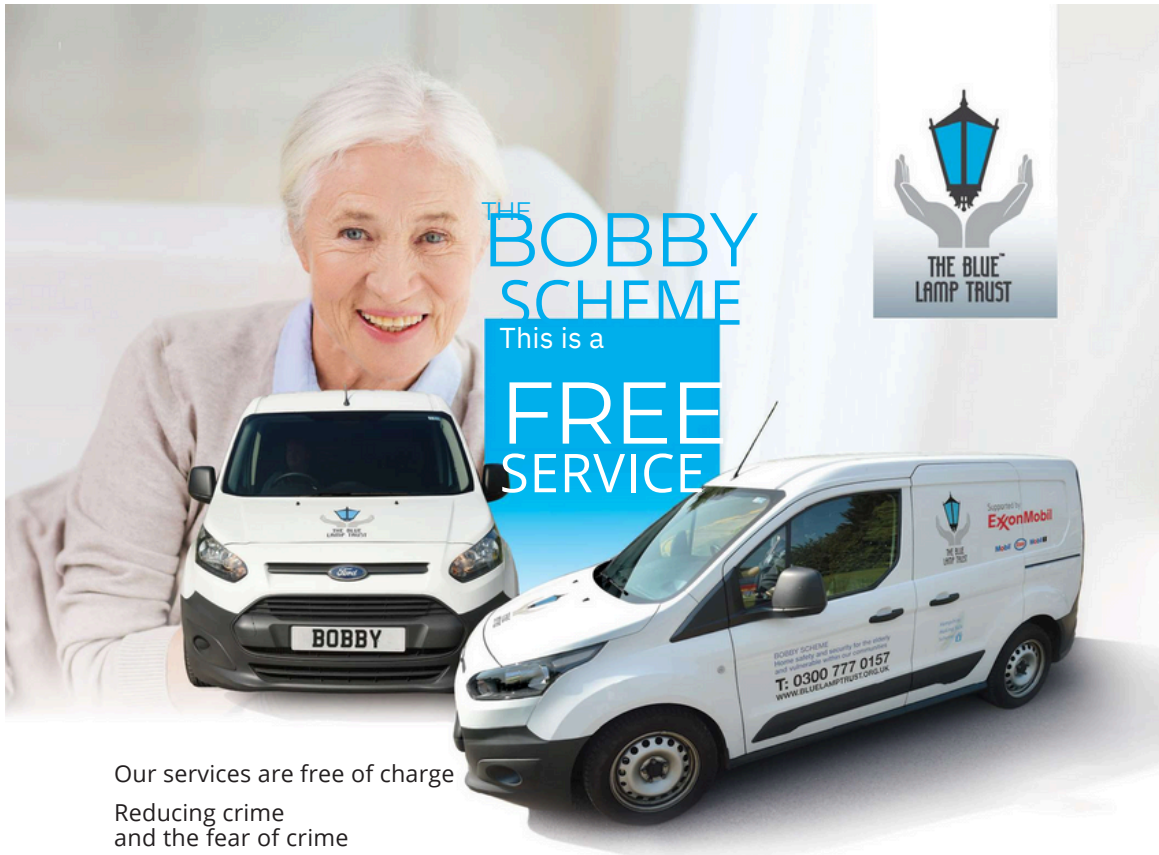
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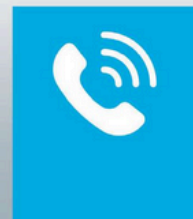
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SEWING CLASSES

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
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