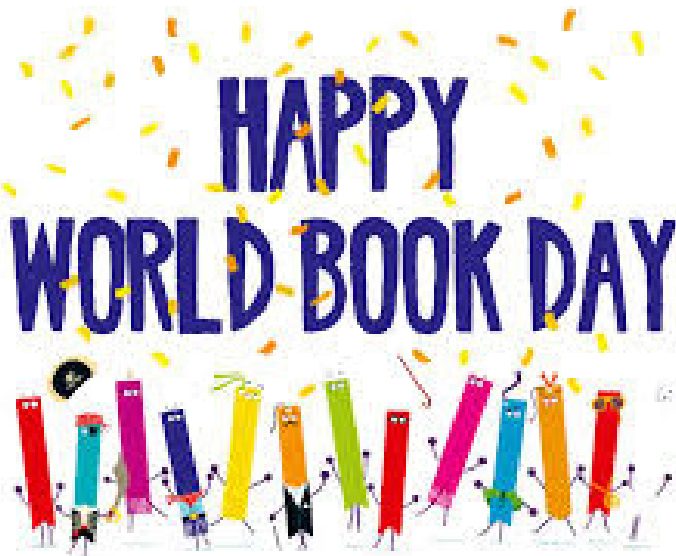


# Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 7th March 2025



**Bishop David loved his card from SSJ!**

## Our New School Prayer!

Before Christmas, Stewart worked with some children in school to help with developing a school prayer. Many schools have their own school prayers, as it helps to develop our Christian distinctiveness. Stewart then bought the prayer he had put together to our Ethos governor committee, who very slightly changed some wording to allow for an inclusion of the vocabulary from our school vision, which I will include in next weeks newsletter. So - here is our new school prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for everyone who helps make our school a safe and happy place, where we can all be inspired, enjoy our learning and achieve our full potential.

Help us to grow in trust so we can help build a strong community.

Help us to grow in truth so we can stand up for what is right.

Help us to grow in forgiveness so we can learn to move forward when things go wrong.

Show us who you are and how you want us to be.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

## A message from Mrs Rennison

What a joyous day! I love World Book Day. It's so lovely to see children and adults alike, taking the time to dress up and really get stuck into a love of books. As we all know, reading is so important; I read a quote the other day that really resonated with me, that said that reading is like breathing in, and writing is like breathing out. It's so true.

Costumes have been amazing - well done mums, dads, grandmas, grandads and everyone else involved in this! We started our day with an assembly in two parts. Part 1, our adults shared which book they were going to read aloud, and children chose which story they wanted to hear and went to different places to do so which was lovely! Then, part 2 was a chance to celebrate World Book Day and also see all the entries to our 'Get Caught Reading' challenge, of which there were many and such good ideas! Then all classes went off to embrace the rest of the day.

In light of World Book Day and a clear love of reading at SSJ, the school librarians and I have decided to put on a sponsored read in order to raise some money for our school! You will have received some information about this in a separate email and I spoke to the children about it during celebration worship this afternoon. I am hoping that it has twofold benefits - both to help raise money for our school but also to continue a focus on a love of reading and the importance reading has for all aspects of learning within the curriculum.

I think it's going to be a lovely and bright (and warm!) weekend - I hope you all have a lovely one.

Mrs Mel Rennison

## Key Dates:

14.3.25 The Vyne Football festival  
21.3.25 Red Nose Day  
26.3.25 Class 3 trip - Henry on Tour  
26.3.25 Y6 The Hurst Transition meeting  
31.3.25 Spirituality Day for the whole school  
31.3.25 Movie Mob!  
2.4.25 Year 3 and 4 gymnastics  
2.4.25 2.15 pm Easter church service  
4.4.25 Last day of term – finish at 2pm  
4.4.25 Infant Easter Bonnet Parade - details soon!

## Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'The Apostle's Creed'.

This week we talked about the idea that Jesus will return to put everything right, but his coming will be unexpected so we need to be prepared (1 Thess 4: 16-5:2). Juniors thought about how we'd feel if Jesus did come back today, or next week, or next month - how would that affect how we live our lives? Infants also talked about fairness and how God is a fair judge.

## Buy a book and help our school!

I am pleased to let you know about a new scheme all about reading, especially when we are one week away from World Book Day! **We have signed up with LoveReading4kids.co.uk, who say:** 'LoveReading4Kids exists because reading matters, and books change lives. Support local schools through the LoveReading4Kids bookshop. 10% off RRP's, and 25% of the cover price will be given to a school of your choice. Sharing book love with children's book reviews and book recommendations right across the ages, from toddlers to teens.

When you make a purchase at LoveReading.co.uk or LoveReading4Kids.co.uk, 25% of your order is donated by LoveReading4Kids to a nominated school of your choice. At the checkout stage of your purchase, you will see an option to search and choose a school you wish this allocation to be funded. The school will then be notified of a donation to their school account.

We have so far donated over £50,000 to UK schools, and with customers like yourself we will continue to help and support schools in need.' We hope that many of you might purchase a book and help raise some funds for school! Thank you.

# 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

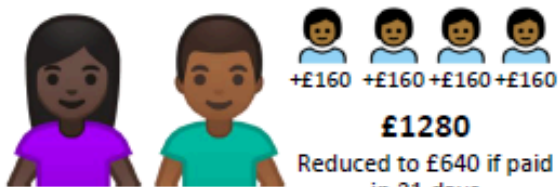


For each child a penalty is given...



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> leave of absence OR pattern of irregular attendance, which is unauthorised, then...

**2<sup>nd</sup> TIME**  
2 parents and...  
1 child = £320  
2 children = £640  
3 children = £960  
4 children = £1280  
**NO DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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**