

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 21st March 2025



**RED
NOSE
DAY**

A message from the School Association

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our school disco fundraiser event the other week! It's always such a joy to see the children showing off their dance moves with their friends. We raised a brilliant £650 to continue supporting the School with new equipment, experiences and opportunity for the children so thank you!

Up to date contact details

Mrs Hale has asked me to pop in a reminder to everyone about making sure we have up to date contact details for you. Things change over time and you might move house, change your phone number or anything else, and then forget to tell us. This then can cause a problem when we need to reach you, especially if your little one is poorly and needs an early pick up. It's also important we know who you are happy allowing to pick up your child. So, please can you make sure you keep us up to date with any changes of:

1. Contact telephone numbers
2. Their home address
3. Who is down as authorised to collect

Thank you in advance - this makes our job a little easier.

A message from Mrs Rennison

Happy Red Nose Day! It was lovely to see the children coming in, wearing lots of different red things. And as a bonus, we also raised £158 for the charity. A great result! Speaking of raising money, I am hoping that your children enjoyed taking part in our sponsored read. I know I already emailed you a reminder so this is just an extra one! Thank you in advance for supporting this initiative, both in terms of helping promote the importance of reading, as well as helping raise much-needed funds for our school, especially this close to the financial year end. You will have heard in the news periodically how schools in general are struggling with dwindling budgets year on year; this impacts more on smaller schools. As a school, we are going to be going into a deficit budget in April, like many schools already are. Please don't worry - our children come first, so rest assured that the governors and I will continue to do all that we usually do to ensure your children enjoy rich, fun learning experiences in our wonderful school. But as we reach year end, we continue to seek any funding we can into our school budget, so if you are aware of any company, or local resident, or anyone you know that might wish to make a donation to school, please do encourage them to talk to me, as we'd be very grateful. As that well known advert says, every little helps...

Have a lovely weekend - two weeks till the Easter holidays!

Mrs Mel Rennison

Key Dates:

- 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 the idea from the Creed of 'I believe in the Holy Spirit' Acts 2:1-8, 11b-12, 33-41. We learnt about how the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost and enables people to speak about what God has done so that people can turn back to God and receive that gift themselves. We also learnt about the Trinity in an age appropriate way in our Key Stage worships.

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.



SHERBORNES WITH
PAMBER CHURCHES

Dads and Kids

Saturday 29th March
St Andrew's Church, SSJ
10-11.30am

Suitable for under 6s
Toys, bacon sandwiches,
games and craft

£3 per family
(cash or card)



BREAST WALK EVER

Everyone can help find a cure for breast cancer

8 JUNE 2025

Hursley, Winchester

For more information and to
sign up scan the QR code

www.breastwalkever.org



Supporting **AGAINST**
breast cancer



Registered Charity No. 1121258

**DYNAMOS
CRICKET**



This is our
game.

<https://bit.ly/RCCD25>

Join us at:

Ramsdell Cricket Club (RG26 5SH)

Session dates:

Sundays from 1st June to 20th July (8 weeks)

Session timings:

11:30am - 12:30pm

Contact:

Becky Thomas (ramsdelccjuniors@gmail.com / 07957453233)



Scan me

It all starts with...



We all play at:

Ramsdell Cricket Club (RG26 5SH)

Session dates:

Sundays from 1st June to 20th July (8 weeks)

Session timings:

10am - 11am

Ages:

5 - 8 years old

Contact:

Becky Thomas
ramsdelccjuniors@gmail.com
07957453233

Including a FREE personalised t-shirt, bat, ball and backpack



Sign up today at
allstars/cricket/RCCLCCS016



Scan me

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