

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School Newsletter

Friday 2nd May 2025



May Festival - Friday 9th May!

There is a flyer below about our May Festival - we hope to see lots of you there. It is on Friday 9th May, 3.30-4.30pm and I am sure you don't want to miss the amazing maypole and dancing skills of class 3! I for one cannot wait.

Safety in the sun

I'm a bit late in reminding you, but please can you ensure your children have suncream on, on these hot days. A couple of you have asked me some questions about suncream, so I thought it was helpful to let you know that unfortunately we cannot apply suncream on a child. We are unable to provide this in school, and if a child brings their own in, they would need to apply it themselves (cue some very white, shiny children!). It's also not possible for a member of staff to offer their own suncream to a child; if we did this for one child, we'd have to do this for everyone, and that's simply not possible. It is much easier if you can apply suncream before school, and there are of course 8-hour ones that would last throughout, or I heard yesterday there are now sponge applicator ones that children can do themselves, which sounds great.

Please also do send your child with a sunhat if you can, but please no sunglasses - these can cause accidents and often get broken anyway, so a sunhat with a brim is a big help. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

A message from Mrs Rennison

Can you believe it - we've actually had some sun! And actually, it's really rather taken us by surprise - this week's mini-heatwave came without much warning!

I had a wonderful tea party past week with the Spring term's Stars of the Term. We had cakes, biscuits and squash and talked about the reasons why their teachers had chosen them, as well as their Easter holiday fun as well. Behaviour was impeccable, and manners evident from every child. There are times when, as a headteacher, I am bogged down with paperwork, meetings, emails etc and it can get a little disheartening - I entered the teaching profession to work with children, not to be connected to a computer all the time... Moments like the tea party serve to remind me why I do this job, and what wonderful children we have here at SSJ!

We have so much to look forward to this term. New topics are already in full flow and learning is going well. We have lots of sporting events coming up, and have done so many recently it's hard to remember them all, but the one thing I want you all to know is that I am so proud of the way our children behave at these events - they are absolute professionals, which cannot be said for the other schools attending. And of course we have lots of lovely events such as the summer fayre to look forward to. Dates for your diary, including the much-anticipated production, are on the next page. Enjoy the bank holiday weekend! Mrs Rennison

Key Dates:

- 9.5.25 May Festival 3.30 pm
- 12.5.25 SATs week – Year 6
- 12.5.25 6pm New YR 2025 parent meeting
- 22.5.25 Girl's tag rugby festival
- 23.5.25 Last day of term
- 2.6.25 INSET DAY
- 3.6.25 Children return to school
- 3.6.25 Cricket 5/6 mixed comp Mays Bounty
- 4.6.25 Class photographs – Cardwell
- 4.6.25 Jungle Rumble Drama Workshops
- 6.6.25 Dress down for fayre donations
- 12.6.25 Tag Rugby festival all day
- 14.6.25 Summer fayre!
- 18.6.25 Leavers service @ Winchester
- 20.6.25 Sports Day
- 23.6.25 Year R to QMC
- 24.6.25 The Priory Quad kids comp
- 25.6.25 Quad Kids comp Years 5/6
- 26.6.25 Class 3 to Hampton Court Palace
- 26.6.25 Hampshire School Games
- 26.6.25 B.Challoner transition day
- 27.6.25 Hurst & B.Challoner transition day
- 30.6.25 New YR Teddy Bear's picnic
- 3.7.25 Henry Beaufort transition day
- 4.7.25 INSET day
- 8.7.25 KS1 trip to Marwell Zoo
- 15/16/17.7.25 Play performances!
- 16.7.25 Leavers' Service at the church
- 22.7.25 - Last Day of Term!

Collective Worship



In Collective Worship this halfterm, our topic is 'Parables - the stories Jesus told'.

Over the last two weeks, we have learnt about some of these stories, including The Mustard Seed (Matthew 13 v1-8) and The Lost Sheep (Luke 15 v4-7). We have been talking about how Jesus used every day language and examples to help explain His important messages for us. We've also been thinking about how important Christian's believe it is to listen to God's word and follow His guidance as to how we should live our lives.

Open the Book!

We were lucky this week to have a visit from a team of wonderful people from a church in Basingstoke, who are part of the 'Open the Book' national initiative, which is designed to help children understand the meaning behind bible stories through acting them out. They did a wonderful job acting out the story of Moses and the burning bush - it had lights and sound effects and I think fascinated our children!

It did involve a murder at the start - it was done with comedy and most children took no notice but if your child came home saying they had seen a man killed and were upset, please let me know.

May Half Term Holiday Clubs – Now at 2 Venues!

Beech Village Hall

27th May:

Magnificently Microscopic

29th May:

Messy Science

<https://tinyurl.com/may25sciencebeech>



<https://tinyurl.com/may25scienceewshot>

Ewshot Village Hall

28th May:

Remarkable Rockets

Fun Science

www.fun-science.org.uk

Main sessions 10am to 3pm with stay and play options available.
£30/day with sibling and block booking discounts offered.



Free* Courses for Parents this Summer Term

Course	Location	Date	Time
Positive Parenting	Online	Tuesdays 22 April - 20 May	7:30pm - 9pm
Emergency First Aid	Alton Library	Saturday 26 April	9:45am - 4:45pm
Emergency First Aid	Tadley Library	Saturday 3 May	9:45am - 4:45pm
Emergency First Aid	Basingstoke Discovery Centre	Saturday 10 May	9:45am - 4:45pm
Raising Resilient Children	Online	Mondays 2 - 30 June	7:30pm - 9pm
Emergency First Aid	Andover Library	Wednesday 11 June	9:45am - 4:30pm
Introduction to Paediatric First Aid	Online	Tuesdays 17 June - 8 July	6:30pm - 9:15pm
Emergency Paediatric First Aid	Bridgemy Library	Friday 20 June	9:15am - 4:30pm
Emergency First Aid	Waterlooville Library	Saturday 28 June	9:45am - 4:45pm

*Free tuition, some courses may have a certification or materials fee



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!

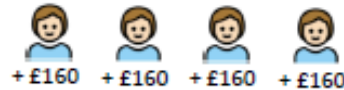
1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

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	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