

Sherborne St John C of E Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 16th May 2025



Well Done
Year 6!
SATS are over!



Junior Production - launch day!

The children in the juniors will find out today what the end of year production is. Cue much excitement! You will all find out soon enough too - but what exciting times are coming!

Summer uniform

With the warmer weather I am sure on it's way (soon I hope), I thought a reminder about uniform would be useful. There have also been quite a few non-uniform bits recently. We do understand when bits go wrong - e.g. shoes don't fit and you can't get to the shops till the weekend, or the jumper didn't get washed etc. Officially, here is the summer uniform (to be worn during the summer term only):

- Grey/black trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores
- Red and white checked or striped dress
- White shirts or polo shirts
- Red sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Plain grey, black or white socks
- Black shoes (low heels, no trainers or ballet pumps)

A message from Mrs Rennison

It was lovely to see so many of you at the May Festival last Friday. As we are such a small school, we are unable to invite parents in as often as we'd like, and therefore it is always such a pleasure to see the school community on site. We had wonderful weather and the icecreams were aplenty. Year 3 impressed us with their wonderful country dancing, and Year 4 dazzled us with the maypole! There was something very 'old-school' about the event and I absolutely loved it - I hope that those of you who attended also enjoyed it.

Then, this week, I have been privileged to watch our amazing Y6 children tackle their SATs tests. SATs are end of primary Standard Assessment Tests and are sat by all y6 children across England. We prepare our children well for these tests in terms of knowledge and learning, but our Y6 teachers have also worked hard to prepare them with test strategy, which they will take with them into their secondary school career and onwards - tests don't stop sadly! Observing our Y6 children tackle this week of tests has made me an incredibly proud headteacher; they have been calm, resilient, taken it all in their stride and are most definitely secondary ready. Well done Y6 - you are amazing!

Mrs Rennison

Key Dates:

- 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.



CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF SHERBORNE ST JOHN SCHOOL

Save the date - Saturday 27th September

We will be having an event to mark the anniversary, more details to follow.

Do you know someone who went to SSJ School?

We are compiling a book. Please send

- Your memories of the school.
- What you have gone on to do.

Please send any contributions to ssjschool175@outlook.com by

29th June or contact Lynda Harding on the email above or

Becky on 07759930439

*Please only send pictures of yourself/ your own children



THE HURST —SCHOOL—

3G PITCH OFFICIAL OPENING AND SUMMER FETE

17TH MAY

10AM-1PM

ICECREAM

TOMBOLA

BBQ

RAFFLE

SOFT DRINKS



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

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!

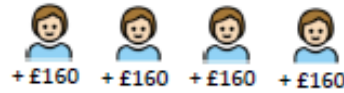
1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for 5 days.

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
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