



Sherborne St John Church of England Primary School
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Acting Headteacher: **Mrs Caroline Hulse**

Newsletter 3 – Friday 3rd October

Dear parents,

Message from Mrs Hulse

Last Saturday, we celebrated the 175th anniversary of our school with a service in the church followed by a party at the school. It was a wonderful occasion, and it was great to see so many current and former members of our school community come together.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising and ensuring the smooth running of the day. We were especially fortunate to welcome a special guest, Mr Charles Chute, the great-great-great-grandson of our school's founder, William Lyde Wiggett Chute of the Vyne Estate.

As part of the 175th celebrations, a commemorative book featuring memories and photographs of the school through the years has been published and is available to purchase for £15. A limited number of copies remain. If you would like one, please contact the School Office.





This beautiful cake was baked specially for the day.



The children represented the school wonderfully and sang beautifully to a packed church.



Staff past and present enjoyed the opportunity to catch up.

School life continues to be full of activity. This week, we hosted our first Open Morning for prospective parents considering Reception admissions for September 2026. Our Year 6 School Ambassadors did a fantastic job leading tours, and we received some wonderful feedback from our visitors. This week we have held our annual conker tournament, always a much-anticipated event. Well done to all the children who took part and showed great team spirit in cheering on their peers.

Staffing update

On Wednesday 8th October we will be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Beth Lok. Mrs Lok has worked in the office for the last year and has been a hugely valued member of the team. We wish her well as she leaves us to take on a new role working for Hampshire County Council. They are very lucky to have her.

Collective worship

This week in Collective Worship, we have continued to reflect on the theme of forgiveness. We explored how forgiveness is not always easy, especially when we feel deeply hurt, but how choosing not to forgive can lead us to hold grudges.

Through stories, discussions, and quiet reflection, the children considered how forgiveness can bring peace, not only to others but also to ourselves. We talked about the importance of letting go, and how showing compassion and understanding can help us grow stronger as individuals and as a community.

Message from the School Association

The school association met on Wednesday 24th September for their AGM and are delighted to confirm that Adam Pilkington will take over as full-time chairperson, having held the role jointly with Katie Bull for the past couple of years. Nick Price and Bex Brown were both pleased to be re-elected within their roles as treasurer and secretary respectively.

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to Katie for her commitment and enthusiasm to the role whilst serving as co-chair, and we are very pleased that she'll be staying within the team, hoping she can enjoy a slightly more relaxed role from now on.

Another big change for us this year is that Mags Attridge has decided to take a step back from the team. We are incredibly grateful for the amount of time and effort Mags has dedicated to the school association, serving several years as the treasurer before passing the role over to Nick. She was instrumental in fundraising and successfully applying for grants towards the adventure playground and playing a key role in organising and setting up for our events. Thank you so much Mags!

These changes, combined with some of the members time at SSJ nearing an end, means we are under pressure and at risk of not being able to carry out our full years worth of events due to lack of time and resources. We would love to welcome new core members to the team and would be pleased to chat to anyone who is interested about what the role entails. In short, we are grateful for as much or as little time that you can offer. We appreciate that everybody's time is precious and some may find it difficult to attend meetings but there are other ways of helping, including from a computer at home!

If you can't commit to becoming part of the team but still want to help out, we would be so grateful for a good uptake of volunteers when we put a plea out for each event. Our summer fayre was only made possible thanks to the staff team giving up their time to help out and as it stands our Christmas fayre is under real threat of having to reduce the number of stalls we offer as we don't have the resources required to operate at its usual scale. The Christmas fayre is scheduled for Friday 5th December from 5.00 - 7.00pm, we would greatly appreciate volunteers reaching out as early as possible so we can effectively plan the event. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is for us to plan so that everyone gets to help out and spend the other half of time at the fayre.

Please do feel free to catch one of us in the school playground or send a message to school.association@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk. Thank you!

Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential for academic success. When students attend school consistently, they are better able to keep up with the curriculum, develop strong learning habits, and build a solid foundation for future achievement. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child arrives on time and attends school every day, unless unwell. Together, we can support every student's learning journey. If your child is unwell then please check the NHS guidance about if they are well enough to attend school <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> this contains important advice about when your child is well enough to attend and when they should stay off school. If they are unwell, please inform school by either ringing or emailing the school office.

Dates for your diary / Reminders

The website will be updated with the key dates for the Autumn term in the coming weeks. We will also inform you of events and provide reminders in newsletters.

- **Monday 13th October** and **Wednesday 15th October** – Parents evenings. Bookings will be available via Arbor next week.
- **Wednesday 15th October** – Harvest Festival in St Andrews Church 2pm. All welcome. See separate letter for more details.
- **Friday 17th October** – School Association Quiz



www.pta-events.co.uk/ssjsa-events



Quiz Night

When: Friday 17th October 2025

Time: 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Where: SSJ Social Club, Elm Road

SSJ School Association are delighted to host our popular quiz night in partnership with SSJ Social Club.

Join us for a great evening at our adults only quiz night whilst helping raise vital funds for our school.

Raffle on the night £1 per ticket

Tickets £5 per person

Teams of 6 maximum



SSJ social club is open until 11pm. Please do stay on after the quiz to enjoy a drink and the rest of your Friday evening!

- **Monday 20th October – Wednesday 22nd October** – Class 4 Residential
- **Monday 20th October** – Class 3 visit to QMC for Science Workshop
- **Thursday 23rd October** – YrR and Yr6 National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) – see letters sent separately for more information
- **Friday 24th October** – INSET day – no school for pupils
- **Monday 3rd November** – Start of term
- **Wednesday 5th November** – Class 4 Swimming starts – see separate letter coming next week for more details

Have a great weekend,

Caroline Hulse
Acting Headteacher