



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

Newsletter 4 – Thursday 23rd October

Dear parents,

Message from Mrs Hulse

The end of term has continued to be a very busy time. Last week, we held our Harvest Service in the church. Well done to all the children who took part, shared their learning, and performed so confidently. Thank you for all the generous donations we received for the Food Bank. As a school, we donated 102kg of food—equivalent to 244 meals.

This week, the Year 5 and 6 children went on their residential trip to Runway's End in Aldershot. They enjoyed a jam-packed programme of activities, including raft-building, caving, and climbing. The staff who accompanied them were incredibly proud of how well the children tackled the challenges and demonstrated excellent teamwork skills.

A big thank you to Mrs Harvey, Mrs Kimber, and Mrs Curd for taking the children on the trip and supporting them throughout.

Collective worship

This week in Collective Worship we have thought about what makes a good friend, how to be a good friend and how to forgive our friends if we fall out.

Message from the School Association

We are really looking forward to hosting the SSJ school Christmas Fayre on Friday 5th December from 5.00pm - 7.00pm. As always, it promises to be a great event with food and drink, children's games, raffles and Santa's grotto!

More information will follow after half term including dress down day to help raise donations for the fayre and how to purchase raffle tickets but for now, we wanted to use this opportunity to send out a 'save the date' and put out an early request for volunteers for the day.

We can't run these events without the help of volunteers and this year, with a smaller School Association team, we are seriously having to consider reducing the number of stalls we offer to enable us to still run the fayre. This would be such a shame as I know the children look forward to the variety of Christmas

themed games every year and it really is a wonderful event that brings together the school and local community so if you are able to, please do sign up.

We have created a link to sign up with the option of choosing a 1 hour time slot between 5-6pm or 6-7pm and a tidy away slot between 7-8pm. This is simply to look after a stall / game within this time period - everything is set up and ready to go and full details for what to do will be provided depending on which stall you have been allocated. If you have a preference, please let us know when signing up. Sign up link: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ssjsa-events>

If you have any questions, please email the office or school.association@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk

Thank you for your support.

Attendance

Overall our whole school attendance for this half term is 97.11% which is an improvement on this time last year. Thank you for supporting the school ensuring that the children have good attendance.

We have noticed an increase in the number of children who are late in the morning. While sometimes circumstances mean this is unavoidable, it is important that children do not miss any of their learning time on a regular basis. Registration is at 8:45am. If your child arrives in school after this time they will be marked in the register as late. As always, if there are any difficulties or information that you need to share with school about your child's attendance please do get in touch with us.

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

- **Friday 24th October** – INSET day – no school for pupils
- **Monday 3rd November** – Start of term
- **Monday 3rd November** – Poppies will be on sale from the school office
- **Wednesday 5th November** – Class 4 Swimming starts – every Wednesday morning for 5 weeks
- **Thursday 6th November** – Year 1 Science Trip to QMC
- **Wednesday 12th November** – SENDCo Surgery – please email Mrs Clarke or the office for an appointment
- **Monday 24th November** – Cardwell Christmas Family Cards photos – further details to follow

Have a great half term,

Caroline Hulse
Acting Headteacher