

# Spring Term 09.01.26



# THE SCHOOL BELL

## KEY DATES

### INSET DAYS

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

15<sup>th</sup> January - Census Day  
27<sup>th</sup> January - Class 1&2 Milestones trip  
29<sup>th</sup> January - Class 4 - QMC  
3<sup>rd</sup> February - Class 4 Butser Farm Trip  
16<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term  
23<sup>rd</sup> February - Return to School  
27<sup>th</sup> March - Break up for Easter Holidays  
13<sup>th</sup> April - Return to School

## A NOTE FROM MRS ALVIS....

It has been a wonderful first week as your new Headteacher. While the weather outside has certainly been cold, the atmosphere inside our school has been the complete opposite- warm, vibrant, and bursting with the joys of spring!

It has been a privilege to get to know your children, whose enthusiasm has made this week full of fun. Seeing their smiles and hearing their laughter has been the highlight of my start here. Thank you all for the warm welcome on the gate in the morning.

On Monday all staff attended an INSET day for training on Connections and Emotions. This included:

**The Iceberg Approach:** We look beyond outward behaviour to support the 90% of needs and feelings beneath the surface.

**Connection First:** With 1,500 decisions made daily, our staff treat behaviour as communication rather than a "problem" to solve.

**Brain-Informed Care:** We use brain science to help students manage their "guard dog" (amygdala) so they stay regulated and ready to learn.

We will continue this work throughout the academic year and will continue to keep you informed so you can have conversations at home to support.

At SSJ, we are committed to ensuring every child feels valued and understood.

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### Website

I would like to update the school website with some new images of the school and pupils. If you or someone you know might be able to help with some photography please contact the office.

### 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Resources

If you were kind enough to provide some photos or other documents/artefacts for the school's 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations please do pop in to school to collect them asap. There are lots of pieces left and we are keen to ensure they are kept safe and returned to their owners.

## REMINDERS

A reminder to please check the letter sent home earlier today regarding the use of our school parking facilities.

It is essential that the disabled bay is kept clear for those who need it most. Ensuring this space remains accessible is a small but vital way we can make sure every member of our community feels valued and included.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our school site safe for everyone.

Email: [adminoffice@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk)

<https://www.ssj-school.co.uk/>

## Secret Visitors

To begin their Toys topic this term, Classes 1&2 welcomed some very special guests: their favourite toys from home! The children were delighted to introduce their companions to the class and share stories about them. It was a wonderful start to their new unit of work - and the visitors were very well behaved!



## Collective Worship

This half-term at SSJ, our Collective Worship theme is "Radical Belonging". Our aim is to cultivate a school culture where every individual is recognised as a unique and necessary part of our community.

Throughout the coming weeks, students will be empowered to actively include others, offer forgiveness, and stand up for one another.

"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" During our first week, we are focusing on the idea that we are all "unique by design". Using the Bible verse from Psalm 139, we are exploring how our differences are not flaws, but rather gifts that make our school community better.

This week we have challenged the children to look out for someone who seems different from them today and to go out of their way to say hello or offer a compliment on what makes that person special.

## PTA NEWS

### Upcoming events for your diary:

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February - quiz night - 7 - 9.30pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March - School disco

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - Easter Movie Mob - 3.15-5.15pm

If you would like to help out the School Association then please drop them a line:

**School.Association@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk**

They are so important and provide wonderful opportunities for the whole school throughout the year.



YOU ARE INVITED TO A  
**SERVICE OF WELCOME**

25th January 2026 10.30am  
St Andrew's Church SSJ

A service for all ages to welcome  
the new Headteacher of  
Sherborne St John Primary School  
to our community.

Mrs Vickie Alvis  
Headteacher



Pop Up Ensemble **FREE** HAMPSHIRE MUSIC EDUCATION HUB

Pop Up Ensemble  
Lift Winton, Andover

JMST theatre, Lift Winton, London Road,  
Andover, Hampshire, SP10 2PS  
Sunday 18 January 2026 9.15 - 13.15

Beginner to Grade 4

Back by Popular Demand!

Come and be part of a  
'from scratch' orchestra!

Scan the QR code to  
register your place



Email: [adminoffice@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk)

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