

Summer Term  
05.06.26



# THE SCHOOL BELL

## INSET DAYS

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
2026

## **KEY DATES**

**19th June** - Sports Day  
**23rd June** - Leavers Service - Winchester Cathedral  
**6<sup>th</sup> July** - Year 6 Enterprise Day  
**14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> July** - Junior School Production  
**20<sup>th</sup> July** - Family Picnic

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! I hope you all had a wonderful and restful break.

The final term of the academic year is always an incredibly busy time, filled with exciting and fun events for our whole school community. We are hitting the ground running, starting with our fantastic Summer Fayre tomorrow! On a personal note, I must offer my sincere apologies for my absence from tomorrow's festivities. However, those of a certain age will fully appreciate my dilemma-I am off to see Take That's

Circus Tour, a very long-standing booking! While I am disappointed to miss the fun at school, I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has worked so hard behind the scenes to make the fayre happen. I thoroughly look forward to seeing the photos and hearing all about how it went next week.

An event of this scale relies heavily on the generosity of our community. If you can spare even a small amount of time to support us tomorrow, please use the sign-up link below to offer any help you can for the day:

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Thank you as always for your continued support, and I wish you all a wonderful, sun-filled weekend.

**Please note there will be no Celebration Worship on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June. We will celebrate all birthdays the week after.**

## **INSET Dates 2026-2027**

As we look ahead to the next academic year, we are pleased to share the dates for our upcoming INSET (teacher training) days. We have deliberately scheduled these days to sit directly alongside existing school holidays and weekends wherever possible. Our hope is that by pairing them with school closures, it gives our families a head start on holiday breaks and creates opportunities to book family getaways at a slightly cheaper, off-peak price.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2027**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2027**

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

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

## Staffing Update

### Fond Farewells

At the end of the summer term, we will be saying goodbye to two of our long-serving and incredibly valued members of staff, Mrs Skelton and Mrs Webster.

Both have dedicated many years of hard work, care and support to our school community. They have had a lasting impact on so many of our children, and they will be very sorely missed by pupils, parents and colleagues alike.

**Save the Date: Family Picnic!** To show our immense gratitude and give them the fantastic send-off they deserve, we invite you all to join us for a Family Picnic. It will be a wonderful opportunity to say a personal thank you and celebrate everything they have done for our school. See the poster below for information.

### Exciting New Appointments

We are also delighted to share some wonderful news regarding our internal team. From September, we will be introducing a new Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) structure to support our classrooms.

We are pleased to announce the appointments of Mrs Gwyther and Mrs Cook into these new HLTA roles.

**Their New Role:** Starting in September, they will be covering PPA (Planning, Preparation, and Assessment) time for our teachers, ensuring continuity and high-quality learning for the children.

**Professional Development:** Both Mrs Gwyther and Mrs Cook will also be embarking on specialised training to support them in this next step of their careers.

Please join us in congratulating them both on their well-deserved new roles!

**I will be able to share with you the staffing arrangements for September next week. Please look out for my letter. We will be holding a whole-school transition day on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June and children will spend the day in their new classes with relevant staff.**



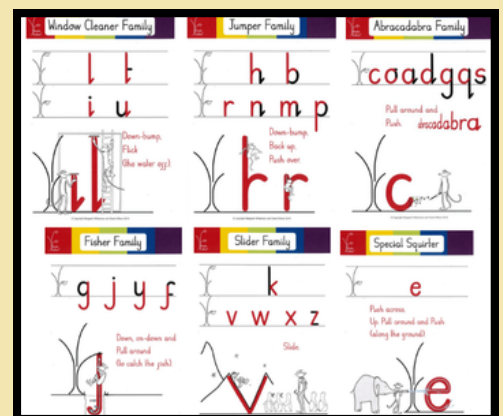
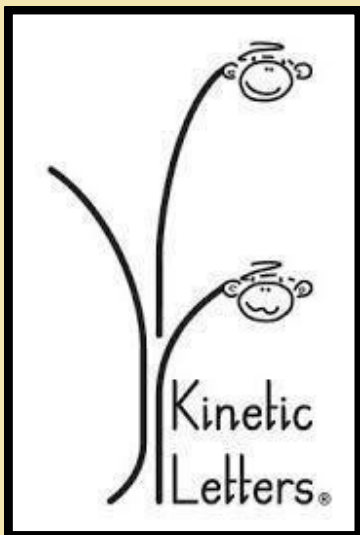


# Kinetic Letters

We are delighted to introduce the Kinetic Letters handwriting scheme across the school. In Year R, children have been learning to write using the 'lizard' position, which helps to develop strong posture, core strength and pencil control from the very beginning.

Kinetic Letters is based on the idea that good handwriting starts with physical readiness. It focuses on building the fine and gross motor skills needed for writing, helping children to become more confident, fluent writers over time. A key part of the programme is the use of memorable animal positions and characters, such as the 'scared monkey' and 'brave monkey', which help children learn correct posture and pencil grip in a fun and engaging way. These imaginative cues, alongside positions like the 'lizard', support children in understanding how their bodies should feel when they are ready to write, embedding good habits from the very start.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the School Association for their generous funding, which has enabled us to purchase and implement this scheme. We are already seeing the positive impact it is having in classrooms. We look forward to sharing some before and after handwriting examples soon!



## SCHOOL ASSOCIATION NEWS

Upcoming events for your diary:

### Summer Fair - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June

If you would like to support 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.

## Summer Term - Events for your diary

The Summer term is full of fantastic school events but it can sometimes be tricky to plan for them.

Below are some of the events that might require attendance from parents or family members to enable you to plan accordingly. The Family Picnic will be a new event during the school day for the whole community to enjoy - details to follow!

**19th June – Sports Day**  
**15th July – Leavers Service – Church**

**10th – 16th July – Junior School Production.**  
**20th July – Family Picnic - 2pm**  
**22nd July - INSET Day**

**OAKRIDGE**  
Hall for All

### Get Ready FOR SCHOOL

For children starting Year R  
September 2026 & 2027

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Oakridge Hall for All**  
Ferrythia Walk, Basingstoke, RG21 5DR  
01256 242522

**DROP IN – NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED**

**ARE YOU READY?**  
Starting school is a big step.  
Come along for advice, support and guidance to help your child feel ready for September.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ON HAND**  
Advice • Support • Guidance

- School Readiness
- Learning
- Health & Wellbeing
- Signposting

**DROP IN – NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!**  
Professionals from across Basingstoke available to answer your questions

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

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SHERBORNES WITH  
PAMBER CHURCHES

# CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

**SAT  
20 JUNE**

**ST ANDREW'S  
CHURCH SSJ**

**2.30 –  
4.30 PM**

Children's craft

Children's Art Competition with prizes.  
Theme: Music  
Bring it with you or create during the event.

Refreshments

Musical performances  
3.00-4.00pm

Have a go at  
bell ringing

Treasure Hunt

Try your hand at  
playing instruments

[www.sherborneswithpamber.org](http://www.sherborneswithpamber.org)

Contact [geofftennant@sherborneswithpamber.org](mailto:geofftennant@sherborneswithpamber.org) if you  
would like to perform by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June