

# THE SCHOOL BELL

**INSET DAYS**
Monday 22nd February 2027
Friday 2nd July 2027
Wednesday 21st July 2027

Autumn Term
07.11.26

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful and restful half-term break and enjoyed some special time with family and friends. As we head into the second half of the autumn term, school life becomes increasingly busy, with plenty of exciting events, activities and celebrations planned. To help everyone keep track of our ever-growing calendar, I've included a key dates section below.

On Friday 23rd October, staff and governors attended a Vision and Values Day led by the Diocese. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our wonderful school community while beginning to shape our vision for the years ahead. We will be seeking the views of children and over the coming weeks, and we look forward to sharing more about this work with you. As part of the day, we explored creative ways to represent what makes our school special, and you can see some of the artwork created below.

I also met with the School Association on Wednesday evening to support plans for this year's Christmas Fair. This is always a wonderful community event and every penny raised goes directly towards enhancing opportunities and experiences for our children. There will be lots of ways to get involved, and we hope many of you will be able to support us.

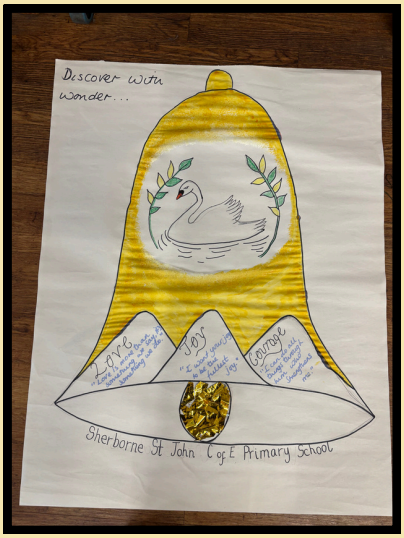
This week, I am meeting with the School Council to discuss our playground and outdoor areas. Hearing children's ideas and ensuring their voices are at the heart of school improvement is something we value greatly, and I look forward to sharing their thoughts with you soon.
Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

**Admissions**

The portal for admissions (click link to visit) is now open for the new Year R children for September 2027.
Please make sure you have been on to the portal to set up an account to apply for your child's place and remind any friends or family to do so.

**Email: adminoffice@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk**
**https://www.ssj-school.co.uk/**

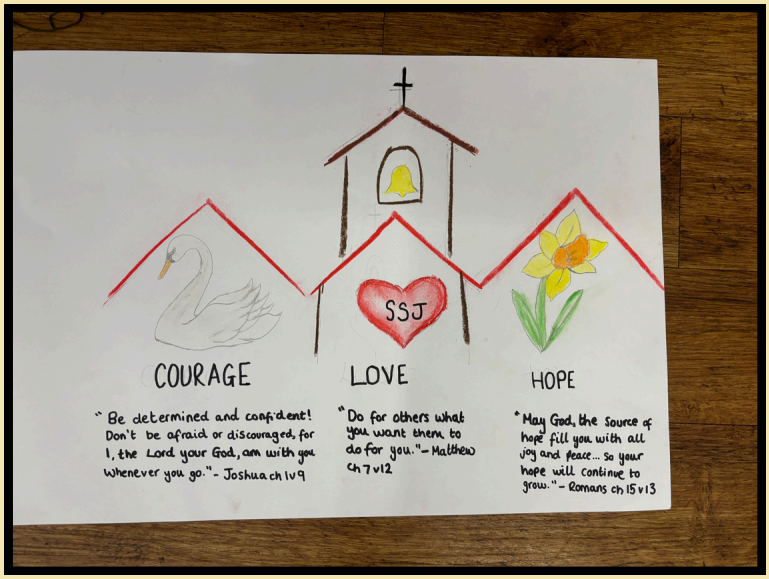
# Vision and Values Day












## Collective Worship

This half term, our Collective Worship theme is Jesus' Family Tree, explored through the tradition of the Jesse Tree. Each week, children will learn about a different person in Jesus' family line and discover how God worked through ordinary people as part of His plan for the world.
This week, we introduced the theme and began with the story of Rahab, whose faith, courage and trust in God remind us that everyone has a place in God's family. Throughout the term, we will add symbols to our Jesse Tree as we journey towards Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

*"A branch will grow from a stump of a tree that was cut down. So a new king will come from the family of Jesse." (Isaiah 11:1)*

# Key Dates

| Date | Event | Year Groups |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 16th November | Odd Socks Day<br>Anti Bullying Week | All |
| Monday 23rd November | Christmas Photo Shoot - Cardwells - 4-6pm | All |
| Friday 27th November | Non Uniform Day<br>*In exchange for Christmas Hamper donations* | All |
| Wednesday 2nd December | Cuppa & Connect 9am (*See info below)* | All welcome |
| Friday 4th December | Christmas Fair 5-7pm | All |
| Tuesday 8th December | Nativity Dress Rehearsal - invite only | Infants<br>Juniors to watch |
| Wednesday 9th December | Nativity Performance 1<br>St Andrews Church @ 10am | Infants |
| Thursday 10th December | Nativity Performance 2<br>St Andrews Church @ 10am | Infants |
| Monday 14th December | Bikeability | Year 6 |
| Tuesday 15th December | iRock Concert | Music Students/Parents and Siblings |
| Wednesday 16th December | Christmas Church Service<br>St Andrews Church @ 2.15pm | All families |
| Thursday 17th December | Visiting Pantomime Performance @1.15pm (School Hall) | All children |
| Friday 18th December | School finishes for Christmas<br>*Finish at normal time* | |

**A Message from Mrs Clarke**

Please be aware that my first SENDCo surgery of the year will be taking place on Wednesday 11th November. SENDCo surgery days provide an opportunity for you to book an appointment with me to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's progress. This includes concerns about their mental health and wellbeing as well as worries about their learning. Whilst we always encourage you to approach your child's teacher as the first port of call should you have any concerns, these sessions provide a further option for you to talk things through should your concerns remain. SENDCo surgery appointments are open to all parents, not just those with recognised SEND, and can be booked by emailing me directly at s.clarke@sherborne-st-john.hants.sch.uk.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Mrs Clarke

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo)

# Anti Bullying Week
# Monday 16th November 2026




# Coffee Morning



# The School View



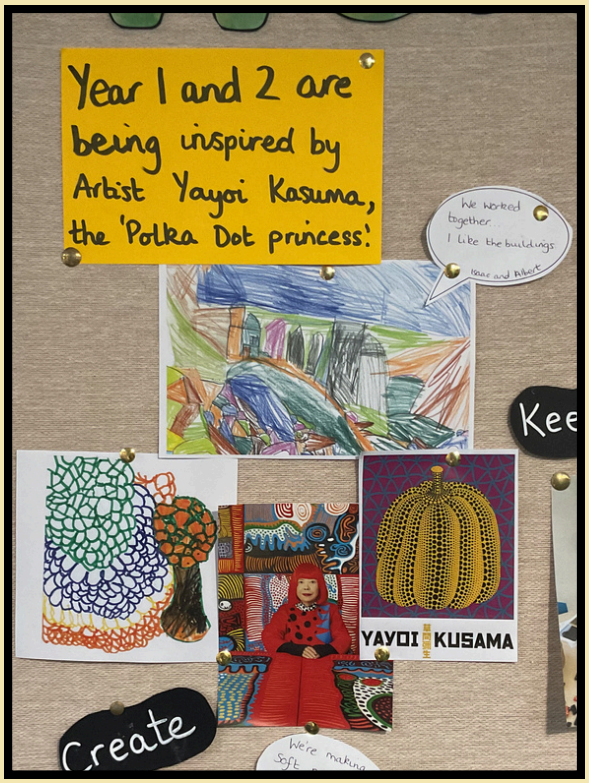




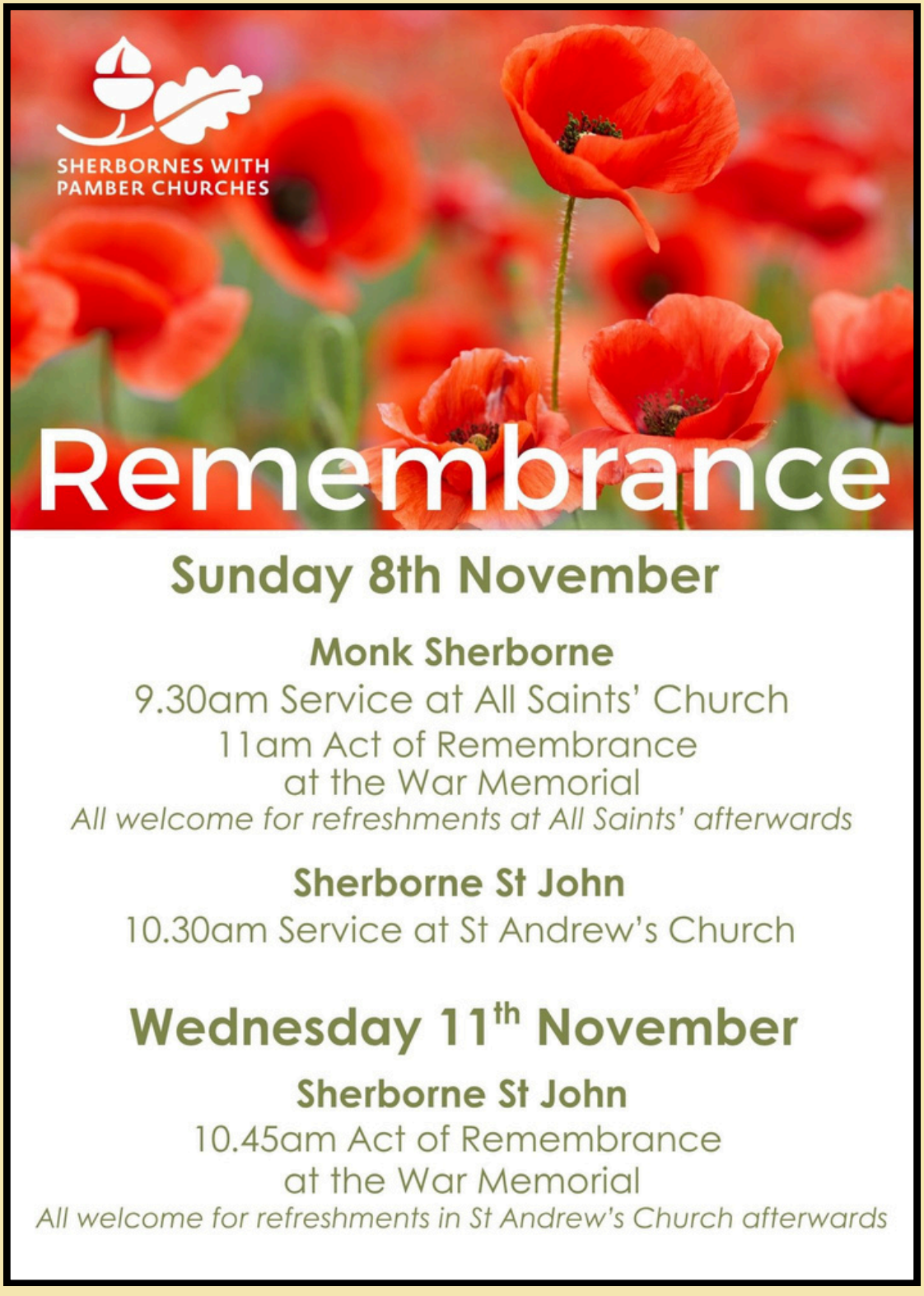






All are warmly invited to come to our Remembrance Services on Sunday 8th Nov. If children would like to wear their uniform (school or uniformed organisation) and take part in the wreath-laying ceremony at 11am either at Monk Sherborne War Memorial or during the service at St Andrew's the would be very welcome to.



# School Association News

As preparations begin, the School Association are now looking for volunteers to help before and during the event, as well as donations for our Christmas hampers and raffle prizes. If you are able to offer your time, donate an item, or support the event in any way, please do get in touch with the School Association.

The Christmas Fair is always a wonderful community event and we are very grateful for the support our families provide. More information will be shared soon, but for now, please save the date and keep an eye out for opportunities to get involved.

**Friday 4th December, 5.00pm to 7.00pm - we hope to see you there!** 🎄✨

