

Sherborne St John CE Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 15th September 2023



Message from Miss Jolliffe

We are really into the swing of the Autumn Term now and even the weather is starting to change. Keep an eye on the conkers; when they start to fall, we will be ready to launch our annual conker competition.

Our dates for tours are now available for any prospective parents. Please let them know that they can book by contacting the school office. We will be hosting 3 dates which include a presentation with myself and then a tour with our Year 6 Ambassadors. For anyone that cannot make one of the dates, individual tours will be available.

In a few weeks time, we will be offering you the chance to contribute to our annual Christmas shoebox appeal. This involves filling a box with toys and gifts for a child which you then wrap and we donate them to the Rotary charity. You are always so generous. This year will be slightly different in that the charity will be providing the boxes. More information will be sent to you shortly but if you think you will be supporting this, it might be a good time to start collecting special items. It is planned that the wrapped boxes will be collected from school just after half term.

Have a lovely weekend. Miss Sarah Jolliffe.

Reminders...

Can I please ask that when collecting your children at the end of the day, you ask them not to run around the church yard. This should be a place of peace and it is right that we are respectful of the area. There has been an increasing number of children using it as an area to play in after school and I would appreciate your support in explaining that this isn't appropriate.

Finally, a September reminder about parking. We know that it gets busy at drop-off and collection but please ensure that you are parking safely and not in a way which means other road users are needing to drive on the wrong side of the road on what is a sharp corner.

You can easily park up at the Chute and walk down, this would make a huge difference to the village parking situation and help you and the children get a few extra steps in! Thank you for your support with this.

Free School Meals

If you think that your child might be entitled to free school meals, please follow the link below to check. It is very quick to do and if eligible the school receives additional pupil premium funding.

If your child is in the infants, we also ask you to check your eligibility in order for the school to receive accurate funding.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>

Key Dates:

18.09.23: MHST meeting for Year 5 parents at 9.30am online
 19.09.23: Class 3 start swimming lessons
 19.09.23: New to Reception parent meeting at 6pm
 19.09.23: Year 1 and 2 phonics meeting at 7pm
 26.09.23: Class 3 swimming
 02.10.23: Flu vaccinations
 03.10.23: Class 3 swimming

10.10.23: Class 3 swimming
 11.10.23-13.10.23: Class 4 residential
 16.10.23: Whole school PSHE workshops
 17.10.23: Class 3 swimming
 18.10.23: Harvest festival at Church 2.15pm (all welcome to attend)
 19.10.23: Individual photos
 23.10.23-27.10.23: Half term
 30.10.23: INSET day
 31.10.23: Back to school

Reception

The children are now staying all day and have been enjoying exploring their new classroom and all of the fun things to do. They have also started their phonics and maths lessons and have joined us in Collective Worship. They are doing so well, well done!

Year 1 and 2

The children have started their project work about dinosaurs this week- always a favourite! They have been exploring the timeline of different dinosaur periods and learning the names of some of the dinosaurs. We are so impressed with their knowledge so far.

Class 3- Year 3 and 4

Class 3 headed up to the Chute earlier in the week for their PE lesson. They were taking part in team games and had a lot of fun. Next week they start their swimming lessons so please make sure they have everything they need on Tuesday morning.

Class 4- Year 5 and 6

Year 6 have found out who their new Reception buddies are today and they are very excited about it. It is a very special bond that grows over the course of the year. Elsewhere, Class 4 have been making their own treasure maps in geography using OS map symbols.

Sunday Club at St Andrew's

We are looking forward to welcoming children back to Sunday club at St Andrews on Sunday 17th September at 10am. Sunday club is open to all primary school age children and takes place every Sunday in term-time during the 10am service.

As this is our first week back after the summer break, we will be having a special celebration with fun & games and a short Bible talk. We would like to offer the children a soft drink and a small snack or fruit as part of this first Sunday club so if you're able to come please let us know of any allergies.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact a member of the team or our new Vicar, Stewart.

We look forward to seeing you!
 Pippa, Caroline and Stewart.

Collective Worship



At the start of every year, we revisit our values in the first half term of worship.

Our focus this week has been Forgiveness.

We have listened to lots of Bible stories including The Prodigal Son, Josiah, the boy who became king and; The Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

We have learnt that anyone who changes his heart and life can be forgiven.

Forgiveness is a way to show love.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



source: <https://hipalapp/about/privacy.html>

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.