

**From Mr Chappell** Welcome back to a new academic year at St Helen's. I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. Over the holidays, I lost count of the number of children and families I bumped into - it was great to catch up and hear about the exciting things the children were doing. Many of them also told me how much they were looking forward to returning, meeting their new teachers and staff, and seeing their friends again. This is at the heart of our school vision: **enjoyment**. We really hope that children enjoy their time at St. Helen's!

Once again, I want to reiterate that we know we don't always get everything right, but please remember that if you ever have any worries or concerns, you can always contact us so that we can work things through together. Over the years, one of the greatest strengths of our school has been the partnership between children, parents/carers and staff, and I am excited to continue building on that this year.

A very warm welcome to all our new parents/carers in EYFS, we are delighted that you have joined the St Helen's community. Already this week, there has been a wonderful buzz of learning right across the school. The children have come back so positively, showing our ethos of *Flying High*, and all staff have been very impressed by their enthusiasm, attitude and effort. Here's to another great year at St Helen's – *Flying High*!

Have a great weekend.

***Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community'***  
***'They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31'***



**Value for this Term:** Please find alongside this newsletter the home school values sheet to discuss with your children. This term our value is **generosity**.

We will be considering how we can give our time to others generously and this will include our internal Harvest service in Church on October 23<sup>rd</sup> – where again we will be collecting Harvest goods, for a number of different charities, truly showing our value in action.



**Back to School Session:** Thank you to everyone who attended Wednesday's session. Hopefully you have taken away some of the key expectations for the year ahead. A key message for the year, is to continue to get the basics right! As parents/ carers, you can support us with this, working with your children every night for short bursts of time, on reading and



maths skills. A reminder that one aspect of the school's provision for learning number facts: is the use of Times Tables Rockstars and Numbots. Please ensure your children are playing on these online platforms, as often as possible, alongside other games. If you do not have log in details, please contact your class teacher, who will be happy to provide them. Again, this year our Year 4 children did extremely well in their statutory MTC (multiplication tables check) and this is due to a vast number of children knowing all their Tables facts before they get to Year 4!

### **Year 6 Trip to Dean Field Studies Centre**

Next week, our Year 6's will be heading to the Forest of Dean for their annual camp. During the trip, they'll take part in a range of exciting activities, including canoeing, orienteering and climbing. We hope that they have a fantastic time away as a class! Technology permitting, we'll be sharing photos and updates from the trip on class Dojo.

The Year 6s have made a brilliant start to the year, setting an excellent example as role models. They are looking especially smart in their new purple jumpers and their leavers hoodies, which will form part of their PE school uniform. We kindly ask for your continued support in helping children follow our uniform expectations.

## Our target for school attendance this year!

As with all areas of school life, including pupil achievement, we want to set ambitious targets for the year ahead and are again setting the high target of 97%. Again, this year, we will be working with our EWO (Educational welfare Officer) to help support all families, with attendance. For more information about attendance – please visit our website page about attendance.

<https://www.sthelensprimary.org.uk/our-school/attendance/>



**Prospective Parents 2025:** If you have any younger siblings due to start school in September 2025, or if you know any parents/carers, who are considering our lovely school please pass on the website link and encourage them to look at our school website. The tour dates for prospective parent/ carers are: **Tours are available from 11:15 pm to 12:15 pm on the following dates:**

Monday 6th October 2025  
Monday 13th October 2025  
Tuesday 4th November 2025  
Monday 10th November 2025  
Tuesday 18th November 2025  
Monday 25th November 2025  
Monday 8th December 2025

**Please email the school office below to book a place on the tour.**

**Children's Newsletter:** Our very popular children's achievements newsletter continues! As a reminder, if you would like to share any of your child's achievements - along with information or photos, please email the school office and we will be delighted to include them in next week's newsletter.

**Universal Infants Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding:** A reminder that all children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 have a school lunch provided for them every day as part of the DFE's UIFSM provision, however this then stops in Key Stage 2, when children reach Year 3. We have attached the link below for more information but also to remind parents that depending on eligibility, you may be able to be claim FSM (Free School Meals).

<https://life.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=yp4evwg7Duw>

If you are in receipt of FSM, this then also means that your children will be in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding, further small amounts of funding that a school receives to help the education of children. Pupil premium funding is allocated to eligible schools based on the number of:

- pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years (referred to as Ever 6 FSM)
- children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, including children adopted from state care or equivalent from outside England and Wales.

Pupil premium is not a personal budget for individual pupils, and schools do not have to spend pupil premium so that it solely benefits pupils who meet the funding criteria. For further information around FSM and Pupil Premium criteria please use the link above or for a conversation with Mr Chappell – please contact the school office.

## Academic Year 2025-26

Term	Starts	Ends	Inset Day
Term 1	Monday 1 September 2025	Friday 24 October 2025	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Term 2	Monday 3 November 2025	Friday 19 December 2025	
Term 3	Monday 5 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026	
Term 4	Monday 23 February 2026	Thursday 2 April 2026	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026
Term 5	Monday 20 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026	
Term 6	Monday 1 June 2026	Tuesday 21 July 2026	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026

