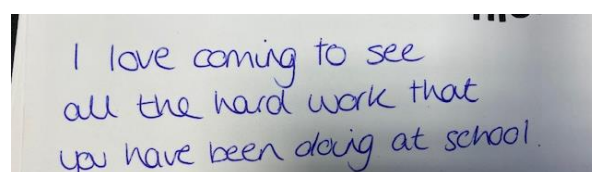
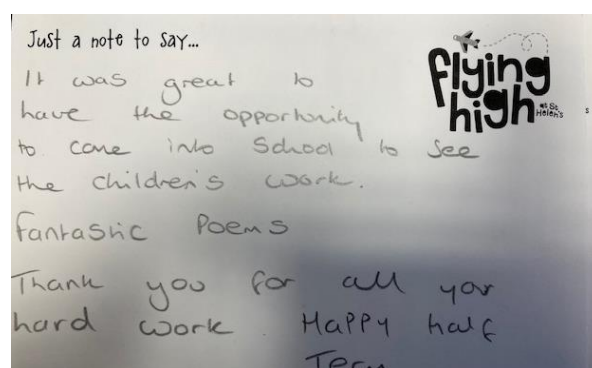


From Mr Chappell I cannot believe where the last six weeks have gone. It is hard to believe that we are already at the half way point of the year and whilst there is so much still to do, it should not be overlooked that the children have already made good progress. Recent reading assessments that we have conducted across the school have seen a number of children make great progress. This is something that we have looked at carefully in school with a couple of very small tweaks to our guided reading lessons. We feel that over time this will enable all children to do their very best although as always regardless of starting points or ability, we are trying to foster a love of reading and you as parents/ carers have a huge part in this by hearing your children (even year 6 children) read every day. Why not over half term share a book together, take a picture and share it with us so we can make a display in school-reading together, really is a magical time! Have a great half term break!

Open Classrooms: It was so nice to see so many people in school yesterday for our open classrooms. There were some really lovely moments of children enthusiastically sharing their learning with their family members and the children being very proud of their work. There was some lovely feedback from family members on the postcards left – which is always nice to see the impact of our connected curriculum. At the end of next term we will be having a whole school curriculum showcase, which involves a showcase within the hall for some year groups and enables you as families to go around the whole school from class to class so that you can see what is going on for our topic of 'rights and responsibilities.'



Strike Action: As you know we were very fortunate that we were able to stay open for the strike action last week. It is important to reiterate, that although we were able to stay open on this day, the next couple of strike days we might not be able to cover the same amount of classes. Therefore we would like to remind you of the proposed dates of the next industrial action proposed by the NEU. (National Education Union) The days proposed are:

Thursday 2 March 2023, Wednesday 15 March 2023, Thursday 16 March 2023. We will endeavour to communicate as early as we can about what we will be doing, but it is worth bearing in mind the two consecutive days, also precedes an Inset Day.



Inset Day: A reminder that our next Inset Day is Friday 17th March.

On this day staff from both schools will be planning the Term 5 and 6 opportunities for our Brave-Changemakers Connected Curriculum. This term there has already been some fantastic examples of work in our curriculum.

Financial support for families on low income We are very much aware that the current climate may be bringing difficulties for some of our families. Please if you ever have any worries about anything get in contact with us and we will signpost some external support if we can. It is worth noting that further advice can be found on the South Glos website. Please click the link below to find out more information.

<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=egFIBHJUzb0>

Uniform: At a governors meeting this week, a number of comments were made about some families not following our uniform policy closely. This was reiterated by a few comments that have been made by staff members recently. Please ensure that over half term you consider our school uniform policy carefully and in particular consider the footwear and attire that is being worn. It has been reflected on, by a number of staff, the growing numbers of children wearing large boots when our policy, states 'children should wear black shoes in a sensible style (no trainers, boots or open-toed sandals).' Please consider this over the half term break as we reset the standards in uniform moving forwards including PE kit. **Please note** if there are any difficulties in wearing the correct uniform to speak to us confidentially. Over the next term FOSH will be starting up their second hand uniform sales again. For clarity around our uniform policy please follow the link <https://www.sthelensprimary.org.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

Clubs A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in the running of a school club this term. If you are a parent volunteer or staff member thank you for giving up your time to run a club.

Pond: It was great to see over 15 members of our St Helen's community give up their Saturday morning, to spend time clearing the school pond. As you may have seen the transformation was stunning and we cannot wait to start to use the pond again.



Lunch Break Supervisor: We currently have a Lunch break supervisor role available. If you feel you would be able to work in school, for 6.25 hrs, please contact us – we would love to hear from you! If you know anyone in the local community please pass on the link to our eteach advert. Working with the children at lunchtimes (like anytime) is really rewarding and we would love to fill this role. <https://www.eteach.com/job/lunchbreak-supervisor-1308637?lang=en-GB&frmsrh=Y>

Next term we will be considering the value of trust.



Well done to those children who were awarded a certificate and awards today and last week.

Cherry Class – Arthur, Olivia C, Emily, Luna.

Holly class – Dom, Molly, Liliana, Charlie.

Beech class – Parker, Scarlett, Amelia, Rosa.

Oak class – Kai, Elizabeth, Sienna, Oliver.

Ash Class – Chloe, Mia, Willis, Edward.

Sycamore class – Evie, Neiva, Charlotte O.

Elm class – Macy, Will, Seth, Frankie.

