



**From Mr Chappell:** I can't believe that we are over halfway through the year, and it means I can bring out my 'phrase' that I have been using for several years and used in assembly this week. All classes are now technically past the half way mark so for example Year 5 are now Year 5.5, and as we know in Maths we can round up, to the nearest whole number, which means Year 5.5 are now Year 6! This means expectation levels and work that is produced (which staff always want the best from all children) can be that little bit more, as the children aspire to the levels of the next year group! The rest of the year will flyby so let's make the most of this year and together – keep Flying High! Have a great weekend.



**Hello from Mr Bartlett: New Year 2 Teacher.** We are delighted to welcome to St.Helen's – Mr Bartlett, who will be working in Year 2, on Wednesday to Friday for the duration of Miss Hurd's maternity leave. Mr Bartlett has been working for a number of years in South Glos and Bristol Schools. Please see below for a little introduction from Mr Bartlett himself who will start on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. *'Hello, my name is Mr Bartlett and I am very excited to be joining St Helen's and very much looking forward to teaching Year 2. I have been teaching in Key Stage 1 for ten years and am really interested in approaches to teaching that make learning fun and exciting for all children. I enjoy spending time with my family. My wife and I have a 3 year old son who is full of*

*energy and loads of fun. Together we enjoy traveling and finding new places to explore. I look forward to meeting you all very soon.'*

We are also delighted to reveal that **Miss Mason**, who has worked in our school previously in Year 5 and Year 2, will stay with us for another year or so, as she covers Miss Adams' maternity leave. I am sure you will welcome both Miss Mason back and say hello to Mr Bartlett.

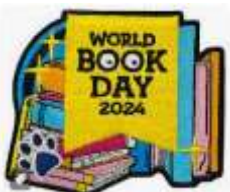


**School Dinners Dolce:** Thank you to everyone, who has given very positive feedback about the changes in caterers. (I know there are a few things to work on as well, but the overriding messages have been very positive.)

The dinners have been very popular and I am sure that the children have been telling you all about how they press their own name on the touchscreen, to show the lunch, that they have ordered. This has proven very popular and I can't believe how quickly the children have picked up this process. It also means that we have no issues around children wanting a different meal when parents/carers have ordered something else the proof is right in front of them!



**World Book Day:** Library Opening: A huge thank you to everyone involved in the library project.



Over the last few weeks, volunteer Liz Cribb has been sorting out the vast array of fiction books, that will stock our wonderful library. We are so fortunate that with the majority of books being fiction books in the plane, this gives us the further option to have all our non-fiction books in the terrapin room, which means our children have access to a very,

wide range of books to develop their love of reading. Mr Adams and Miss Paul, our reading leads, have been organising activities for the day, including the opening of the plane and timetabling the plane to ensure all classes on World Book Day have a chance to visit it. As a school, we want to extend an invitation to parents/carers to please come into school on the morning of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March for a read-along. Between morning drop off and 9:10am, we would be delighted if you would come into school and read alongside your child and their friends. Should you have more than one child at St. Helens please feel free to divide your time between classes. Although it is world book day next week, it should be an ethos at home to share a book every day and make every day a book day- that way, children continue to develop a passion for reading.





**TimesTables Rockstars:** Next term we will be re-launching TimesTables Rockstars to help children learn all our multiplication facts alongside all the other great things we do in school. Like many things over time, children can lose a bit of interest in things and after a couple of years, where our children seemed to be on TTRS every day, trying to break all manner of records, this for some children has not been a priority. Next term we will re-introduce this to all year groups and will be running a

range of competitions and who knows the existing school records may be broken! TTRS alongside FunKey Maths Cards means that we will definitely be able to learn all 38 facts that are needed to help us in Maths. You never know even the adult rock legends may return! (You may have to ask some of the older children about this!) Last week in Friday celebration assembly, Lakshan, in Year 1 confidently shared that  $9 \times 9 = 81$  in front of the whole school, and we know that this is something that can be replicated by lots of other children and all children can learn some facts from their starting points. Help your children get ahead in Maths and keep learning multiplication and division facts! The enjoyment of learning maths, I saw myself today at lunchtime when two children in Year 5 – Ferlyn and Abigail decided to use our magnetic whiteboard to do more Maths- well done girls! (Every long multiplication was correct and this is Year 6 work!)



**Flying High at St.Helen's:** Our children continue to amaze me, with some of the work they produce and their enthusiasm for learning. Just this last week I have seen some amazing Maths work in Year 1 in doubling numbers and yesterday when teaching Year 6, I was blown away by the standard of writing and the progress that the children have made across the year.

This represents itself in lots of house points and last term we had the closest house points race ever with just 3 house points separating Concorde and Brabazon House in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. (Concorde will get their treat in a couple of weeks time, as we have already had lots of dressing up with Break the Rules Day and the planned dressing up on World Book day. This means that the house points total for the whole year is very close and we look forward to seeing how many more house points can be achieved. Well done to every child in the school!

**A reminder** if you have any concerns over behaviour that your children are seeing or experiencing (there were a few comments to teachers at parent's evening this week.) Please do not leave it to these meetings but arrange to see your child's class teacher or even better arrange to meet myself as soon as you have a concern, so that we can discuss any worries that you may have. We want all our children to be Flying High, but all our staff also pride ourselves on helping and supporting those children who may find this a little bit trickier. Most weeks in this newsletter I ask people to make contact with me if you have any issues, this doesn't always happen but I, like all staff members, would much rather hear or know of any issues straight away so that we can deal with the issue and reassure you rather than let 'things' fester. Thank you for your continued support on this. My door is always open!

**Well done to those children who were awarded a Celebration Certificate and Award!**

Holly class – Jenson, Lili, Harry, Elijah  
 Beech class – Georgie, Aria, Fenton, Gabriela  
 Oak class – Rose, Tessa, Flora, Finlay

Ash class – Avah-Grace, Poppy, Diego, Willow  
 Sycamore class – Abigail, Peaches, Aryo, Justin  
 Elm Class – Lewis, Imogen, Luca, Seth

