

From Mr Chappell: As we reach the halfway point of the year, all staff would like to extend a huge thank you for your continued support in so many ways. Whether it's reading with your child at home each day, volunteering in school, helping on school trips, or supporting with sports competitions, your involvement makes a real difference. It enables your child to grow and thrive. As I have said on many occasions - and will continue to say - we don't always get everything right, but we are committed to doing our very best with the resources and capacity we have. Our goal is always to support every child in reaching their potential and to be *Flying High*. Have a great half term break.

South Glos Youth Dance Festival:



A huge well done to all the children who took part in the Youth Dance Festival on Wednesday evening. This year's theme was *Film* and the children performed two fantastic dances: a free dance – *'What's My Name'* and the themed dance: *'The Place to Be'*. Performing alongside six other schools on Wednesday, and six the night before, the children danced in front of hundreds of parents and family members. They represented the school brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of their effort, enthusiasm and team work. Another heartfelt thank you must go to Stacey Macnamara, who has led Dance Club over the last few years and generously gives up her time every Thursday after school to support the children.

A huge well done to everyone, the dates for next year's festival are already booked, and Stacey has agreed to continue running the club next year. After half term, we will be showcasing the dances to the whole school, which the girls are really looking forward to.

Becky Yr 6: 'I was really nervous but in the end, I enjoyed performing in front of hundreds of people.'

Elsie-Lou Yr6: 'It has been a lot of effort rehearsing but it was worth it in the end.'

Aria Yr 4: I was excited to perform and it was a lot of fun.'

Willow Yr 5: It was a good experience and it was good to see the other school dances as well.'

Marley: Yr 5: I want to do it again next year, which will be my third time, because it was so exciting.'

Elle: Yr 4 'I loved it!.'

Alice Yr 4: 'I really like performing so it was great to have the lights on us'

The advert for casual school Meals Supervisory Assistants (SMSA) is still live (see link below), and we warmly welcome applications from anyone in the community. Paper application forms are also available from the school office.

<https://www.eteach.com/job/casual-smsa-school-meals-supervisory-assistant-1530900>

Clubs:

The extra-curricular activities continue to be a strength at St.Helen's and I am really proud of all the opportunities that our children are given. Just this week, we have seen well over 120 children take part in different clubs and activities, and over the last few weeks, seen a number of inter-school competitions against other schools. It's amazing to think that many years ago, we didn't take part in any sporting competitions, and our club offer was very limited. Thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers who run a club.





Dodgeball Monday 9th February



Football Match Thursday 5th February



Musical Drama Club Friday 6th February

Lockdown Information: Please note that we were unable to complete a lockdown drill this week due to staff absence. We will endeavour to do this in the first few weeks back in the new term. I also had one person who asked for more information about the lockdown drill following our last letter, which was great. If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to us, and we will do our best to reassure you.

Attendance: Thank you so much for all your support with attendance across Term 3. We are pleased to report that overall attendance continues to be above where it was this time last year by 0.3 %. We do, however, continue to have a number of families classed as persistently absent, with attendance below 90%. We are actively working with these families, and in some cases, the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) is involved to provide extra support.

Term 3:

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	All Years
Attendance	92.39%	95.01%	96.16%	96.40%	96.09%	96.30%	97.26%	95.76%

Progress across school:

There have been some incredible examples of progress this term. Just this week, I saw a book in a class that, from September to now, is completely unrecognisable compared to the start of the year! In assembly last week, I shared the story of a child in Year 4 who was previously scoring lower in his MTC tests. Thanks to his hard work, effort and dedication – Flying High every day - he scored an incredible 24 out of 25 in his Term 3 assessment. Amazing progress in just three terms! This really shows the impact of everyone’s high expectations: from staff, parents and the children themselves. We can see amazing progress across the year. For example, just from TTRS, the difference in the Year 3 class heat map (the speed of the children’s recall) from the start of the year to now is remarkable! Children can now answer 8 x 3 nearly 6 seconds quicker on average. The next challenge is to turn all facts dark green!



The colours on this page relate to the speed shown in this table.



Key Dates:

Parents / Carers Meetings: Year 1 – Year 6	Term 5: 28th and 30th April
Wednesday 18 th March	Curriculum Showcase – all classrooms open to all parent / carers.
Monday 15 th June Sports Day	KS1 9:15 am KS2 10:45 am (Reserve Day Tuesday 16 th June.
Tuesday 14 th July	Reports to Parent / Carers
Inset Days:	

Monday 23rd March	
20th July 21st July	
Key Statutory Dates – all pupils to undertake.	
Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATs assessments week
Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June	Year 1 Phonics Tests and Year 2 Phonics re-tests
Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

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

Holly Class: Oliver C & Matilda August (Values) & Massimo (BCM)
Beech Class: Arthur & Ayva Imogen C (Values) & Ivy (BCM)
Oak Class: Olivia C & Elliot Ava C (Values) & Lauren (BCM)
Ash Class: Doohyun & Rose Jack (Values) & Fenton (BCM)
Sycamore Class: Rose & Flora Amelia (Values) & Parker (BCM)
Elm Class: Bonnie & Oliver Elizabeth (Values)
Mr Chappell's award: Willow (Year 6) and the Festival of Youth Dancers



Ignite Sport Achievements for the week:

Year 6- Sienna (Terrific Teamwork), Elsie (Really Resilient) and Oliver (Playing Fair)

Year 5- Fred (Terrific Teamwork), Archie (Fantastic Focus) and Marley (Excellent Effort)

Year 4- Nihal (Playing Fair), Oliver and Louie (Terrific Teamwork)

Year 3- Jacob (Calm and Confident) and Amelie (Playing Fair)

Year 2- Rocky, Vinnie (Calm and Confident), Ivy and Lucy (Caring and Kind)

Year 1- Rueben (Fantastic Focus), Arthur and Massimo (Excellent Effort) and Matilda (Playing Fair)