

**From Mr Chappell** I can't believe that we are half way through the year! Term 4 onwards always seems to fly by and it is the time when we start to see the children continue to mature and develop, emotionally and socially. Indeed one thing I used to say to my Year 5 class here, is that when you get to this stage of the year –technically we are Year 5.5 and as the children know from their Maths work, when you reach 0.5 you can round up to the nearest whole number- so in reality year 5.5 is the beginning of Year 6! In that way, we start to talk about raising the expectations and standards up again, as we come to the final few terms. This could be applied to all classes! The children have made great progress from their starting points so far this year but with continued focus and high standards we can already start getting ready for next year! This is where the relationship between school and home is so important –please set the high standard by continuing to make sure the children rehearse the basics that are much needed: please continue to read every night, rehearse number facts and times tables and learn a few spellings- not much to enable your children to be ready for the next year and to be Flying High! Have a great weekend.



**Visit from Luke Hall MP by Martha and Will Year 6.** Today we had a visit from Luke Hall MP, because we are learning about democracy and how we can make a difference to our world. We gave him some ideas about new bills that he could pass on to the House of Commons such as: tidal power, more pay for teachers and police and greater funding for sports facilities in our local area and more money for hospitals. Before we shared our ideas, he talked about how laws become laws and the different places in parliament for example the House of Lords and House of Commons. He also told us that the MPs in the House of Commons sat on green benches to remind them of grass as many of them used to be farmers. The House of Lords seats are red because they are expensive to dye and the most expensive seat is purple for the monarch. It was good fun listening to him and he also did a role play with, Toby from Year 5 the Prime Minister and Kai from Year 3 the King!

**Heads Peer review day:** As part of our ongoing school evaluation on the last day of last term, we were visited by two head teachers and two senior leaders, who went on a learning walk around our school to look at the quality of our reading provision. We have made significant investment (a huge thank you to



FOSH for this) in Read Write Inc and also made a number of small tweaks to our Guided Reading provision in Key Stage 2 classes. Following the great work that our reading subject leaders Mr Adams and Miss Paul have done, we wanted the head teachers to look at the impact of this work and the impact of teaching the new reading schemes. It was a good morning and we were left with lots of positive comments. As always there are a few things to work on but we were pleased with the outcome



of the written report. Alongside all the great work that the staff do in school, one thing that will also continue to benefit your children and that is your time to hear them read every night! Please find time every night after school to read for at least ten minutes a day! Just this week I have seen these children loving their reading - choosing to read on the playground at lunchtime. Reading is the key!



**Curriculum Showcase: Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup>** It was so nice to see so many people for our end of term 'open' classrooms. At the end of this 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.' Please ensure that you keep this date in your diaries as it is always a great occasion to take a look right across the school and the children enjoy showing their work.

**Parents Evening:** We are really looking forward to seeing you all in person next week at our parents evening. If you are yet to book an appointment, please click on the link below which will take you to the booking page on the school website. <https://www.sthelensprimary.org.uk/parents/parents-evening-booking/> As normal I will be around on both these evenings and free to chat to anyone who would like to discuss anything. If you would like an appointment to speak to me, please get in contact with the school office.

**Strike Action:** A reminder of the proposed dates of the next industrial action as proposed by the NEU. (National Education Union) The days proposed are: **Wednesday 15 March 2023, Thursday 16 March 2023.** Although once again whilst we were able to stay open yesterday this might not necessarily be the case on the upcoming days. 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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. Our Inset Day will be taking place at our partner school St.Mary's.

**Clubs:** Once again I would like to say a huge thank you to all those members of staff who have given up their time to run a club this year. This last week the following new clubs have started: Cross Country, KS2 Art Club with Mrs Thompson and Miss Cratchley and Eco Club with Mrs Tweehuysen, which are now all up and running alongside all our other great extra-curricular clubs. This week the children in cooking club with Mrs Oakey and Mrs Mclean- made Cheese Scones- they were amazing!



**Loose Parts:** With the summer months approaching we are really looking forward to using more of our loose parts on the field. You would have noticed our ever growing 'pen' where our loose parts are kept, we are looking to replicate this style on the field, where children can use their imagination to play. A number of the videos that I regularly put on Class Dojo showcases the great playtimes that we have. Please remember we are always looking for donations for loose parts, tyres, guttering etc please feel free to let us know if you would like to donate any. We are always after any lego, duplo, construction kits etc. Please just contact the school to let us know.



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

Cherry Class – Rocky & Amber

Holly class – Theo & Charlie

Beech class – Mark & Freddie

Oak class – Ruben & Avah

Ash Class – James & Lucia

Sycamore class – Luca & Ava

Elm class – Jess & Isabel

