

From Mr Chappell: It has been another busy week and once again the children (as always) have impressed me in so many ways. One of the most important things to us is the strong relationships that children have with each other, something that struck me this week, watching our children play happily in the sunshine with different year groups mixing and playing games. Enjoyment is a huge factor in our school, and something that really comes alive at break and lunchtimes, with all the different activities that go on. Hopefully the sunshine persists, and we will soon be into cricket and football on the field and not just smashing the balls around the playground! Have a great weekend!



World Book Day: The theme of this year's World Book Day was **'Read your Way.'** This was certainly something that all children enjoyed yesterday as they celebrated the power of books. It was great to see so many children talking with enthusiasm about their favourite books, and they even had time in the morning to select a classroom to go to and hear a book read by another teacher. We ended up with a range of great books being read and it was wonderful to hear children at lunchtime talking about the books that they had heard in the morning. As part of our Flying High ethos, we want all our children to enjoy reading for pleasure and this is something that World Book Day is all about. Ultimately at St. Helen's we want **every day to be world book day**, we want children to be reading everyday at home and having conversations with you about why they love reading. Look at the fun children were having yesterday devouring different books with friends, with adults and alone.



Loose Parts: As you know I cannot stand the *mess* of the loose parts scattered on the edge of the playground, but there is no denying that the loose parts are something that our children LOVE! The videos that I put on Class Dojo are a quick snippet of the fun that children have, playing imaginatively with them: whether building, constructing or using as an obstacle course. Over the last few years this has been a very strong feature of our playground environment, so much so, that we now have a small group of Year 4 children who have created their own union, to ensure that the loose parts are looked after and invested in by all children.

Please see a paragraph below from the children about the loose parts: From Archie, Amelia, Helen, Rosa, Freya, Zara and Marley in Year 4:

'We love loose parts because we use them in lots of different ways. We wanted to look after the loose parts but sadly because we play with them so much, they break. So, if anyone has extra crates, tyres, barrels, guttering, please feel free to bring them into school. When the loose parts break we move them to the outside of school to be thrown away.'

FOSH Promise Auction:



Auction of Promises

Please see a reminder below of another great FOSH fundraising event. So far already an incredible amount has been pledged, and we are nearly halfway to the total of £500. Thank you for your great support.

Final push for the FOSH auction promises: Please click the link below:

https://auctionofpromises.com/AuctionOfPromises_StHelensAlveston

All funds received will enhance school experiences for the children of St Helen's CE Primary School.

Thank you to everyone that has given or bid for a promise. With a couple of days left it is great to see that over £300 has already been promised.

Auction ends in 2 days 6hrs 52min



OFSTED: I have had a couple of parent/carers ask me when the OFSTED report will become available for them to read. Last week we received a draft report that as an SLT team we read through to verify the factual information, this was then sent back the following day to be ratified and quality assured by OFSTED and we now await the final report to be sent back to us. As soon as we get the report, we will share it with everyone.

Attendance: This week our EWO (Educational Welfare officer) was in school to review the children's attendance. I am pleased to say that our whole school attendance for this year remains high at 96.23% and the number of children who are classed as persistent absence (less than 90%) is decreasing and is as low as 7%, which is far below national averages. Thank you for your continued support with attendance.

Behaviour Policy: A reminder that we have made a slight tweak with our behaviour policy as reported in detail in the previous newsletter. If there are children who need a reflective, restorative conversation with a member of the SLT team, you will be notified by email or text on the same day, or as soon as possible, for you to follow up any issues with them. When things do go wrong, we endeavour to support all children and with your continued support, we know children will be aiming to be Flying High.

Parent/Carers Evening: It was great to see so many of you this week being able to share in all the positive learning experiences and work that your children are doing. For those parent/carers with children in Year 1 and 2, we will re-arrange these meetings as soon as we can.

Key Dates: Term 3 and 4	
Wednesday 12 th March	Year 5 and 6 Ancient Greek Day
Friday 14 th March	Ex-Pupil Emily Doughnut Sale to raise funds for Guides trip
Friday March 21 st	Inset Day #3
Monday 24 th March	Open the Book Prayer Spaces
Wednesday 26 th March	Year 3 and 4 Trip to Somerset Museum.
Wednesday 26 th March	Curriculum Showcase after school 3:40 pm to 4:15 pm
Thursday 3 rd April	School Internal Easter Service in Church.
Friday 4 th April	FOSH Break the Rules Day Information to follow.
Monday April 7 th – 21 st	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22 nd April	Term 5 Starts
Monday 12 th May – Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATs assessments week.

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



Holly Class: Pedro & Imogen	Rocky & Ella
Beech Class: Theo & Olivia	Roscoe & Reya-Mae
Oak Class: Louie & William	Aria & Oliver
Ash Class: Flora & Harrison	Hugo & Willow
Sycamore Class: James H & Elsie-Lou	James Y & Bronnie
Elm Class: Justin & Michael	Henry & Edward

