From Mr Chappell: This is a slightly different newsletter this week and after the letter that was sent out on Wednesday, I am sure that you will understand why!

Firstly, I want to say a HUGE thank you for all the lovely messages I have received over the last forty-eight hours. I've been genuinely overwhelmed by the emails, messages and in-person chats I've had since it was announced that I will be leaving at the end of the academic year - I don't think I have ever had so many hugs! Your words mean so much to me and reflects the amazing community of St. Helen's. This comes alongside the support many of you showed when my Dad sadly passed away in September. On both occasions, the kindness and care given to me by this community is something I will always remember.

As you will be aware, I have recently made the decision to leave St. Helen's for a new challenge, having accepted a role as Headteacher at another primary school just outside Bath. After 11 wonderful years at St. Helen's - including the last six years as Head of School - I want to say what an enormous privilege it's been to lead such a remarkable school and be part of such a supportive and caring community. When I reflect on the past decade, I feel incredibly proud of everything we have achieved together. From the dedicated and hard-working staff, I've had the pleasure of working alongside, to the parents and carers who continually support the school, and of course the wonderful children – both those who are here now and those who have since moved on. One of the most rewarding things about being part of this community is seeing former pupils and families, and hearing about where life has taken them (and occasionally even being served by them in the local pub!). It's moments like these that highlight just how special and connected our community really is.

When I first arrived, to work alongside the previous headteacher Mr Spens, in September 2014, we could immediately see the potential in this school. Through the dedication and hard work of all staff over the years, we have helped shape it into a place where children truly enjoy the opportunities they are given. There are so many memories that I will take with me (as you'll see from the photo montage on the following pages – I've included a couple, but I could have gone on and on when looking through old photos…) From outstanding sporting success to consistently high academic standards, and, most importantly, seeing every child find something in which they can be Flying High, it has been an incredible journey. Throughout it all, we have built a culture where children are inspired and empowered to 'Fly High' - and that is something very special indeed.

St Helen's has continued to grow from strength to strength, and it has been a joy to see our children truly flying high. Watching pupils develop into confident, curious and capable young people has always been the most rewarding part of my role. Getting to know the children, their families, and extended family members, is something that I have valued greatly. It is through these strong relationships that we have worked together to ensure that every child is supported, challenged and encouraged to become the very best version of themselves. St Helen's has always been a place where children feel valued, safe and inspired to learn - I am confident that this will continue long after I leave.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our fantastic staff team over the years, across every role. I want to say a huge thank you to both current and former members of staff I have had the privilege to work alongside.

Although it is time for me to move on to a new chapter, I will always look back on my time at St Helen's with great fondness and pride. I feel confident that the school will continue to flourish and that the children will keep achieving great things in the years ahead. I look forward to hearing all about the successes of St. Helen's – including, I hope, the prospect of being Gloucestershire Cricket County Champions again, given the talent of so many of children who enjoy cricket at playtimes. The role is now being advertised, and over the coming weeks we will be welcoming prospective new Headteachers to visit the school. I am sure that, as I did when I first visited in May 2014, they will immediately sense the special ethos and spirit that makes St. Helen's so unique. Thank you everyone - although we still have four months - to keep Flying High!

'Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community'
'They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31'

School Football Team Playing at Ashton Gate March 2015

Gloucestshire County Champions 2024 with Mr Leeming.

Both Boys and Girls teams– make it to the Gloucestshire County Finals at Cheltenham College June 2017- the only school to do so!

Year 5 Bristol Sport Jailbreak Champions 2025

Young Voices Choir Trips 2024 / 2026

St Helen's
CE Primary School

'Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community'
'They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31'

Newsletter 13

Friday 20th March 2026

Plane library being delivered. **Gardening club – one of a number of clubs that have been set up over the years- thank you staff!**

Services in Church. **Collective Worship -led by children.**

Thank you FOSH for all the events!

Musical Productions

Whole School Where's Wally Dressing up day – fundraising for the plane.

Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community' They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31' – Always Flying High.

St Helen's
CE Primary School

'Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community'
'They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31'

Newsletter 13

Friday 20th March 2026

Thank you everyone- children, families, all school staff, for creating the environment that is recognised externally:

SIAMS October 2025:

Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Notable Strengths

- The well-established Christian vision permeates the life of St Helen's. Its influence can be tracked in strategic decisions and daily interactions. The aspiration that everyone will be able to 'fly high' ensures barriers are overcome.
- Compassionate and determined leaders drive the vision so that it can be a lived experience. Their commitment and service to the whole school community transforms lives. Consequently, parents value the way leaders go 'above and beyond' their expectations.
- Senior leaders prioritise developing and sustaining positive relationships throughout the school community. These relationships ensure pupils, including those considered vulnerable, and their families, are nurtured and cared for. This allows them to 'fly high' regardless of their starting point.
- The Christian vision is carefully woven throughout the school's 'connected curriculum'. As a result, themes of justice and responsibility expose pupils to big, global, ethical issues.
- Pupils enjoy and value religious education (RE) which has a high profile in the school. They understand its importance in helping them appreciate and respect the views of others.

Shaped by its Christian vision, St Helen's is a welcoming, supportive and inclusive school community. This well-established vision links flourishing to the language of 'flying high'. As a result, it creates a culture that recognises the unique worth and value of each individual. The vision influences leaders' decisions and actions at all levels. For example, it is reflected in strategic, long-term choices such as the federation partnership with St Mary's. It can also be seen in small daily interactions and the intentional way positive relationships are created and sustained. Consequently, pupils describe being happy, curious and excited when they arrive at school. They expect to 'fly high'. This is because leaders at St Helen's actively identify and strive to overcome any barriers to flourishing and learning. Leaders work with parents, carers, governors, staff and pupils to ensure that daily life echoes the vision and its associated values.

Opening lines to OFSTED report January 2025:

Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

What is it like to attend this school?

St Helen's is a happy and friendly school. Pupils form positive relationships with each other and staff. This helps them to enjoy school. Pupils share any worries they have with adults, who help to solve them. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) who struggle with their emotions are given effective support in 'The Nest'. This helps pupils to manage their behaviour better in the classroom. The school has ambitions for its pupils to 'fly high'. Typically, these are realised but the school is ambitious for pupils to learn even more.

The school has a calm and purposeful atmosphere. In lessons, pupils behave well. In the early years, children listen well to adults. Pupils work hard and take pride in the presentation of their work. They discuss their learning with enthusiasm. Pupils develop a love of literature in the school's impressive 'reading plane'.

Pupils benefit from an interesting and wide range of clubs in which to develop new interests. Sport has a high profile. Pupils talk proudly about representing the school in tournaments. This helps them to understand the importance of teamwork. Older pupils learn about independence and perseverance through residential trips. They apply these newfound skills well back in class.

Key Dates:	
Parents / Carers Meetings: Year 1 – Year 6	**Term 5:** 28th and 30th April
Thursday 2nd April	**FOSH Non-uniform Day**
Monday 15th June Sports Day	KS1 9:15 am KS2 10:45 am (Reserve Day Tuesday 16th June.
Tuesday 14th 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: Flo & Eloise Aathilan & August
Beech Class: Vinne & Wren Olive & Teddy
Oak Class: Rocky & Fraser Elliot & Berry
Ash Class: Aria & Arlo Bethany & Hallie
Sycamore Class: Holly & Harrison Obi & Freya
Elm Class: Dougie & Isabelle Bronnie & Joshua
Mr Chappell's award: Belle (Year 6) & Marley (Year 5) Aathilan (Year 1) & Nilavan (Year 1)