

**From Mr Chappell:** As I do every year in the final newsletter, I will start with a HUGE thank you to all our members of staff. Every single member of our team works incredibly hard to ensure your children receive the best possible education. Every day, across every role in school, our staff go above and beyond to create a positive, enriching, and engaging experience for all our pupils, through excellent teaching, exciting extra-curricular activities, and meaningful enrichment opportunities. As OFSTED highlighted in their visit this January: ***'St Helen's is a happy and friendly school. Pupils form positive relationships with each other and staff. This helps them to enjoy school.'*** These relationships lie at the heart of everything we do and remains our highest priority. I'm sure you have joined me in saying your own 'thank you' to all the staff. Also, I'd like to thank you, our families, for your continued support over the last year. The strong partnership between school and home plays a vital role in helping every child progress from their starting point. Have a lovely summer break and we'll see you on the first day back for children on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

**Year 6:** A huge thank you, good luck and good-bye, to all our incredible Year 6 children! You have been an amazing year group! From your starting points, you've made fantastic progress (see results below), time and time again you have represented our school with excellence on so many different occasions. You've followed our school values every single day and **quite simply, you have been brilliant!** Today, in church we said our goodbyes with a wonderful leaver's service, followed by our unique St Helen's tradition of 'Flying High' of leaving through the front door, a symbolic and special send-off. Each and every single one of you will be missed! To all parents/ carers: thank you for your amazing support throughout years! Your time, energy and dedication have made a huge difference – we truly appreciate it.

**Good luck Year 6!**



**Attendance:** Thank you for your ongoing support with improving school attendance. This year, our whole school attendance was 95.28% - marking the third consecutive year of improvement, which is something to be proud of. Despite this positive trend, we have seen a slight increase in the number of families classed as persistently absent. This is an area that we will be targeting next year. It's also important to note that we have had **103 absence requests, the majority for holidays of differing lengths**. Quite bluntly, over this year we have seen a number of 'absences' phoned in with sickness/ illness, only for children to openly share their exciting holiday experiences, before and after they've been away. As an educator and parent myself, I fully understand the importance of family time and the financial pressures that come with booking holidays during peak times. However, the Department of Education's guidance is very clear, holidays during term time do not qualify as reasonable grounds for authorised absence. As a result, from September onwards, we will be taking a more proactive approach. If there is any doubt about the reason for absence, please do not be offended if we will ask for further details. The guidance is very clear about the number of unauthorised absences over a three year period. As we do with regular day to day absences, we are closely monitoring absence request forms from families, 103 is a significant number! Thank you for your support in this matter.

Well done to 102 children and families, who had a whole year attendance of over 97%, an incredible amount of children.

Well done to Year 3 who had the best attendance in the whole school.

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	All Years
Attendance	92.27%	95.72%	96.09%	96.20%	95.69%	95.56%	95.16%	95.28%



**Please note that Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September we will be holding our introductory 'Meet the Teacher' from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm.** This will be a valuable opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and learn about the key expectations for the year ahead. The first session will run from 3:30pm to 3:55pm, followed by a second session 4pm to 4:25pm. The short break allows time to move between classrooms if you have children in more than one class. **Please note: this event does not include EYFS Cherry Class.** Any information shared at the meeting will be placed on Class Dojo immediately

following the meeting for those unable to attend. We appreciate it is straight after school and that you may have your children with you, but we encourage you to bring them along to the session so that they can hear first-hand what will be expected of them throughout the year. Children should stay with you during the session and not be in other parts of the school.

**School Day Changes:** We'd like to remind you about the changes to the school day that were shared previously. The gates will be opening at **8:40am** ready for children to be in class by **8:45am**. This will be a change for all our school community and please be aware that there is **no more 'phased time in'** in the morning to arrive. We will be locking the gates at 8:50am so please ensure that you are on time. This is important learning time as in this period from 8:45am to 8:55am all children will be covering key maths facts so they must be in and on time. If your child is late during this period, they will miss out on this valuable time, equivalent to 50 minutes Maths learning each week, that their peers will be receiving – lateness will be monitored and followed up! Please prioritise getting to school on time! Remember school will finish at 3:15 pm and the gates will open at 3:05 pm.

**Year 6 Statutory Results:** 98% of you highlighted in OFSTED's Parent View in January **'that my child does well at this school.'** This is once again reinforced by the statutory assessments test (SATs) that the year 6s completed in May. After seven years in our school the outcomes that are children achieve are extremely good.

	Reading	Writing (TA)	Maths	SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)
<b>Year 6 SATs School</b>	EXS = 83% GDS = 47%	EXS = 80% GDS = 17 %	EXS = 87% GDS = 37%	EXS = 90% GDS= 30%
<b>Local Authority Averages</b>	EXS= 74 % GDS = 32%	EXS= 72% GDS = 7%	EXS= 75% GDS = 26%	EXS= 71% GDS = 28%
<b>National Averages</b>	EXS= 74% GDS = 28%	EXS= 72% GDS = 13%	EXS= 73% GDS = 24%	EXS= 72% GDS = 32%

EXS = Expected Standard GDS= Greater Depth above the Expected Standard.

As you can see from the data above, as a school for Year 6 SATs we continue to be above local and national averages, which is a great achievement. Thank you for your continued support, Year 6 parents/carers, and a huge well done to all children

that did their best and have all made tremendous progress from their starting points. Indeed, across all year groups, there have been huge successes, and we know that **ALL children whatever their final achievements**, have tried their best. This is all that we ask for, that children try their best and aim to be Flying High.

These results are fantastic and only serve to reinforce the importance of continuing to instil the core foundations in our children's learning. With your ongoing support, we can help them thrive. Please continue to support your child by reading with them every evening helping them practice those key multiplication facts. The extra learning they do at home every night truly does make a difference. Seven years at St. Helen's with your support really does help!

**House Points Winners:** Huge Congratulations to **Brabazon House**, who became this year's House Winners.

**1<sup>st</sup> Brabazon House: 19,728    2<sup>nd</sup> Blenheim House 18,378    3<sup>rd</sup> 18,315 Britannia House    4<sup>th</sup> Concorde House 18,081**

**Well done to all children for all their achievements in collecting so many house points this year. To achieve nearly 80,000 points as whole school is a brilliant accolade.**

### Safeguarding through the summer

Our greatest priority is to always ensure the safety, well-being and happiness of all our children. The safeguarding of all our children remains our number one priority always even over the summer holidays. If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding our children, even over the summer holidays, please contact us as a matter of urgency via the school email which is regularly checked. As you know I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (Mr Chappell) and Mrs Simpson and Mr Leeming DDSL (Deputy Safeguarding Leads)

We are always contactable via the school email [sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk)

South Gloucestershire Council's Safeguarding Access and Response Team (ART) is also available to report concerns about a child: 01454 866000 Monday to Thursday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm (4.30 on Friday) and 01454 615165 out of hours and at weekends

### Academic Year 2025-26

Term	Starts	Ends	Inset Day
<b>Term 1</b>	Monday 1 September 2025	Friday 24 October 2025	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 3 November 2025	Friday 19 December 2025	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 5 January 2026	Friday 13 February 2026	
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 23 February 2026	Thursday 2 April 2026	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Term 5</b>	Monday 20 April 2026	Friday 22 May 2026	
<b>Term 6</b>	Monday 1 June 2026	Tuesday 21 July 2026	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026</b>



**Holly Class: Vinnie (Values Sheild)**  
**Beech Class: Eli (Values)**  
**Oak Class: Georgie H (Values)**  
**Ash Class: Olivia (Values)**  
**Sycamore Class: Elizabeth (Values)**  
**Elm Class: Michael (Values)**

**Wren (Brave Change Maker)**  
**Roscoe (BCM)**  
**Eva H (BCM)**  
**Elliott (BCM)**  
**Logan (BCM)**  
**Viola (BCM)**

**Flying High Weekly Shields: Taamiran (Y5) Dougie (Y5)**

