

From Mr Chappell: As a staff we have continued to be very impressed by the children's amazing attitudes and effort across the whole school. It feels like the school year is now really underway and we're racing towards half term with plenty of exciting things going on all across the school. Indeed this week the Year 3 and 4 children had an amazing Anglo-Saxons workshop, Year 6 held their Camp reflection assembly for Parents whilst Reception class, have set up their very own café! Not forgetting all the other year groups who have worked very hard and been Flying High all week! As we say to all children - there are so many opportunities within in school, so make the most of it every day! As the boxer Muhammad Ali once said 'don't count the days but make the days count!' Keep Flying High every day! Have a great weekend!

Reading Daily: We have always prided ourselves on developing a reading culture at St Helen's and inspiring our children to love reading! Learning to read and continuing to read for longer periods of time opens up so many different avenues. With this in mind we would like to remind you of the importance of hearing your children read daily! Staff have expressed recently that a number of children particularly in Key Stage 2 are not reading in their own time at home. Whilst we know that sometimes parents/carers may forget to fill out your children's reading journal, please ensure that you are reading for at least ten minutes a day with your children - it is so important to share a book!

Harvest Festival: Our Harvest festival will be held in church on Thursday 20th October. As in previous years, we will be collecting any donations of tinned goods, pasta etc. and all our contributions will go alongside the church collection to be donated to the Community of Sisters Church in Central Bristol.



Messy Church: Message from Rev David.

Please feel free to come along this Sunday 9th October to Messy Church starting at 9 am, for breakfast and also see the harvest produce from our own gardening club.

Attendance: Yesterday, I had my termly meeting with our EWO (Educational Welfare Officer) and our school attendance Governor. At these meetings we go through all the children in school to look at their individual attendance and broken weeks and then make decisions on the next steps. Our whole school attendance target is 97% and although as a whole school we are slightly below this, in comparison to previous years the number of children with attendance less than 90% at this time of year is a concern. Whilst we know that the first few weeks back can 'obscure the data' a little bit, one thing that the EWO is looking at, is the number of children with 'broken weeks,' those children who do not attend for a full week regularly. (Three broken weeks by this time would be a concern). Indeed, this is also a priority for the DfE (Department for Education) who are having a huge drive to increase attendance across the country. We have always talked about the importance of attendance and we really value your support in this. Please do not take offence if we have to have any informal conversations about your child's attendance or even if we have to go down a more formal route. Ensuring that your children are in school every day, enables them to be Flying High at St Helen's and helps contribute to their academic and more importantly their social and personal development. A reminder that our school attendance policy is on our school website and a reminder that we cannot authorise any holiday requests.

<https://www.sthelensprimary.org.uk/our-school/policies/>

The whole school attendance at the end of week 5 currently stands at 95.8% - with a real push we can continue to increase this! Thank you for your continued support with this.

Clubs Information: Hopefully you should have received an email all about the clubs for Term 2- we are really looking forward to all the extra-curricular activities that will be on offer for Year groups 1 to 6. Letters to sign up for clubs will be sent out to parents/carers early next week.



Gardening Club



Year 5 and 6 Football Club

Applications for Primary and Secondary Places:

Prospective Parents 2023: If you have any younger siblings due to start school in September 2023, please visit our school website with details of the dates for tours around our school. Likewise if you know any parents, who are considering our lovely school, please pass on the link and encourage them to look at our school website.

<https://www.sthelensprimary.org.uk/admissions/prospective-parents/>

A reminder:

Is your child due to start primary or secondary school in September 2023?

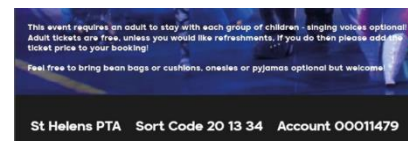
The application process for places is now open. Read South Gloucestershire Council's web pages and admission guides at www.southglos.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The deadline for secondary schools is 31 October 2022. The deadline for primary applications is 15 January 2023.

Lunchbreak Supervisors: We are looking to appoint a Lunchtime Supervisor to join our busy and friendly team. This is a key position within the school, if you feel you could work every day in this very rewarding role from 12:10pm to 1:25pm, please contact the school office for further information. Some of the duties will include: Assisting children with their lunch, encouraging social skills, manners and values in the dining hall, develop playground games and activities.

FOSH - Friends of St Helen's News: AGM FOSH would like to invite you to their Annual General Meeting, to be held on **Monday 17th October 2022**. This meeting will be held at The Ship Inn, in Alveston, from 7:30pm. Elections will be held for Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Please do consider whether you would like to stand for any of these roles and come along to support the work of FOSH.

Movie Night: Friday 14th October: 5:30 pm



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

Holly class – Noah Liliana Charlie.St Bethany

Beech class – Jame Holly Lizzie Willow

Oak class – Bronnie James Sienna Dougie

Ash class – Abigail Michael Viola Lily

Sycamore class – Evie Catherine Lexi-Mae Ava

Elm class – Will Jonathan Martha Seth



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