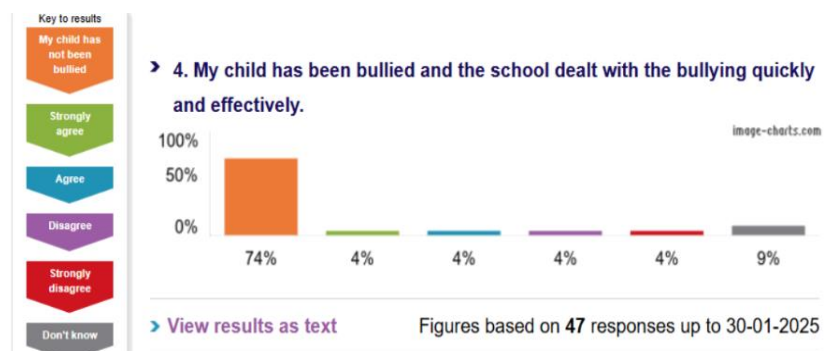


From Mr Chappell I want to start by saying a huge thank you for the messages I received from lots of you, on the sad loss of my Dad. It is at times like these, that you realise what a great place St. Helen's is, with the community of staff, parents/carers and children all coming together. It has been an incredibly tough week but coming back yesterday meant that I was able to immerse myself back into what makes St. Helen's so amazing - being with the children! Thank you for your continued support. I really appreciate it all. Have a great weekend.

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



Anti-Bullying Week: November 10th – 14th. During our previous OFSTED inspection in January, over 82% of responses said that there was no bullying in school, with a further 9% unsure. Only 8% (4 people out of 47) reported that there was some bullying. Last year we dealt with only a very small number of official bullying cases. Whilst this is encouraging, we would like to see this fall even further. In November, we will be joining other schools across the country in activities for Anti-Bullying week as part of the national Anti-Bullying Alliance campaign. However, we also want to stress that every day should be an anti-bullying day.

Our aim is that all our children feel safe, supported and happy at school. If you have any concerns, please contact the school office, we are always here to listen. We do our best to resolve friendship issues and other worries before they escalate into bigger problems. This is an important part of school life and something we take seriously. Thank you for your continued support in helping us make our school a safe and caring place for everyone.

Opening times: Previously, we operated a phased opening where children could arrive between 8:45am and 9am. With the changes to the school day, we want to remind you that school starts promptly at **8:45am. All children should be in their classrooms, ready to begin learning, by this time.** We appreciate that moving away from phased opening has taken a bit of getting used to, but the school hours are **8:45am to 3:15pm**. The classroom doors open at 8:45am so that children can begin their 15-minute Maths session straight away. While the first few weeks of this change went smoothly, we have noticed an increasing number of children arriving 5/10 minutes late. Just a small delay adds up, being 5 minutes late each day means **25 minutes of missed Maths each week.** We continue to monitor punctuality closely to ensure every child makes the most of their learning time.

To help with this, the school gates will open slightly earlier at 8:35am, to give plenty of time for the children to get into class. Please support us by making the necessary adjustments at home – whether that's leaving a little earlier or setting the alarm a bit sooner.

We appreciate your support in helping all children arrive on time and ready to learn.



A reminder: Prospective Parents 2026: If you have any younger siblings due to start school in September 2026, or if you know any parents/carers who may be considering our lovely school, please do share our website link and encourage them take a look at all that St Helen's has to offer. The tour dates for prospective parent/carers are: **Tours are available from 11:15 pm to 12:15 pm on the following dates:** Monday 6th October 2025, Monday 13th October 2025, Tuesday 4th November 2025, Monday 10th November 2025, Tuesday 18th November 2025, Monday 24th November 2025, Monday 8th December 2025

Please email the school office to book a place on the tour.

Communication: As we have shared before, we are very proud of our school and all that we achieve together. As a school we always strive to do our very best with the resources and capacity that we have. We kindly ask that this is kept in mind within your interactions with all staff, at every level. Our team works hard every day to provide the very best possible education and care for all our children. We recognise that we may not always get everything right, but please know that we are committed to doing our best and continuously improving. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding, it really makes a difference.



TTRS/ FOSH Non Uniform Day: Friday 17th October: With a donation of a £1 or more, all children are more than welcome to dress up as a Times Tables Rock Star for the day. (This replaces our annual non uniform day for FOSH.) During this day the House Captains will be running a number of different timestables competitions and it may also see the emergence of some old



St.Helen's Rockstars. Once again a huge thank you to members of FOSH, who give up their time to run different events. They are always looking for volunteers especially for larger events like the Discos and Christmas Fair on Friday 12th December. Please contact FOSH via email: foshalveston

Key Dates: Term 1 and 2:	
Friday 17 th October	FOSH / TTRS Dress Up as a Rockstar Day £1 donation.
Thursday 23 rd October	Harvest Festival
Friday 24 th October	Inset day
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th November	Anti-Bullying week.
December TBC	Nativity / KS1 Nativity / Year 3 / 4 Christingle
Friday 12th December	FOSH Christmas Fair 3:30 pm onwards
Parents / Carers Meetings:	Term 3: 13 th and 15 th January Term 5: 28 th and 30 th April
Key Statutory Dates	
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: Massimo & Florence **Cornellio & Olive**
Beech Class: Imogen C & Max L **Lucy & Arthur**
Oak Class: Prithvicka & Jacob C **Barnaby & Berry**
Ash Class: Bethany & William **Charlie & Quinn**
Sycamore Class: Neve & Finn **Holly & Ciara**
Elm Class: Belle & Oliver **Sara & James Y**

