

**From Mr Chappell:** It has been wonderful this week to watch the children making the most of every opportunity, whether it's on the playground with the new play equipment or engaging with their learning in the classroom. We have continued our weekly prospective parents and carers tours for 2026, some of which are led by our Year 6 children, and we were also pleased to welcome a visit from a member of the local authority education team, who visited to look around school following our recent SIAMS report. On both occasions, visitors all left commenting on how amazing the children were in the classrooms they saw. Feedback like this is such a nice thing to hear and resonates with our school vision:

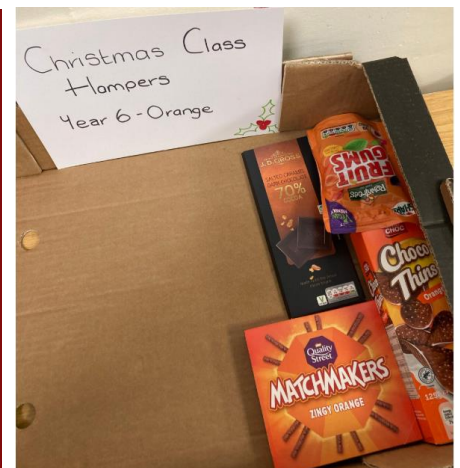
***'Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community'***  
***'They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31'***

Have a great weekend.



**SFAT (Severn Federation Academy Trust) Meeting:** Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the recent SFAT meeting. During the meeting, the steps taken by the governors were outlined when making the decision to move into an academy trust, including the process of meeting a range of different trusts before deciding to join SFAT. A timeline for next steps across this academic year was also

shared. We will be writing to parents/carers shortly with more information, as we look forward to hopefully joining the academy at the start of the next academic year, in September 2026.



**FOSH Christmas Fair:** A reminder that it is getting closer to our Christmas Fair. FOSH (Friends of St Helen's) are still looking for volunteers to help on the day. Please get in contact with your FOSH class rep or contact the school office if you can help volunteer for some length of time.

**Prayer Spaces:** Next week we are really looking forward to working with our wonderful Church Community Team, *Open the Book*, as we visit church for the first of our three annual Prayer Spaces. All classes from Year 1 to 6 will take part in carefully planned activities led by the Open the Book Team. Our EYFS children will also be visited over the new few weeks so that they can be fully immersed in Prayer Spaces. Please see below for a little more information from the Open the Book team themselves about next week's Prayer Spaces:



*The Four Presents of Advent leading to the Joy of Christmas!*

*The aim of the prayer space is to highlight the season of Advent, being present (mindful) in our lives as well as taking time to reflect on the four presents (in house colours). We shall connect with the significance of the Advent wreath, what each candle represents and how that will connect to the four presents that the children can see. Inside each present there will be 4 'gifts' connected to the season of advent (eg: a wreath, a peace dove & Olive branch, a heart, an empty box) to represent Hope, Peace, Love and Joy which Christians*

*are invited to reflect on during the four Sundays of Advent. The school value of the term is 'Respect' so the children will be encouraged to respect each other's words, there is no 'right or wrong' answer. We will incorporate the Church of England's*

theme of the Joy of Christmas – the joy of opening your Christmas stocking/ presents and discovering something expected or unexpected

**Children’s Church Choir: Please see message below from Rev Moss from our local church.**

New singers needed for the Children’s Choir! (at St. Helen’s Church Alveston) The next CHILDREN’S CHOIR concert will be the Alveston Village Carol Service on 21st December at 4pm. We are open to everyone who loves singing and can read the words of the songs. Practices 6.30pm every Tuesday starting December 2nd.

To find out more, please text CHILDREN’S CHOIR to 07890262334 or email the [revsrural@gmail.com](mailto:revsrural@gmail.com)

Information about our safeguarding policy can be found on the website <https://www.revsrural.com/>

Term	Attendance %
Autumn 2024-2025	95.4%
Autumn 2025-2026	96.7%
Trend	↑

**Attendance:** As we head into the first weeks of the cold winter months, it is encouraging to see that our overall attendance remains ahead of where it was this time last year. However, the number of unauthorised absences, children who are classed as persistently absent (less than 90% attendance) and those with broken weeks is

beginning to rise. Although we are not due an EWO (Educational Welfare Visit) for a couple of weeks, we will be inviting some families to meet with us to explore the reasons behind declining attendance, particularly where there are regular broken weeks. Overall, class average attendances across the school are good and, with four weeks of the term left, we would love to see each class improve further – especially in EYFS, where attendance is currently significantly lower than in the other classes. Currently, we have 161 children with an attendance above 96%, including 85 children with 100% attendance. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement around attendance - it really does make a difference.

**Contact Details:** *If there are any changes to telephone numbers or home addresses, please contact the school office immediately. We kindly ask all parent and carers ensure that their contact details are up to date.*

Key Dates:	
Monday December 1 <sup>st</sup>	NSPCC workshops in school Year 6, Year 5, Year 2
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>Whole school individual photographs</b>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Open Classrooms from 3:20 pm - visit your child/ren’s class to look at their curriculum books.
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity 9:30am to Parents/Carers
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	FOSH Christmas Fair 3:30pm onwards
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and 2 Nativity to Parents/Carers 9:30am
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and 2 Nativity to Parents/Carers 2pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and Christingle Service to Parents/Carers - church 5pm start
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	First day back Term 3
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Young Voices Choir Trip to Birmingham Arena.
<b>Parents / Carers Meeting Year EYFS</b>	<b>Term 2: 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 3:30pm to 6pm.</b>
<b>Parents / Carers Meetings: Year 1 – Year 6</b>	<b>Term 3: 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January Term 5: 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>
Key Statutory Dates – all pupils to undertake.	
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Year 6 SATs assessments week</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 1 Phonics Tests and Year 2 Phonics re-tests</b>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check</b>

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

**Holly Class:** Milo & Eloise August & Bobby

**Beech Class:** Milana & Nihal Ella & Ayva

**Oak Class:** Harry L & Lili Luna C & Lauren

**Ash Class:** Noah & Louie Oliver & Rufus

**Sycamore Class:** Albie & Amelia Rose & Hugo

**Elm Class:** Josh & Elsie-Lou George & Parker

**Mr Chappell’s award:** James H (Year 3) & Annabelle (Year 3)

