

**From Mr Chappell** It has been such a busy few weeks, but once again we cannot fault the effort of the children. Indeed, last Friday, we were visited by a local head teacher and our local authority CSP (Challenge School Partner) who comes into school regularly to monitor the quality of our work. They spent the whole morning working with Miss Hurd and visiting every class to look at Maths in our school. As is always the case, the children's attitudes, engagement and behaviour was fantastic and the children who were spoken to in the Maths lessons and shared their learning, were a credit to themselves and their families. There were lots of positive 'takeaways' for us to consider and as always, a few things to work on, but one thing that I took away was a comment from the head, about the *'amazing relationships'* that our children and staff have. One of her observations was that the children wanted to work hard for themselves and their teachers and teaching assistants, and she talked about the mutual respect between staff and children. As you know, this is one of the things that we hold most dear about our school, the relationships that all our staff have with the children and yourself as parents / carers. This is a real strength of our school and as we have said before – please speak to us, if you have any concerns about anything. In the age of social media and WhatsApp groups it is all too easy to add comments to these groups about things that we might or might not be doing. As I have always said we don't always get everything right but if there is a concern or issue, please speak to us directly and not let things escalate on a group. We are here to try and help! Next week – we will produce a 'photo' newsletter to bring together all the great things that the children have been doing in the final week of term. Have a great weekend.

**Curriculum Showcase:** A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Curriculum Showcase after school on Wednesday. The work across the school represented the children's work on our Brave Changemakers Topic of: Identity and Diversity, for example you may have visited EYFS class, to see the children's work on identifying emotions and feelings, whilst lower Key stage 2 presented work on the book Henry's Freedom Box. In every year group you may have visited I am sure you would have been blown away by some of the writing and art work on display. It was great to have so many different conversations with parents / carers in KS1, who visited Year 5 and 6 to see the work that their children will be aspiring to in a few years time. Look out for further photos and videos on Class Dojo over the next week or so.



Year 2



Year 5



Year R

**Clubs at St.Helen's:** As you know we have made a huge effort to develop our range of clubs over the last couple of years. These clubs are so important to enable our children to develop their personal development in a range of different ways: learning new skills, building resilience, respecting external coaches, parent's and volunteers, who run the clubs. Just this week, we have seen the start of a new craft club and numbers increasing in our new chess club both run by parents. Thank you to everyone - school staff and volunteers who run a club, it is very much appreciated. We have well over 100+ children who are attending at least one club. If you would like to run a club, please speak to the office and we will see what we can do. Definitely Flying High in all our different clubs!



**FOSH Christmas Fair:** A huge thank you to all the FOSH team for the amazing Christmas Fair last Saturday. We also want to say a huge thank you to the Year 3 parents / carers who organised a Christmas Wreath making evening this week. This was very successful and again raised funds that will be allocated through FOSH to school. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these very successful events. The work that all the volunteers do to help raise funds is vitally important and we are really grateful for everyone's time.



**Young Voices:** As you know, our Choir are currently fundraising to help raise funds for their amazing trip to the O2 in London in January as part of the Young Vocies Choir. Next Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, after school, some parents will be selling **Christmas Sweet Cones** – cash only please. Thank you for your support around this.

**Attendance:** As we come towards the end of Term 2, I am delighted to say that our attendance this term has remained consistently high compared to this time last year. The overall school attendance is 96.6%, which is a good start to the year. There are a number of classes across the school where the attendance remains above our high target of 97%. (See below) which is great! A fantastic 65 children out of 207 = 32% have 100% attendance across this term and of these another 60 have attendance about 97%. This makes a brilliant 125 children out of 207 = 60.3% above the school target. As we come to the end of term we want this attendance to remain as high as possible. The number of children who are classed as 'persistent absentees' those with attendance less than 90% is going down week by week. (This is a small amount.) We make no excuses that this is one area we want to improve and in the new year we will continue to work with families on this, alongside our EWO. (Educational Welfare Officer.) Once again we thank you for your support in this, as like uniform, attendance is something out of the control of the children and something that you as parents/ carers decide! Please help us with this and we would love to see all classes' attendance improve further in Term 3. Attendance is something that we don't normally reward- as good attendance is something we expect at St.Helen's but next term as a one off, because of it being a really short term of six weeks, all classes where the attendance improves from this terms total will be rewarded with an extra long play. Six weeks = 30 days which is not a huge amount to be in (if well enough to be so) so can we get 100 % from as many children as possible across this term! Thank you for your continued support on this really important issue.



97-100%	1-5 days of learning missed in the year
95-96.9%	5.5-10 days of learning missed in the year
93-94.9%	10.5-14.5 days of learning missed in the year
90-92.9%	15-17.5 days of learning missed in the year
Below 90%	More than 17.5 days of learning missed in the year

Year R	95.8%
Year 1	96.96%
Year 2	96.4%
Year 3	<b>97.3%</b>
Year 4	<b>97.22%</b>
Year 5	96.03%
Year 6	95.67%

<b>Key Dates:</b>	
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity 9:30am -10:30am
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity 2pm – 3pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and 4 Christingle Service in Church 4pm.
<b>Inset Days:</b>	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	

### Well done to those children who were awarded a Celebration Certificate and Award!

Holly class – Roscoe, Jenson, Emily & Harry  
Beech class – Liam, Milne, Molly & Doohyun  
Oak class – Neve, Hugo, Amelia & Mark

Ash class – Freddie, Isabelle, Becky & Isla  
Sycamore class – Kaia, Lola, Ocean & Eden  
Elm Class – Darcy, Amber, Amelia & Rose

