

From Mr Chappell:

As part of our ongoing school development, last week we had a visit from our CSP (Challenge School Partner). As part of our local authority work, the CSP will spend a day in school meeting leaders to talk about the impact of their work, observing lessons, looking at books and talking to children. The focus of our CSP visit this term was Early Reading, Phonics and Writing. With the new implementation of Read Write Inc. we asked the CSP to look at the impact of this work and to have a look at what has been achieved so far. The CSP found a number of strengths in both areas and commented: *'The lessons visited exhibited fidelity to the scheme, with all teaching staff using the correct vocabulary and specified teaching approaches. Pupils understand the learning routines and adhere to them well. Although still at the relatively early stages of implementation, it is clear that teachers are developing their proficiency with the programme confidently and quickly. The new phonics leader has been trained by the appointed external RWInc consultant and worked alongside her to develop a clear implementation plan. This has helped ensure that the RWInc approach is being implemented effectively. Senior leaders have ensured there are regular meetings between the external consultant and the phonics lead to help evaluate progress and plan next steps.'*

In terms of writing, there was also highlighted strengths across the school, with the CSP finding: *'Visits to the lesson evidenced the consistency and effectiveness with which the writing model is being implemented in terms of the teaching strategies and the process. Teachers were skilled in modelling the writing process and asking questions to develop children's compositional ideas as well as their understanding of the grammatical conventions needed. The pupils clearly enjoy their writing lessons, and high-quality examples of writing were seen in all classes visited. Books evidence that teachers are using their assessment to adapt the sequence of learning and address misconceptions. There are also planned opportunities for children to proofread and edit their writing to make improvements during the phases of the teaching sequence. In every year group visited there were examples of some very high-quality handwriting. It is clear that teacher instruction and expectations of handwriting and presentation are in line with the new approach.'*

It was great to have some external validation of the work that has been going on since we returned and hopefully you are seeing some of this in the way your children participate with their reading at home daily and in the books you saw at parent's evening. At the staff meeting on Wednesday we reflected on the strengths of this report but more importantly focussed on some of the development points that we still need to work on. We also reflected on our mantra that, if we as staff are 'good' everyday, then all our children will make good progress. Thank you for your continued support in helping us with this, by doing the core basics of reading every day!

Finally, as parents/carers, I am sure you will join me in saying a HUGE thank you to every single member of the staff team. It goes without saying that it has been an incredible effort all term and so many different members of staff have taken on different roles in the last few months to enable the smooth running of the school. We hope over Christmas that they get to have a well-deserved break and that they and you will get to spend lots of time with their families. We also hope that all the children have a lovely break.

Next week there will not be a newsletter, but we will endeavour to develop a 'newsletter' of photographs from the last couple of weeks of term, for you to enjoy.

Have a great Christmas and New Year break and please remember that the first day back, **Tuesday 3rd January, is an Inset Day** – so we will see you all back on Wednesday 4th January!

FOSH Christmas Fair:

A big thank you to everyone who attended last week's school fair! It was a great afternoon and the attendance was great. A huge thank you to every single member of FOSH, who were here late on Friday night and up early again on the Saturday morning to get things ready for what turned out to be a great occasion.



Message from FOSH Committee:

Wow! What a weekend! Firstly, we'd like to thank each and every one of you who came along to the Christmas Fair last weekend! It was so lovely to see the school full of hustle and bustle and so many happy, smiling faces! Big thanks also, to everyone who helped before, during and after the event too! We've had some wonderful feedback from so many of you which we really appreciate and hope will strengthen future events. Seeing the children who visited the 'Elfridges' shop in their element was just magical - the elves loved helping them choose their gifts for their loved ones! Thank you once again to all of the amazing businesses and to yourselves for so many kind donations towards to Prize Draw. We now have an incredible 49 prizes with everything from a family photoshoot, afternoon tea experiences, a wine tasting and vineyard tour, sports events and family days out - along with a chocolate hamper and prizes from our stall holders and other local businesses. There are a few days left to buy your tickets, and feel free to share the link outside of the school community! The draw will be made at 7pm on Sunday 11th December- good luck!

<https://raffall.com/324517/enter-raffle-to-win-fosh-christmas-draw-hosted-by-fran-clarke>



Cars around school: Please can we remind all parents/carers about safety around school at the start and end of the day. Over the last couple of days we have had some reports of near misses with some cars narrowly missing children and cars being parked, waiting in places that they shouldn't be! Even if you are running later please do not park in places that are clearly shown to be no parking / waiting (yellow zig zag lines!) If you are running late, we would much rather children get to school later or are picked up a little bit later as you had to park further away, than a child not get to school at all because of the consequences of not following the right procedures. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this vital aspect!

Attendance: We are receiving a large number of holiday request forms at this moment. Can we remind you all, **that we cannot authorise any holiday requests during term time.** More information about attendance and the expectations can be found on our school website.

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



Year 5 and 6 Showcase As part of their Connected Curriculum work on Peace and Conflict the children in Year 5 and 6 developed projects on Nobel Peace Winners, this was then shared with parents on Wednesday. Thank you to all parents who were able to attend this session. Next Thursday 15th December- each class will have an 'open' classroom from 3:30 pm to 4 pm, which will enable you all to come into your child/rens' class to look at the work that they have produced this term. We hope you will be able to join us on this occasion.

Value for Next Term:

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

Holly class – Milne, Hallie, Ella, D Doohuyn
Beech class – Hugo RB, Tessa, Clara, George
Oak class - Oliver, Willow, Parker, Everly

Ash class – Edward, Ocean, April, Aryo
Sycamore class – Amber, Toby, Casey, Isaac
Elm class – Hudson C, Isaac, Olly T, Huw



Working in partnership with St Mary's Primary School, Yate
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