

**From Mr Chappell:** It's that wonderful time of year when rehearsals are in full swing for all our Christmas productions and the joyful sound of singing can be heard echoing down the corridors. The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in their performances, and it has been a pleasure to reflect once again on the opportunities they are given at St.Helen's. In just the last week, two major musical events have taken place. Our choir raised over £180 from their cake sale to help fund their trip to Young Voices in Birmingham in January. Thank you to everyone who baked, donated and bought cakes – your support is very much appreciated! This trip will see over 30 children from KS2, join thousands of other children from across the country at the Birmingham Pulse Arena. I still vividly recall the last Young Voices concert two years ago, when I had the privilege of accompanying Mr Daniels, Mrs Kitson, Mrs Woolford and 20 children to the O2 arena in London. Singing alongside 20,000 other children remains one of the best experiences I've had in my many years of education. The memories these children will have from this occasion will truly last a lifetime! In addition to this, last Friday we had our first musical enrichment theatre club for KS2. Over 35 children signed up for a free taster session and, within the space of just one hour, they completely amazed Miss Tayler with their passion, enthusiasm and effort while learning dances and songs. Two wonderful experiences in just one week – both of which the children will continue to enjoy as the year progresses. Have a great weekend!

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

**Admissions for academic year 2026:** Over the last few months, our Year 6 House Captains have been brilliant in giving tours to prospective parents for the new academic year, beginning in September 2026. If you have a younger sibling due to start with us next year, please remember that the deadline for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. If you do have a sibling who will be joining us, please use the link below to register for a place if you haven't already done so.

[School Admissions September 2026](#)

If you know any parents or 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. We have two more dates for our prospective parent and carers tours, running from 11:15 pm to 12:15 pm on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025**. Due to high demand, we have also added an additional date on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 11:15am**. Please contact the school office to book a place on one of these tours.



**NSPCC work:** It was wonderful this week to welcome two members of the NSPCC into school to work in person with our Year 6, 5, 2 children. The session focused on their very important **'Speak Out. Stay Safe'** message, which supports our ongoing work to keep all children safe. The children were brilliant throughout and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, taking away key messages about the importance of sharing any worries with a trusted adult. This is something that we work on with all children, every

single day: if they have any concerns, they can talk to someone in school. We constantly reinforce this message to keep all our children safe. Be sure to ask your children about **Buddy Bear** and what they learned!



**FOSH Christmas Fair:** Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help at our school fair next week, and a huge thank you to all the FOSH team for putting this very special event together. All the money raised by FOSH from events comes straight back into school. Over the past few months, their fundraising has enabled the children to enjoy the immense fun of the traversing wall and basketball net.



Thank you for your renewed efforts to get children in to school by **8:45am**. We understand that this has been a significant change for some parents and carers after years of phased opening, and we appreciate that it is still taking some time for a small minority of families to adjust. We also understand the challenges posed by the traffic at this time!

Getting to school on time is really important, as the whole school from Year 1 to Year 6 participates in **Flashback 4**. A parent recently asked what this is, so I've attached a couple of examples from different year groups. **Flashback 4** is a daily maths activity where students answer four questions to review previously learned material. The questions cover topics from the previous lesson, last week, a few weeks ago, or even from the last term or year. This retrieval practice at the start of a maths lesson helps students retain information and prepare them for new learning. Examples below are from Year 5 and Year 2. Every day focuses on reviewing a previous concept, so it is important that children don't miss this valuable part of their learning!

**Flashback 4**  
Year 5 | Week 7 | Day 4

White Rose MATHS

1) Which of these numbers are square numbers?  
2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 20

2) What are the common factors of 12 and 24?

3)  $7,418 - 3,244 = \square$

4) Write the missing fractions on the number line.

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**Flashback 4**  
Year 2 | Week 7 | Day 4

White Rose MATHS

1)  $34 - 5 = \square$

2)  $60 - \square = 52$

3)  $50 + \square = 100$

4) Is one half shaded?

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We introduced Flashback 4 a number of years ago, and the way it has been structured to help children retain prior learning has proved to be so successful that we have now extended this concept to a number of other subjects. For example, it is now used in Science, History and Geography, and just this week staff were introduced to a version for English, to help children develop their writing skills!

**Reminder: 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/>

Key Dates:	
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 Meetings: Year 1 – Year 6</b>	<b>Term 3:</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Term 5:</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> April
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>



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Newsletter 7

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

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

<b>Holly Class:</b> Jack & Bella	Rueben & Zachary
<b>Beech Class:</b> Norah & Charlie S	Wren & Wilf
<b>Oak Class:</b> Arthur & Amelia	Ava C & Nikita
<b>Ash Class:</b> Fenton & Gabriela	Dom & Ed
<b>Sycamore Class:</b> Olivia & Freya	Scarlett & Helen
<b>Elm Class:</b> Eleanor & Bronwyn	Avah-Grace & James H
<b>Mr Chappell's award:</b> Elana (Y3) & Willow (Y5) Quinn (Y4) & Demi-Rose (Y1)	



## Ignite Sport superstars of the week

Year 6 - Dougie (Calm and Confident), Willow (Terrific Teamwork), Senna (Fantastic Focus) Ruben (Amazing Ability)

Year 5 - Harrison and Fred (Fantastic Focus), Ciara (Amazing Ability) and Rose (Caring and kind)

Year 4 - Bella (Calm and Confident) and Rufus (Playing Fair)

Year 3 - Harry and Elijah (Playing Fair) and Reya-Mae (Caring and Kind)

Year 2 - Ivy (Huge Helper)

Year 1 - Mack (Fantastic Focus) and Florence (Caring and Kind)

An excellent week of tag rugby across the whole school. My class of the week goes to Year 1 for some great listening and playing fairly.

