

From Mr Chappell: I wanted to start by saying a massive thank you to all our staff, who work so hard every single day to ensure that your children have the best education and experiences that they can! Every day, all our staff, enthuse and inspire our children to be 'Flying High' to create memories that the children can be proud of. I know things can change in a year but in the last survey we did last March, it is worth remembering *that out of 82 respondents- 100% agreed and strongly agreed that your child is doing well at St Helen's and 96.3% responses (79 respondents) felt their children were happy at school, with only 3 respondents (3.7%) saying their children were not happy.* The overwhelming view from you as parents/carers, is that you are pleased with the education at St. Helen's and I hope when we repeat this survey in March, numbers will remain high again this year. The reason I bring this up, was that I reflected on what it would be like to be a child at St. Helen's, as I sat on a coach in the early hours of the last Thursday morning coming back from London, surrounded by 24 very sleepy but very happy children who had just taken part in the magnificent Young Voices Concert. This was then followed by a great FOSH disco a few days later, which was very well attended, and then culminated this week in some year groups going out on trips. All the efforts that our staff put in, should not be underestimated but I know how much staff really appreciate it, when all their efforts are recognised by parents/ carers. I am sure you will join me in saying a huge thank you to the amazing staff at St. Helen's!

As an aside, I want to say thank you to you all for all your support this week, as I know for parent/ carers it has been particularly challenging due to the illness that is going around not just in our school but several schools in South Glos. Just this week, we have been hit by an exceptionally large number of severe coughs, colds, and temperatures and to help limit the spread of this, we rely on you making the right decision on whether your child is well enough to come to school. (To reassure you -we did contact public health and sought advice and continue to monitor any patterns.) As you know the local authority and us as a school, pride ourselves on high attendance, but we know (and as parent myself) that there are just sometimes when children are not well enough to be in. Having my own very poorly son at home all this week, I know how hard it is to balance whether to send your child into school, so thank you for your continued support on this. Having spoken to a number of heads this week, we are not the only school that has suffered a high number of children being ill, but we continue to remind children of the importance of self-hygiene, eg hand washing, having tissues on hand etc, which is something that you can support us with at home. Have a lovely weekend and we hope all those children who are poorly – get better soon and we are back to everyone being in next week. Have a great weekend!



Young Voices 2024: I have been teaching for what seems a very long time and in that time I have been fortunate to have developed some very good memories of school events that will stay with me for the rest of my life. One of those magical events

is definitely last week's choir trip to the O2 arena for Young Voices 2024. Every child who went, now has the most amazing memory of performing alongside 9,000 other children in an arena that has a capacity of 21,000 and certainly seemed full to me! Every parent/ carer that I spoke to the next day shared how brilliant the concert and experience was and like me, I am sure that the children will have this memory for the rest of their lives. Hopefully like we try to do everyday in school, this will inspire the children to follow music and singing beyond school – what an amazing experience! A huge thank you to Mr Daniels for his amazing work with the choir and Mrs Kitson and Mrs Woolford for their help and support on the day and to all three of them for still teaching the next day after we returned back to school a lot later than planned, at 2:30am due to road closures! A long...long.....day... but the most amazing, fantastic day!

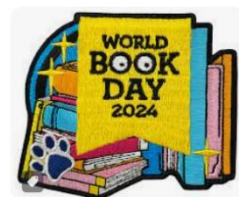


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3		9	12	15	18	21	24	27			36
4			16	20	24	28	32	36			48
5				25	30	35	40	45			60
6					36	42	48	54			72
7						49	56	63			84
8							64	72			96
9								81			108
10											
11										121	132
12											144

Multiplication Facts: You may or may not know- but in Year 4 all children have to take the Government's statutory Multiplication Tables Check online. It is expected that by the end of Year 4 all children can '*recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12×12 .*' Having a great knowledge of multiplication facts is so important for future development in Maths, especially in Year 5 and 6 – where so many concepts that they do is linked to a secure understanding of multiplication facts. We pride ourselves on our children coming through St. Helen's knowing their multiplication facts and have so many different ways that we learn them securely, for example dedicated learning time, FunKey Maths cards, Timestables RockStars, Step counting....so many ways to learn ultimately **just 38 facts!** Please continue to help support your child with learning these facts – it is not a lot to learn 38 facts over 7 years! (Yes- I do count EYFS as I know in the past there have been some children who were able to recite facts

like $2 \times 2 = 4$, $5 \times 5 = 25$ even in EYFS!) The photo on the side shows the facts- once you learn one side you know them all! Why not take a fact a day and keep learning it at home!

FOSH: Attached is the FOSH newsletter – please read it carefully and note that there is an AMAZING event planned by the FOSH team! Very exciting and we can't wait! FOSH are always looking for new members so please volunteer if you can! They do so much for us and provide us with so much.



World Book Day and Library Opening: Thursday 7th March

As you know we love reading at St. Helen's and we are delighted to announce that we are aiming to 'open' our library to coincide with World Book Day on 7th March. The reading leads in school, Mr Adams and Miss Paul are planning a range of events on this day, with the traditional 'dressing up' as a favourite character amongst other things. We are then planning to open the library – which although it has been a long process will be worth the long wait – to get children reading even more!

Key Dates: Term 3 and 4		Inset Days:
6 th February	Safer Internet Day	Friday 15 th March 2024
26 th February to 1 st March	Travelling Book Fair	Monday 22 nd July 2024
27 th February	Parent / Carer Evening #1	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024
29 th February	Parent / Carer Evening #2	
29 th February	FOSH Break the Rules Day – Info to follow from FOSH	
7 th March	World Book Day – Children to dress up.	

Anti-Bullying: In the last newsletter I reminded everyone about our systems for behaviour and in particular around our anti-bullying systems. I asked for anyone to contact me directly if you felt that there was a concern or worry. See extract from the last newsletter. '*For complete clarity I would like you to contact me before the end of next week, if you feel that there is a concern that you have around bullying or behaviour, so that we can deal with any issues or worries that you may have. Please email the school office as soon as possible to set up a meeting with me if you feel this is something that you would like to talk directly to me about.*' Nobody has contacted me to talk through anything directly- but please can we reaffirm- if you have any concerns to speak to the class teacher or contact the school office to make an appointment to speak to me directly. Behaviour is so important to us as a school and specifically children being respectful to each other- we know this doesn't always happen but when the bullying policy is asked for and applied specifically – we like to think we do help and resolve any issues quickly. The key message is to keep talking to us! As we say to the children- we cannot deal with anything we do not know anything about!

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

Holly class – Jax, Amelie,
Beech class – Hallie, Rufus

Oak class – Albie, Elliott, Holly R, Willow,

Ash class – Dougie, James H, Freddie S, Logan, Ruben,
Sycamore class – Aryo, Henry, Ocean, April

Elm Class – Fred, Lexi, Nithilian, Bonnie

