

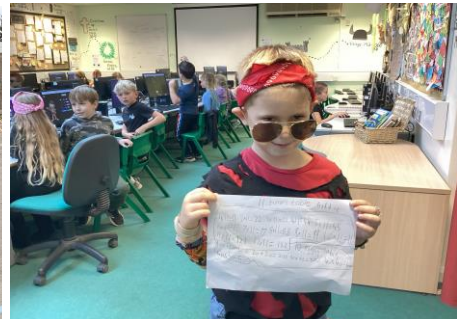
From Mr Chappell I cannot believe we are at the penultimate week of the term, in which so much has happened already. Wednesday this week was another busy day as we were visited by a SIAMS inspector for the day from 8 am to 6 pm. SIAMS stands for Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, which is a religious inspection for Church of England and Methodist schools in England. It's a legal requirement to assess how the school's Christian vision impacts its pupils and community, including religious education, collective worship, and spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development. This is an inspection that takes place approximately every 5 years for Church of England Schools and is particularly focussed on the ethos of the school, community involvement, the ways that the school values permeate school's life and the overall Christian distinctiveness. Unfortunately we are not able to share the result of the inspection with anyone until the report is officially public (approximately 15-20 days) but I wanted to say a huge thank-you to all of the staff, children, parents, governors, 'Open the Book' team for their ongoing hard work and commitment to the school and also for their support on the day. Inspections are always quite strange days for us as leaders, but on Wednesday it was a great reminder for us to see what a fantastic community we have at St Helen's. As ever the children of St Helen's were such a credit to our school and showed such pride as they talked to the inspector about their school and what it means to them. One of the brief snippets we took away, was the inspector's acknowledgement that as a staff team we are always positive in helping ALL children, in lots of different ways, and in supporting children's behaviour. We look forward to sharing the report with you in the coming weeks.

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



Times Tables Rock stars: A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Battle of the House competition. It was a great occasion, and we will let you know how much was raised in the next newsletter. Although it was different and fun to raise some money, it should not be lost on us the importance of learning all those multiplication facts! In the next few weeks children in Year 3, 4 and 5, will bring home their 'heat maps' from TTRS which shows exactly what multiplication facts can be worked on. What was noticeable as I moved through the ICT suite, how many of the KS2 children did not know their log ins or what to do- please help your children by helping them learn their times tables-just roll some dice and multiply them, write the tables out, or play TTRS! It really does help.

Well done all children across the school, who tried to develop their learning of TTRS.





FOSH events: Over the next few months we have several FOSH events that we need help from the school community to support.

Friday 5th December Christmas Wreath Making - Booking can be accessed via the link below: <https://shorturl.at/5HVuD>

Friday 12th December Christmas Fair after school 3:30 pm onwards.

If there is anyone who can help support and help at the Christmas Fair please contact FOSH at the email address: foshalveston@gmail.com

In the first week back after half term, all classes have planned to deliver an afternoon of Christmas Art work for FOSH's annual Xmas4schools, where children produce art work for any mugs, tea towels, Christmas cards, calendars etc.



Anti-Bullying Week: November 10th – 14th Our aim is that our children feel safe, supported and happy at school. If you have any concerns, please contact the school office, we are always here to listen. We do our best to resolve friendship issues and other worries before they escalate into bigger problems. This is an important part of school life and something we take seriously. Thank you for your continued support in helping us make our school a safe and caring place for everyone.



Harvest Festival: Next Thursday in church is our harvest festival, as always, we will be collecting any items, that you feel you can spare, such as tins, packets of pasta etc that will be donated to Church, who will then distributed to the centre of town and Food Banks.

Opening times: Since the last newsletter we have seen a vast improvement in the promptness of families getting into school for 8:45am ready to start the day.

The start of the school day is 8:45am. For clarity, from Monday we will be locking the gate and operating a one-way exit only through the gate after

8:45am. Anyone arriving after 8:45am will need to go to the school office to sign in. We appreciate that it has been a big adjustment, moving from the phased opening between 8:45am and 9am to the new expectation of being in by 8:45am. However, it's essential that all families arrive on time so that lessons can start promptly. We understand that mornings can feel busy and crowded, which is why we are opening the gates at 8:35am, giving everyone ten minutes to enter the site and get children to their classrooms ready for that start of the school day at 8:45am. Please do not be offended if staff at the gate ask you to go to the office after 8:45am. This is part of ensuring consistency for all families and helping us to monitor punctuality more effectively. Thank you to vast majority of parents/carers who have already adjusted to the new timings and continue to support us in making sure the day starts smoothly for all our children.

We are increasingly receiving concerns from parents and carers highlighting about children being unsupervised in the park before and after school. We would like to remind everyone that it is the responsibility of all parents and carers to ensure their children are appropriately supervised at these times. When issues occur in the park and then continue into school, it often takes significant time and resources to resolve. In the vast majority of cases, these situations arise because children are not being closely supervised. We ask for your continued support in keeping all our children safe and ensuring a positive start and end to the school day.



A reminder: Prospective Parents 2026: Tours are still available from 11:15 pm to 12:15 pm on the following dates: Tuesday 4th November 2025, Monday 10th November 2025, Tuesday 18th November 2025, Monday 24th November 2025, Monday 8th December 2025

Please email the school office to book a place on the tour.

Key Dates: Term 1 and 2:	
Thursday 23 rd October	Harvest Festival
Friday 24 th October	Inset day
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th November	Anti-Bullying week.
December TBC	Nativity / KS1 Nativity / Year 3 / 4 Christingle
Friday 12 th December	FOSH Christmas Fair 3:30 pm onwards
Parents / Carers Meetings:	Term 3: 13 th and 15 th January Term 5: 28 th and 30 th April
Key Statutory Dates	
Monday 11 th May – Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs assessments week
Monday 8 th June – Friday 12 th June	Year 1 Phonics Tests and Year 2 Phonics Re-tests
Monday 1 st June – Friday 12 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

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



Holly Class: Aathilan & Jacob F Mack & Ollie B
Beech Class: Kishanth & Aurora James & Nora
Oak Class: Amelie & James H Lakshan & Jacob
Ash Class: Georgie & Liliana Lucas & Aria
Sycamore Class: Flora & Marley Fred & Rosa
Elm Class: Malakai & Dougie Bavian & Sienna



Each week Mr Palacio will be selecting his PE lesson superstars of the week
- this week they are:



Year 6- Bavian (above and beyond), Isla (terrific effort) and Willow (really resilient)

Year 5- George (terrific teamwork) and Flora (really resilient)

Year 4- Rufus (terrific effort)

Year 3- Lakshan (amazing ability) and Ava (fantastic teamwork)

Year 2- Willow and Theo (calm and confident)

Year 1- Arthur and Matilda (playing fair)



Class of the week is Year 6 as they were excellent in PE and all the children continue to be engaged during the lesson. Their behaviour is respectful and polite and it's a pleasure to teach them.