

From Mr Chappell Although it is coming towards the end of week 2, I hope you all had a great half term break and are all feeling refreshed and ready for what the winter months hold in store for us. It has been another incredibly busy week at St Helen's (more of that later) and we all wanted to say thank you for your time at parents' evenings this week. Although we are still having to work with certain restrictions such as Zoom Parents Evening, hopefully that did not detract from you hearing about the progress that your children are making, whether academically or socially. Considering the difficulties of the last few years, we have been really pleased with the way the children are working in class and how they are behaving in the classroom and outside on the playground, particularly with greater amounts of play equipment and loose parts being used. Thank you for your continued support.

Anti- Bullying week:

Next week, schools across the country will be involved in various activities in the classroom with a focus on anti-bullying strategies. As a class teacher, my mantra was always that every week should be 'anti-bullying week' and that it is the responsibility of everyone linked to school, children, staff and parents, to work together to help solve problems, if and when they do exist. As a school we are very proud that in our last OFSTED parent view survey, parents felt strongly that on the rare occasions of bullying in school, incidents were dealt with successfully, quickly and effectively and this is normally the case when incidents or difficulties that children may be having are brought to our attention. If you have any concerns please let your class teacher know. As part of our value for this term – Respect - we will next week in assembly focus on how we develop positive relationships and help each other.



We are encouraging all children (and staff) to wear Odd Socks on Monday to start Anti-Bullying week.

Children in Need – Friday 19th November

Next Friday, in return for bringing in a donation of £1 for Children in Need, the children are invited to wear 'non-uniform'. Look out for a very special guest in school next week!



Operation Christmas Child 2021

A reminder that your donations towards a 'Christmas Shoebox' can be left at the school office until Friday. Boxes are available from the office, if you'd like to complete your own. For more information about this project and the work of the amazing charity, visit <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Learning Councillors: Congratulations to the children who have been chosen by their class teachers to represent their class on the learning council. The council (Year 1 to Year 6) met today for the first time to talk about the role and to look at further developments and important information such as playtimes. Next week they will look at re-designing the school's Anti-Bullying leaflets before presenting to other classes.

Holly class – Freya and Harrison
Beech class – Willow and Oliver
Oak class – Viola and Cole

Ash class – Amelia and Issac
Sycamore class – Seth and Emily
Elm class – Bouthayna and Harrison

OPAL: One of the things I love about St Helen's is being around at lunchtimes to experience all the play opportunities that that children get to do. As you know this is one of our key features of our school development plan this year, developing better playtimes through OPAL, there has been some great things going on this week.



To enhance our OPAL work we are looking for further donations of 'Loose Parts' equipment, construction toys such as Lego and Duplo. One thing that has proven very popular over the last few weeks has been the dressing up box in KS2 and smaller sand pits. We'd appreciate any 'toy' equipment or small toys such as cars and dinosaurs. EYFS children are also having great fun with the small bikes and scooters and we are interested in having more of these in school. Please feel free to talk to me on the playground if you have some toys that you would like to donate. The children are loving having more things to do at lunchtimes and we have some very exciting plans in the pipeline, which will be supported by FOSH.

Value for this Term: Our value this term is Respect. Alongside this newsletter is the Home School Values sheet that you can share with your children and work alongside them on some of the discussion activities.

Remembrance Day 2021: A huge thank you to all the children who paid their respects by standing impeccably silent during our two minutes' silence on Thursday. The children were amazing and listened very attentively to the Year 6 readers. As a staff we were incredibly proud.



Thank you also to Mrs King for giving her time to come into school to play 'The Last Post' to signify the start of our silence.



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

Cherry Class - Tilley, Charlie Se

Holly class – Zara, Freddie, Lizzie, Freya

Beech class – Joshua, Willow, Freddie, Sienna

Oak class – Lucia, Ferlyn, James, Honey

Ash class – Charlotte M, Zack, Frankie, Bonnie

Sycamore class – Seth, Lacey, Jacob, William

Elm class – Bouthayna, Lola, Max, Emma



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

'Growing together, pursuing life in all its fullness'

