

From Mr Chappell

'Reading is the Key.' Thank you to everybody who was able to make it in to school last Thursday morning as part of our celebrations for World Book Day. It was great to go around each class and see children enjoy reading to, or being read to, by a family member.



Although it was great to celebrate World Book Day and also to have the book fair in school last week for children to have the opportunity to buy the latest books by their favourite author, can we please reiterate the importance of **taking ten minutes or more** every day to hear your child read. Whilst it is always great as a school to run these events, it is important not to lose sight of the importance of reading with your child every day to create that feeling of reading for pleasure. Developing this culture is something that we are looking at as a school and, to help achieve this aim, we all need to encourage children to pick up a book, magazine, comic, football annual - anything that gets them reading! Please help by encouraging your children to read as much as possible at home!

Have a great weekend.

New books for our reading scheme



Thank you to the **Friends of St Helen's** for donating a substantial amount of money for new books for our reading scheme. We really appreciate their generosity and look forward to developing our reading scheme.



South Gloucestershire's 'Big Sing'

On Wednesday evening, 18 children from Year 5 joined four other schools from South Gloucestershire to take part in the 'Big Sing' concert, as part of the national initiative 'Sing Up'. Together they performed two songs, including the song written especially for 'Sing Up' called 'There's a Power in the Music'. Each school was also given a song to perform and ours was called 'Hey Dumba', a Brazilian lullaby centred, like all the songs, on the theme of wildlife, climate change or conservation.

It was a fantastic opportunity for all the children to come together and share the joy of singing with a wonderful message.

Our thanks go to Madame Kossmann and Mrs Hardy who worked with the children and attended the concert.





Cake Sale

Thank you everyone who supported our Cake Sale yesterday and helped us to raise £152! This money will be split between the 'Great Western Air Ambulance Service', nominated by Harriet (Y4) and Charlotte O (Y2), and the WWF Bushfire Emergency charity, supporting the care of animals and their habitats after the catastrophic bushfires. This charity was nominated by Charlotte M (Y2).



Author visiting St Helen's – Monday 16th March

Anna Hoghton, poet and children's author of 'The Mask Of Aribella' will be coming to visit us on Monday. Anna will be leading an assembly for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 and running a workshop for Year 6 children. There will be an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of her book; children should bring in £6.99 on Monday if they'd like a copy.

New Girls' Cricket team at Thornbury Cricket Club

Many of our children and families have a link with Thornbury Cricket Club, and it is great to hear that the club is launching a girls' section this year, in conjunction with Tockington Manor School. The newly established "Tockington and Thornbury Tornadoes" are looking for players of all abilities and we are encouraging all our girls to get involved. A taster session will be held at Castle School Indoor Nets on Tuesday 24th March, 6-8pm and there will be regular training sessions at Thornbury Cricket Club from Friday 10th April. Teams will participate in GCB cricket festivals.

Attendance

Congratulations to Cherry class who had 100% attendance last week. The school total was 96%.
Congratulations to Ash class who had 99.3% attendance this week. The school total was 95.9%

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Cherry Class – Poppy, George, Willow and Chloe
Holly Class – Lily, Karalee, Olly and Bertie
Beech Class – Fred, Rose and Catherine
Oak Class – Jacob, Olly T and Sophie

Ash Class – Harriet, Sam C, Harry M and Emma
Sycamore Class – Niyumi, Kyle and Ali
Elm Class – Josh D, Isla, Josh L and Matthew



Out of school achievements

- Bonnie-May in Beech class has achieved her 600m distance swimming award.
- Ethan in Holly class has achieved his Level 2 and 10 metres distance swimming awards.
- Jonathan in Oak class has achieved his bronze swimming challenge and 400m distance swimming award.
- Katlyn in Oak class has achieved her Level 5 swimming award.
- Harley in Ash class passed her Grade 5 in Gymnastics with a distinction.
- Phoebe in Oak class has achieved her Level 7 and 100 metres distance swimming awards.
- Yasmin in Sycamore class achieved a distinction for her Grade 3 piano piece and came joint first in her category (contemporary piano) in the Thornbury Eisteddfod.
- Jasper in Ash class has achieved his 400 metres distance swimming award.
- Karalee in Holly class has achieved her 10 metres distance swimming award.
- Elizabeth in Cherry class has achieved her Level 2 and 5 metres distance swimming awards.
- Viola in Holly class has achieved her Level 2 swimming award.