

From Mr Chappell

This week Mr Spens and I attended an online briefing for South Gloucestershire Headteachers, where we heard from local authority leaders and a number of speakers, including education specialists and even somebody who used to be one of Nelson Mandela's bodyguards. This was a fantastic morning and it left me reflecting on our value of 'Hope' and how our children have responded and adapted in a time of huge changes for them. One speaker used a quote by the philosopher Socrates, which I believe summarises perfectly where we are in education at the moment, ***'The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new'***. This is something that I feel everybody connected to the St Helen's community has tried to do, as we have adjusted to new systems, reconnected with our friends in a different environment, and tried to do our very best in our learning, even though it may be tricky at times. With this in mind, as we come to the end of Term 1, can I once again say a huge thank you for all your continued support in working in partnership for the best for your children and a HUGE thank you to all our members of staff, who have worked tirelessly over the last few months.

Harvest Festival – Thursday 22nd October

A reminder that we will be holding our first ever virtual 'Harvest Festival' this year. Both St Helen's and St Mary's will join from their classrooms as we celebrate harvest together. We will be partnering with the North Bristol Foodbank and would like to encourage children to bring to school an item from the foodbank shopping list, which they can deposit in a box on their way into school on Thursday. All the items will be collected by the Foodbank and donated to those in need of food and other supplies at this difficult time.



SHOPPING LIST
Deodorant
Shampoo
Rice Pudding
Custard
Washing Up Liquid
Sponge Puddings
Tinned Fruit

Coming soon to KS1!

Over the last few years the impact of TTRS (Times tables Rock stars) cannot be underestimated on the ability of children to calculate fluently and quickly, key number facts, indeed the children's work in TTRS saw the school in the Top 3 schools in the area for speed and accuracy. This has had a real impact on the children's Mathematical skills, as they embed these key skills. Moving forwards and with the incentives that online platforms bring, we are really excited to announce that starting very soon, KS1 children will have access to Phonics Hero, an online platform that will enable all children to developing their phonics and reading skills.



Healthy Eating Week

Thanks so much for all those who participated in Healthy Eating Week at home with daily challenges. A special mention to George, Sara and Elizabeth from Year One, Edward in Class Two, Charlotte and Catherine in Class Three, Emelia and Emily in Class Four for all the different challenges you did from a yummy squash curry to a



range of different colourful vegetable funny faces! Also a big thank you to Mr Madle for the range of yummy vegetables given to Reception class for us to try. Mrs Boffin

Schools meals on Census Day



Thank you to those who supported the school and booked a school meal on 1st October, especially if it was for the first time for your child! Congratulations to Holly Class who had 100% of children booked in for a meal on that day and they are now busy choosing their prize. They also enjoyed their hot chocolate treat!

Reading Meeting

Thank you so much to all those who attended the KS1 reading meeting on Tuesday night.

Letters and Sounds

Reading continues to be a huge focus for us this year and we really do want to see **ALL** our children reading at least **FIVE** times a week.



Online learning

Hopefully by now you will have read the guidance for our school offer for remote education support, which was emailed to you last week. In the event of a bubble having to close, we will be uploading pre-recorded lessons to the school's YouTube page. Please contact us as soon as possible if you are unable to access YouTube so that we can support you in the event of a class having to be closed.

Examples of pre-recorded sessions



School grounds

Thank you to everybody who has been adhering so closely to the systems that we have put in place before and after school. Can we please remind you that when you are dropping your child to school or collecting them after school, they should be with you and within your supervision. Over the last few weeks it has become more noticeable that some children are running around and there have been occasions when children have fallen over on the playground and there is nobody with them. Thank you for helping keep everybody safe in school.

Initially Yours - Message from our Uniform supplier

Thank you for your support, patience and understanding over the last few months. We have received and appreciated some really positive and lovely comments about our service. Needless to say, it has not been plain sailing for any uniform retailer this summer. We have experienced, and are still experiencing, out of stock situations of some lines – mainly PE kit where stocks have been exhausted due to huge demand. Working closely with our suppliers, we are now rapidly reducing any delay that has resulted from this. Thank you.

Friends of St Helen's

Please note that the FoSH AGM, due to be held on Monday 19th October, has had to be POSTPONED. Sorry for the short notice; a new date will be advised shortly.

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Holly Class – Logan, Sara, Bronnie and Oliver
Beech Class – Edward, Pixie, Abigail and Harry
Oak Class – Zack, Catherine, Charlotte O and Toby

Ash Class – William, Olly T, Phoebe and Jacob
Sycamore Class – Bede, Sehyun, Lola and Ellie
Elm Class – Elena, Thomas, Katie and William



Working in partnership with St Mary's Primary School, Yate
'Growing together, pursuing life in all its fullness'

