

From Mr Chappell

It has been a remarkable two terms in so many ways and once again I would like to thank the whole St Helen's community for the part that everyone has played in helping the children return back to school so successfully. I know that all the staff really appreciate the 'thank you' that parents and carers give them, not just during this busy season but at all times throughout the year, and one email I received this week really summarises what I am sure you are all feeling at this time. I just thought I would share it with you as it recognises what an amazing effort staff have made:

I'm writing this email as a parent and would very much like you to share it to all staff please. I want to start off saying a huge thank you to all the teachers and staff for all their hard work. Thank you!! You have all done an amazing job looking after our children, putting their needs before your own in many ways. In my eyes you are our heroes! Without your commitment and selflessness many parents who are key workers wouldn't have been able to work through this pandemic. I think many people forget how hard this has been for yourselves. The work and organisation that has gone on to provide a safe but happy environment for our children has been challenging and exhausting for you all. You have all done an amazing job, you always do but even more so this year.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we will see you on Monday 4th January.

We say farewell to amazing Mrs Gear

It is with much sadness that today we said goodbye to Mrs Gear. During her time at St Helen's, Mrs Gear has had an incredible impact on the whole community, working with countless of children over the years. Mrs Gear's passion and enthusiasm for encouraging children to read and her love of the arts will be sadly missed by everyone. She has always gone above and beyond in wanting the best for the children, and I am sure she will leave St Helen's with many fond memories. This morning we held a very special service, via Zoom, to enable every class to present some cards to Mrs Gear.



Thank you Mrs Gear for everything you have done for the school! Good luck from everyone at St.Helen's and we wish you all the very best wishes for the future. You will be missed hugely.

Christmas Productions

Thank you to everyone who has watched our various Christmas productions this week. There is always something very magical about the EYFS Nativity and the children, through the very hard work of the EYFS staff, were able to perform live in their classroom and parents joined them via Zoom.

The KS1 children also developed their own Christmas singing production and shared some of the work the children have produced over the last few months. The children in Year 3 and 4 also shared their pre-recorded production from church and, despite a few technical glitches, we

enjoyed great singing and readings. Thank you to all the teachers for preparing these productions.



FOSH Events

One of the difficulties of the pandemic has been the curtailing of the special events that the Friends of St Helen's organise to raise funds to support the school. We send our thanks to the FOSH committee for working tirelessly to put on smaller events, including the Father Christmas grotto and the Christmas draw.



Our thanks also go to everyone who made a donation.

The proceeds will go towards school development projects in 2021. Thank you everyone!

Twelve Days of Christmas Reading Challenge



We love reading at St Helen's and what could be better than reading at Christmas time! Thank you to Mrs Kossmann for developing the Twelve Days of Christmas reading challenge. Each day has seen a number of different teachers, and special guests, read a particular favourite Christmas story. We look forward to seeing who will be reading on Christmas Eve; keep on looking on Class Dojo and Tapestry. We can't wait to hear about and see all the lovely new books that Father Christmas may bring. Remember to keep reading as much as possible over the holidays!

Open Door Policy

At St Helen's we pride ourselves on having an open door policy and have worked really hard over the years to have those open and honest conversations with you when the need arises. This includes listening to any worries and concerns that you may have. Whilst we appreciate that it is hard to have face to face contact with you every day, please remember that we are always here through other means: private class dojo messages, school emails and telephone messages. The key thing for you to consider is that we are still very much approachable and are here to listen to any concerns that you may have, rather than let things drift and any issues become bigger.



School Uniform

Initially Yours, our school uniform supplier, is amalgamating with **Monkhouse Schoolwear**. Our school uniform will be available to purchase online at www.monkhouse.com. When visiting Initially Yours website you will be automatically re-directed to Monkhouse. You will be able to browse our personalised online web page and continue to make purchases. You can contact Monkhouse on 0161 476 7216, 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday to Friday or email web@monkhouse.com. Please do let us know if you have any problems or feedback.

COVID Updates

This week you will have received from us some information on who to contact in the event of a positive Covid-19 test over the Christmas break. In the event of any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school by email, sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk, as emails will be checked at times during the Christmas break.

Safeguarding

Our greatest priority is to always ensure the safety, well-being and happiness of all our children. During school closure, the safeguarding of all our children remains our number one priority. If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding our children, please contact us as a matter of urgency.

Mr Chappell is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mr Spens is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).

Throughout the closure we are contactable at all times via the school email sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk. South Gloucestershire Council's Safeguarding Access and Response Team (ART) is also available to report concerns about a child: 01454 866000 Monday to Thursday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm (4.30 on Friday) and 01454 615165 out of hours and at weekends.

This is a challenging time for many reasons and there may be some families who need additional support. If you have ANY questions or concerns please feel free to contact us and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



Congratulations to these children on winning the 'Values shield' certificates today for showing the value of Forgiveness.

Cherry Class – Neve
Holly Class – Everly
Beech Class – Luke
Oak Class – Amelia

Ash Class – Isabel
Sycamore Class – Harriet
Elm Class – Katie



Congratulations to last week's certificate winners

Cherry Class – Ciara and Bavisha
Holly Class – Diego and Becky
Beech Class – Ethan and Sophie
Oak Class – Nithilan and Holly

Ash Class – Hudson and Liam
Sycamore Class – Hudson and Charlie
Elm Class – Harry and Elaina



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'Growing together, pursuing life in all its fullness'

