

From Mr Chappell

As part of our ongoing drive to improve our school, on Wednesday we welcomed Mrs Taylor, a SIA (School Improvement Advisor) to spend some time with us, working throughout the day with all our leaders. The day started with three of our House Captains giving our visitor a tour around school, talking freely about their experience of St Helen's without anybody else with them. The children were a huge credit to our school and talked so articulately throughout the morning of what makes St Helen's such a great place, talking passionately about our school Values, our 'Flying High' ethos and the school curriculum that they enjoy so much. At the end of the day, when talking to Governors, Mr Spens and myself, Mrs Taylor talked about the culture that she had seen throughout the day and how it seemed that children were leaving primary school with a St Helen's 'DNA'. This is something that all members of staff work so hard every day to cultivate and, with the continuous parental support that we receive, we are able to give all our children the very best start that they can! So thank you to everybody for helping develop our 'St Helen's Flying High DNA'.

It is with much sadness that somebody who has very much been a huge part of the Flying High culture, Gaynor Mills, leaves us today. Gaynor has worked at St Helen's for over 11 years, getting to know so many different children in so many different roles in school. Gaynor has worked tirelessly over the last 11 years and has given so many children some great memories of St Helen's, particularly with her amazing gymnastics coaching, and also helping class teachers with projects, activities and trips. Last week in assembly I talked to the children about the value of generosity and how people give up their own time to help run sports clubs and this is something that Gaynor has done repeatedly to enable children to enjoy gymnastics, putting on numerous fantastic gym displays over the years. On Wednesday we said our goodbyes to Gaynor in a special assembly and she goes with our best wishes for the future.

Reception: I cannot believe that it is nearly the end of our first term and how our Reception children have grown in to the family of St Helen's already. I have visited them many times in their classroom and it has been great to see the children 'Flying High' already. I enjoyed their amazing Maths work last week! Well done all children in Reception!



House Points - With one week left to find the house of the term – it is so close! Flying High at all times.



Hot Chocolate Friday - Well done to those children who have been nominated for going 'above and beyond' and have had Hot Chocolate with Mr Chappell.

Table of the Week - Well done to those children who were nominated for Flying High behaviour in the dinner hall and were recognised by being Table of the Week.



Playtimes: As you may know, we have an area on the playground for those children who want to have a little quiet time or want to get creative with art activities and the whiteboards, or even play a few games. This is proving very popular and has even seen some children this week compose their own Music raps. In order to develop this area further we want to encourage children to be creative by building Lego. If you are able to donate any Lego bricks or sets, please do drop it into school. Thank you!

Our lunchtime creative area this week:



Aspens – new catering arrangements for Term 2

We are moving our catering provision to Aspens from the beginning of next term. Information has been sent to all parents this week on how to sign up for 'Select', their online payment and ordering solution, with the school code and unique child codes. We ask you to set up your account **as soon as possible** so that there is time to iron out any technical issues before the end of term.

You are invited to attend a parents' meeting on **Thursday 24th October at 3pm** where representatives from Aspens will be present to answer any questions and demonstrate the new ordering system. You can find out more about Aspens by visiting their website <https://www.aspens-services.co.uk/>.

Salad Bar Update!

With the change to provider, we wanted to share the good news that there will still be a salad bar, giving children the option to have salad every day either with their main meal, or with a jacket potato. Children can have a jacket potato with or without the 'Topping of the Day'.

FoSH Break the Rules Day – Friday 25th October

Every day we aim to do the right thing and to be Flying High. However, for one day only, next Friday the children will have the opportunity to break a rule at school for a 50p donation to FoSH! A list of the ten rules that can be broken has been emailed to parents this week. We look forward to seeing how creative the children can be!

Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child

We are pleased to be supporting 'Operation Christmas Child' again this year. This is an initiative of the Christian relief agency, Samaritan's Purse. Gift-filled shoeboxes are wrapped and packed in the UK and sent to under privileged children around the world. The children receive a box based



on need, regardless of their background or religion. We want to fill as many shoeboxes as we can and will be collecting donations **until 4th November**, when gifts from school and St Helen's church will be delivered to the local depot. Your contributions would be really appreciated. Gift suggestions (new items please) include small toys (eg yoyo, skipping rope), stationery, toothbrush, soap, hat, gloves, hair accessories. For more information about the work of this charity and a full list of items requested (and those that can't be accepted) for the shoeboxes, please visit www.samaritans-purse.org.uk



Reception and Year 1 Reading Evening – Wednesday 23rd October – 5pm to 5.30pm

The parents of children in Reception and Year 1 are invited to attend a meeting when teaching staff will be sharing an overview of how reading is taught in the early years. Children are welcome to join Miss Hurd in the Year 2 classroom whilst the meeting is on.

Open Classrooms – Thursday 24th October, 3:30pm

We would like to invite you to come into school on 24th October to see your child(ren)'s amazing work before visiting the rest of the school and having a look in other classrooms. This will be a chance for you to see all the great work that is going on in school.

Beech House Visits

As part of their topic on Nurturing Nurses our Year 1 and Year 2 children have been spending time at Beech House Nursing Home. What an amazing piece of work!



Parents in Partnership: Coffee Morning – Friday 8th November, 9am

We pride ourselves on an 'open door' policy whereby if you have any questions, worries or concerns you are free to talk to your child's class teacher. In order to develop this further we are looking at holding a termly 'Parents in Partnership' meeting. In these sessions we will be exploring a range of themes on how we can continue to develop St Helen's to be the best school it can possibly be. The first session will be a very informal coffee and cake and catch up with Mr Chappell on Friday 8th November at 9 am before we start to set an agenda for each PIP meeting. Feel free to pop along!

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Cherry Class – Hugo

Holly Class – Ethan, Pixie, Sophie and Karalee

Beech Class – Evie, Ava, Imogen F and Fernando

Oak Class – Madison, Frankie, Selby and Emelia

Ash Class – Lola, Xander, Finley and Harry M

Sycamore Class – Tom, Emma R, Mya and Ruby

Elm Class – Nathanael, Katie B, Josh D and Daisy

Attendance

Congratulations to Cherry class who had 99.3% attendance last week. The school total was 98.2%.

Congratulations to Oak class with 98.7% attendance this week. The school total was 96.5%

Friends of St Helen's

Extraordinary Meeting – 21st October – 7pm – The Ship, Alveston

We are holding an **Extraordinary Meeting** to fill the positions of Chair and Secretary. All parents, carers and staff are invited to attend or join FOSH. For more information, contact Rebecca at rebeccameredith68@yahoo.com.

Out of school achievements

- Harley in Ash class was part of a team that took home the bronze medal from the second stage of the West Country Gymnastics League.
- Charlotte O and Ava in Beech class were both medal winners in the recent Harriers Gym Competition.

Upcoming events

Wednesday 23rd October – Reception and Year 1 Reading meeting for parents, 5pm-5.30pm

Thursday 24th October – Aspens meeting, 3pm

Thursday 24th October – Open Classrooms, 3.30pm

Friday 25th October – end of Term 1

Monday 4th November – start of Term 2

Friday 8th November – Parents in Partnership meeting with Mr Chappell, 9am

w/c 11th November - Book Fair

Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st November - Parents' Evenings

Thursday 21st November – Flu vaccinations in school

Monday 25th November – INSET day

Friday 20th December – end of Term 2



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