

From Mr Chappell

It has been another very busy week, with so much going on inside and outside the classrooms. During the summer, we wrote to everyone outlining our three priorities for children in the opening term:

- Reconnect with friends, with school and with school routines and expectations
- Respond to themselves, their emotions and feelings and to the world around
- Re-establish foundations, identifying learning gaps and addressing them, supporting any catch up required.

It has been great to see fantastic work going on by the whole school community in trying to achieve these aims. The children have been amazing and the overwhelming theme from conversations that I've had with children is their enjoyment of being back with their friends. They have taken to the new routines really well, and staff have remarked upon how children's behaviour in class and on the playground has certainly been reaching 'Flying High'. Lots of work, including the use of key texts in English, have enabled children to respond to their emotions and focus on the school value of 'Hope' and members of staff have been using their expertise to pinpoint any gaps that the children may have. With all this in mind, I wish to say a huge thank you to all members of staff, who have worked tirelessly to ensure your children returned to school so smoothly and to you as parents and carers for your continued support. Have a great weekend.

The St Helen's community, children, families and staff - 'Flying High - Soar on Wings Like Eagles'

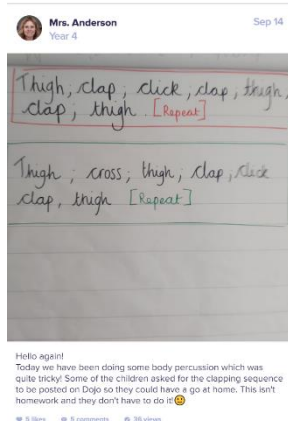
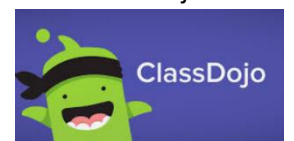
New adventures begin

I am always amazed by the way EYFS children start school and within weeks feel part of the whole school community aiming to be 'Flying High'. I have loved listening to them cheerfully enjoying school and seeing them start to make new friends and, following one of school values, listening respectfully to their peers and staff. Well done EYFS children, well done to their parents and carers and a HUGE well done and thank you to all EYFS staff for all their hard work in settling the children in.



Class Dojo

We have been overwhelmed by the interaction that parents and children in Years 1-6 have had on Class Dojo since we introduced it in April. (For EYFS parents, this is a tool very similar to Tapestry.) During the lockdown we used it as a way to communicate and for the children to show their completed work. Now that we are all back, we will be using Class Dojo to showcase what your children have been doing in different lessons. Just this week different teachers have posted:



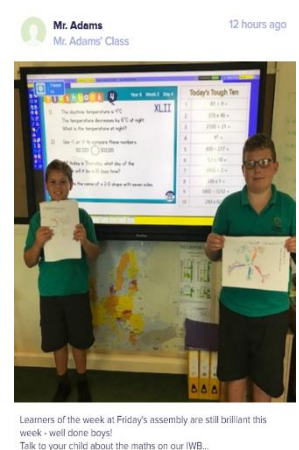
Music in Year 4



Art in Year 3



DT in Year 2



Maths in Year 6

Reading at St Helen's

At St Helen's we aim to instil a love of reading in all our children. One of our key priorities for this year is to try and develop a 'Reading for Pleasure' culture at school. We are looking forward to developing some exciting projects in school across the year. We will also be making a very slight tweak to our reading scheme, which sees greater emphasis on children picking a reading book for home. A brief outline is given by Miss Adams below and we will look to share this with you in more detail over the next few weeks, alongside a video for you to watch, to explain the process. Remember you can help us to instil the pleasure of reading by reading every night at home with your child, no matter what year group they are in! Why don't you post a picture of yourself and your child reading this weekend on Class Dojo or Tapestry? #Reading is the Key.



Reading Message from Miss Adams

This year, starting with KS1, we have made an exciting change to the way reading books are chosen to foster a reading for pleasure culture. From today, children in Year 1 and 2 will be choosing their own reading book from a selection that is at an appropriate level for them, in line with their benchmarking assessment. The children will have the opportunity to change their book on a Monday and a Friday so please ensure that their reading record and reading book is in school on these days, though it should be in every day. (Please note the first change will be on 25th September.) Once a book is returned to school it will be kept quarantined for 72 hours before it is cleaned and replaced, ready for it to be selected again. Alongside their school reading book, it is encouraged that children enjoy a range of other books for pleasure. When reading with your child, please make reference to their bookmark targets that have been set by their teachers. Daily reading is strongly encouraged and from the week commencing 28th September, we will be relaunching our KS1 competition where any child who reads 5 times or more in a week with an adult (on separate days), will be entered into a prize draw to win a brand new book. For any children in KS2 who are on the reading scheme, a book will be sent home next week, so please continue to hear your child read a book of their choice.

British Nutrition Foundation Healthy Eating Week - 28th September to 4th October

As a school, we like to promote healthy eating. We have signed up for the 'BNF Healthy Eating Week' and would love the children to take part. There's a challenge they can do each day at home:

Monday	Eat more wholegrains such as porridge oats, wholegrain cereal, brown rice, wholegrain bread.
Tuesday	Vary your veg – try one you haven't eaten before or eat a rainbow colour of three vegetables.
Wednesday	Drink plenty – try to have 6 to 8 healthy drinks throughout the day
Thursday	Be active – can you do at least 30 minutes of exercise at home and in school?
Friday	Be more kind – talk to somebody about how you are feeling, go to bed on time and try to sleep well.



If your children take part in any of these challenges please record them on ClassDojo or Tapestry. There will be certificates for those who partake and a mention in an assembly. Thanks for your support. *Mrs Boffin*

Parent Governor: There will shortly be a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Information will soon be available.

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Holly Class – Everly, Isla, Seb and Elizabeth
 Beech Class – Viola, Olly, April and Michael
 Oak Class – Isaac, Bonnie, Ava and Fred

Ash Class – Selby and Emily, Cerys and Katlyn
 Elm Class – Ali and Alex, Josh and Paige
 Sycamore Class – Logan, Harley, Maddie and Sam C



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

