

From Mr Chappell

As you all know 'Flying High' is our vision and ethos and since our last Newsletter two weeks ago, so many different things have happened that have certainly allowed our children to demonstrate this clearly and go above and beyond.

Firstly can we say a huge thank you to everybody who attended our two very special services, the KS1 nativity 'Everybody Loves a Baby' and Tuesday evening's Year 3 and 4 Christingle service. There are so many things that I love about our school, but nothing can beat the joy of when children all come together to sing! The quality of both services was great and all children, whether acting, reading, singing or dancing were fantastic. On Monday we held our regular end of term Curriculum Showcase (more about that later) and Tuesday saw Year 1 and 2's Fundraising Coffee and Cake afternoon. On Wednesday, the Reception parents were treated to an afternoon of sharing work with their children, with a few mince pies thrown in. To end this week we have enjoyed the KS1 Christmas Party and the KS2 Silent Disco, all alongside a bit of work!

Alongside all this, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, we also received a visit from OFSTED. Firstly, Mr Spens and I would like to say a huge thank you for all the kind messages that the staff received prior to the day, during the process and after. This truly shows the fantastic relationships that we have built together and indeed we were delighted to see the results of 'Parent View' which stated that **100%** of you, who answered, said you agreed or strongly agreed that your child was happy at school (**90% said strongly agree!**). Likewise **100%** of you would recommend our lovely school to another parent! Thank you for all your kind thoughts and suffice to say our children were amazing over the two days. We had the pleasure of listening to lots of our children talk to the inspectors on a range of different subjects, and what shone through was the genuine pride that our child had in talking about their learning and how proud they all are of 'Flying High'. The inspection report now needs to be validated and checked by OFSTED and we are hoping to be able to share the results with you towards the end of January.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our staff. Every day they work so hard to ensure that your children have the very best memories and experiences of Primary school.

I wish all of the children, staff and families of St Helen's a really restful, safe and enjoyable Christmas. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 6th January**.

Our link school in Uganda – Our Child Nursery and Primary School

We continue to raise funds for our link school in Uganda. Thank you for your generosity at the Christmas Cake Sale and the collections held at our Nativity performances. In total we raised £426 for 'Our Child' school.



The Christingle service this week raised over £245 for The Children's Society.

'We the creative'

Thank you to all those who have already taken the opportunity to purchase our amazing book, showcasing our writing, 'We the creative'. We still have a few left and will continue to sell these next term.



Curriculum Showcase

Thank you to all those who attended our Curriculum showcase on Monday. We started with a presentation about the intent of our new Global Curriculum and this was followed by a talk from some of our Learning councillors, who presented very articulately what they had been learning this term. Hopefully you also had the opportunity to visit your children's classroom to look through their books to see the great work they have been doing over the last two terms.



Christmas Coffee and Cake

Thank you to the Year 1 and Year 2 parents for coming along!



Breakfast Club

You will have received an email about our new online booking and payment system for Breakfast Club. Please take a few minutes to set up your account using the free 'School Gateway' app. Your login details will be automatically generated using the contact information we have in school, so please ensure that this is up to date. For further information visit <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>.

Staff news

An extremely warm welcome to Mr Curtis, who is our new Teaching Assistant working in Year 1. If you see him around please feel free to say hello!



Next term's value: Truthfulness

As you know, we have redesigned our curriculum and we will have this in place from January. In line with our Global themes and Topics, we have linked in very closely our Values. This has meant that some Values that we covered in particular terms have been moved - next term is our Value of Truthfulness. Alongside this newsletter will be the Home School Sheet for this.

Reminder: Starting school September 2020

Children born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 are due to start school in September 2020. The closing date for school applications is **15th January 2020**. To apply online, go to www.southglos.gov.uk/admissions. If you have questions or need help with the application, please telephone 01454 868008.

Out of school achievements

Attendance

Congratulations to Oak class who had 98.6% attendance this week. The school total was 95.9%.

- George in Cherry class was awarded the trophy for effort at his Gym Club.
- Willow in Cherry class won a trophy at this year's Berkeley Hunt gymkhana, riding Minnie. Her brother, Olly in Oak class, won the same trophy last year!



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