

From Mr Chappell

It has been another incredibly busy couple of weeks, from Art workshops in the church to the Remembrance Day assembly. Alongside these additional activities, our staff are continuing to inspire the children in their curriculum lessons and enabling them to try and make good progress in all areas. It is very important to acknowledge that the staff of St Helen's are doing an incredible job in the face of the unprecedented times of COVID. Not only are they teaching as normal, but are also having to cover break time duties in their own year groups, cover lunchtimes, run additional intervention groups, liaise with and telephone parents regularly as we cannot currently meet face to face. Staff are staying within their own bubble and are not able to use all areas of the school, including their usual staffroom, and so do not join other staff when they do have a very well deserved break. All the extra things that staff do mount up and I'm sure you will join me in saying a huge thank you to every single one of them - the office staff, the lunchbreak and breakfast club supervisors, the caretaker, the kitchen team, teachers and teaching assistants. We thank them for everything they do!

Art Work in School

The children have loved working with our artist in residence Jo, and Laura from Colourful Minds, to create beautiful art work, linked to their topic. We look forward to showing on Tapestry and Class Dojo the final displays in a few weeks' time.



Many thanks to those who have made a donation to help fund these sessions. If you have not yet contributed, there is still time to make your donation via Schoolcomms, Thank you.

Remembrance Day

Our whole school community came together at 11am on Remembrance Day. Although we couldn't all be together on the playground, the 2 minute silence was respected in every classroom, followed by readings and prayers from some of our house captains via Zoom. (Year 5 were in church, so came out to observe the silence.) A huge thank you to Mrs King for coming in and playing The Last Post and Reveille.



Children in Need

Thank you for supporting our non-uniform day last Friday. We raised **£301** for this charity.



Playground Entry

Thank you to everybody who is keeping to our staggered times, but we have noticed that some parents and children are entering school at the wrong time. Please be aware that we will be contacting individual parents to discuss this, as the systems have been working well so far and we do not want to take risks by adults and children mixing at different times, when they shouldn't be in school. We are really pleased that the majority of people are maintaining social distancing when walking into school and on the playground. Can we please reiterate that children need to be walking alongside their parents and carers as they come in to school and when they are collected. Thank you also for wearing a mask when on the school grounds; all the precautions we are taking will hopefully minimise the risks we face.

Attendance

Our school attendance, since the start of the year, has been over 97%, which is a fantastic achievement. It is worth highlighting that, although the local authority were instructed to issue no attendance proceedings during the first term, the monitoring of attendance is now back to 'normal' and all schools, alongside the EWO (Educational Welfare Officer for Attendance), will be monitoring children with unauthorised absence or broken weeks even through COVID. Thank you for your continued co-operation in ensuring your children attend school if they are well enough.

Parent Governor

I am pleased to let you know that Mrs Baxter has been appointed as our new Parent Governor.

School photographs

The photographer has been in school today and has taken individual photos of all the children.

You will shortly receive a proof and information on how to place an order online with Tulip Photography.



Christmas Events

Due to the current circumstances, as you can imagine we are not able to run certain Christmas events this year, such as FOSH's Christmas Fayre. We will be discussing with FOSH the type of Christmas events that we can run safely and hope to have further information about this in the next newsletter.

The Friends of St Helens (FOSH) Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM)

We hereby give notice of the Friends of St Helen's Committee Virtual AGM, to be held on **Monday 14th December 2020**. The meeting will commence at **7.30pm** and will be held via a Zoom call (meeting code to be advised). The committee plays a vital role within the school community by organising fun events and fundraising. The funds we raise help to ensure the school environment (both inside and out) inspires and develops the children. All parents, carers and staff are invited to support the AGM or join FOSH.

The meeting is a chance for you to hear about our activities during the last academic year and ideas for the future. It is also an opportunity for you to take part in the election of Committee members to represent the association throughout the forthcoming academic year. Nominations are welcomed in advance of the AGM for anyone wishing to stand as Chairperson, Treasurer or an ordinary committee member. FOSH is a registered charity and all committee members automatically become trustees of the charity. If you would like further information about what is involved in being a committee member, have a nomination or any items for inclusion in the agenda, please contact Fran Clarke at clarkefranc@gmail.co.uk

It would be great to see new members with fresh ideas for fundraising or to simply participate in decision making and help out with events. Please come along to find out how you can help. We look forward to seeing you!

Congratulations to these children on winning the Flying High certificates last week and this week.

Cherry Class – Harrison, Tessa, Scarlett R and Archie
Holly Class – Elsie Lou, Hugo, Freddie and Poppy
Beech Class – Cole, Ocean, James and Emily R
Oak Class – Casey, Frankie, Darcey and Charlotte M

Ash Class – Isabel, Madison, Oliver H and Laura
Sycamore Class – Harry M, Finley, Sam D and Levi
Elm Class – Emma R, Isis, Max C and Lola



Working in partnership with St Mary's Primary School, Yate

'Growing together, pursuing life in all its fullness'

