

From Mr Chappell

Firstly I want to start by paying tribute to the great staff that we have here at St Helen's. The last few weeks have been a challenge, with rising case rates in school and staff absence. In so many different ways the whole staff have stepped up into different roles, in some instances covering other classes and lunchtimes and working with children that they would not normally work with. I am hopeful that from the 'outside' it all seems 'business as normal' and the children have continued to work as hard as usual, but this is very much down to the magnificent efforts from staff across the whole school – once again thank you staff!

We have sent home a number of letters this week around systems in place and it is worth reiterating that everything we do is led by guidance from the local authority and Public Health England, with the aim at minimising the risks to children and families in order for our children to continue to be Flying High. Thank you for your continued support in what we do together as a St Helen's community. Have a great weekend.

Plane Update:

We wanted to give you an update on the plane project. It's been a long journey and it isn't quite over yet, but as we start the new year, we have an important team meeting on Monday to finalise a timeline to bring the plane back to school.

In particular, we have the key internal building work ready to start in Filton and the 'Flying High' graphics for the outside are being prepared ready for install. We have also been given access to an identical plane, currently in Norwich, which we are able to remove parts from – and this will enable us to get the cockpit of our plane restored as well as install the 'nose'. We were due to be able to access this plane in December, but this has now been pushed back until February.

We will keep you informed over the next few months with photos and stories as the final pieces of work come together.



Curriculum Displays: It has been great to see more Curriculum displays in our corridors, showcasing the excellence around the school! We are really looking forward to the day when we can get all parents and carers back in to the school building so that you can see for yourselves the great work going on.



OPAL: Outdoor Play and Learning: Once again we are looking for any loose parts and donations of games such as lego, duplo or playmobile. We are also looking for small sand pits and small tents for den building! Thank you to the parents/carers who this week donated a bucketful of Duplo and Lego. The children have had great fun already this week! We even had a sit down swing made imaginatively this week, which meant children were queueing up to have a go! Amazing playtimes!



PIP (Parents in Partnership) Meeting: Before Christmas I mentioned a Parents in Partnership meeting to look at the homework policy and to answer any other questions that you may have. I was hoping to hold this in person but due to the current Covid levels in school and in the wider community I will now look to hold it on Zoom. The first in a series of termly meetings will be on **Friday 28th January**. EY/KS1 parents and carers are welcome from 9:30am to 10am and KS2 parents and carers from 10:15 am to 10:45 am. A Zoom code will be sent out next week.

Connected Curriculum Maps: This week you should have received either through Class Dojo or via the website your children's Connected Curriculum Map for the Spring Term. Hopefully you will also have seen our first whole school overview. Please talk to your children about some of the things they have been doing and find out about all the great things that have gone on.



Well done to those children who were awarded a certificate today and last week.

Cherry Class – Bethany, Hallie, Jude, Doohyun
 Holly class – George, Parker, Hugo, Finlay
 Beech class – Chloe, Logan, Eleanor, Poppy
 Oak class – Kaia, Viola, Henry, Sophie

Ash class – Luca, Rose, Darcey
 Sycamore class – Macy, Jacob, Dexter
 Elm class – Bede, Harry M, Sehyun, Harry C



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

