

From Mr Chappell

In the last newsletter I talked about how fortunate I feel to be part of this wonderful school community and this sense of proudness has again been encapsulated by the way the whole school community has stayed connected during the last week. To see the children's smiling faces during our Zoom class meetings and assemblies and nearly sixty families connect with our singing assembly on Wednesday was amazing. As much as these are unprecedented times, as a school we are working as hard as possible to stay connected, so that your children have the opportunity to see and hear their class teacher and, just as important, some of their friends. Once again I must also say a HUGE THANK YOU to all members of staff for their hard work. Whether in school supporting some of our children or developing their own learning as part of their CPD (Continuing Professional Development) or planning future opportunities for our 'Connected Curriculum' it has been a tremendous effort from everyone.

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



After the successful trial of Class Dojo by our Year 1 and Year 5 classes, we were delighted to roll out this online platform to the rest of the school at the end of last week. A huge thank

you to everybody for engaging on the platform; an amazing 96% of families are signed up and we have loved seeing the work, photos and videos that have been posted. The number of photos and video shared has been unbelievable and far exceeded our expectations, so thank you for sharing your children's work and staying connected.

As you can see, since we introduced Class Dojo to the whole school well over 1,000 photos and videos have been shared and more than 500 messages have been sent by teachers. During the school closure, Class Dojo will remain the key point of contact between yourself and your child's class teacher. Please note, it is not possible for class teachers to make a comment on every single thing that is uploaded. Whilst the teachers have to approve every post that is submitted, they will not mark or make a comment on everything.

Please note EYFS will continue to use Tapestry and there are no plans to change this.

School Insights

Messages sent to families

523

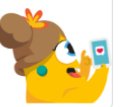
98 Last week



Photos and videos shared

1.07k

175 Last week



Positive feedback %

100%

100% Last week



Monday 27th April to Monday 4th May



As you will be aware by now, in partnership with St Mary's, we have developed our own Captain Tom's Challenge to raise money for Southmead Hospital Charity. We have been in touch with the charity who have launched a special COVID appeal supporting the welfare of staff and patients and you can read more about what they are raising money for here: <https://www.southmeadhospitalcharity.org.uk/coronavirus/> We have set up a 'Justgiving' page where we direct everybody to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sthelensandstmarys>

If every child and staff member raised £2, we'd smash our target of £1,000. After Mr Spens' Tennis challenge and Mr Chappell's Maths and Trampoline bounce, we look forward to seeing what you and your children come up with! Please feel free to post a video of your children's challenge ideas on Class Dojo. Let's see how much we can raise together in partnership! **STOP PRESS:** We haven't officially started the challenge yet and we are already at: £160

Home Learning

Thank you for everything that you are doing to help your child with their learning at home. We appreciate this can be a tricky time, and trying to get your child to do things that we or you are providing can be difficult. Every child is different and you will find a routine and structure that works for you. What works for you and your child is best and this may mean doing more work on some days than other days. The important thing is to try and do the core skills we outlined last week: Maths, Reading, Writing and Spelling. If you need any further help or support with Home Learning please email us and we will try to help.



Reading at home - message for EYFS families

To help with reading at home check out

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/> You can register for free and then get access to a range of free e-books, starting from pink level, so you can choose a book that best suits your child's reading level. Borrow Box is a free app linked to your local library, so if you are a library user this is a great resource to get free e-books.



School Life:

Once again school has been very busy this week! The children have had a great time and during the afternoons have played a variety of sports. They have also produced some beautiful 'Rainbow' art work that you will see on our front gates. My thanks to all the staff for making it another very successful week for the children in school.

Safeguarding

During the closure, I will continue with my reminder about safeguarding: It is imperative that if you have any concerns you contact the school or South Gloucestershire's Access and Response Team. Our greatest priority as a school is to always ensure the safety, well-being and happiness of all our children. In these unprecedented times, and during the school closure, the safeguarding of all our children remains our number one priority.

We will continue to support our families through different means: whether by frequent phone calls, class Zoom meetings, emails and, when necessary, face to face house visits (with social distancing protocols). Please note that we are also continuing to work with external agencies during this period of closure. With this in mind please remember that if you have any safeguarding concerns regarding our children, please contact us as a matter of urgency. I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mr Spens is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). Throughout the closure we are contactable at all times via the school email: sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk South Gloucestershire Council's Safeguarding Access and Response Team (ART) is also available to report concerns about a child: 01454 866000 Monday to Thursday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm (4.30 on Friday) and 01454 615165 out of hours and at weekends.

This is a challenging time for many reasons and there may be some families who need additional support, so if you have **ANY** questions or concerns please feel free to contact us and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Celebration Assembly

Well done to those children who were invited to a special Zoom Celebration assembly earlier today. Thank you to everybody for all their hard work!

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week:

Cherry Class – Sara and George
Holly Class – Olly and Viola
Beech Class – Imogen S and Sebastian
Oak Class – Millie and Isabel

Ash Class – Harry M and Cody
Sycamore Class – Ali and Kyle
Elm Class – Miles and Matthew.



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

'Growing together, pursuing life in all its fullness'

