

From Mr Chappell

As you know, all our children have been looking at the value of 'hope' as part of our return to school and our reconnection with school life. I shared my hopes for the year in the very first recorded assembly, and one of my hopes was that children would enjoy being back in school. As we move towards the fifth full week, I have to say that my hopes have been exceeded and the vast majority of children are relishing and enjoying being back in school. During the past week, several of our children have spoken to a member of the local authority education team, as part of a challenge support day, and one of the quotes taken from their report expressed: *'Pupils are overwhelmingly positive about returning to school and are pleased to see their friends. Although they find some of the new routines and structures strange, they are not worried or concerned about anything.'* Whilst we were very pleased to hear this, I must stress again that if you have any worries or concerns about your child's return to school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher for further help, advice or support. Have a great weekend.

The St Helen's community, children, families and staff - 'Flying High - Soar on wings like eagles'

New School Website

We are delighted to reveal that our new school website is now live. Over the next few weeks we will be populating even more news on the class pages and adding more information to keep you fully informed with school events. Please follow the link and bookmark it to keep in the touch with all the great things that are going on at St Helen's.

<https://www.sthelensprimary.org.uk/>



KS1 reading message:

Over the last couple of weeks the children in Year 1 and Year 2 have really enjoyed choosing their own reading books to take home. It has been great to see them engaging in conversation with adults and their peers about what kind of books they like and what book they might choose next. As a reminder, books are changed on a Monday and a Friday but please ensure reading books and reading records are in school every day. This week we have relaunched the '5 times a week' competition and it has been good to see lots of children reading at least 5 times a week to an adult. It would be amazing if we could have 100% of children reading at least 5 times a week across KS1. Once your child has finished reading their book you can spend some time focusing on retelling and asking questions. Don't forget to record this in the reading record. Bookmarks with the children's reading targets will be sent home shortly; please refer to these targets when writing a brief comment.

KS1 Reading Meeting for Parents and Carers – Tuesday 13th October at 6.30pm

To help with the development of early reading, the KS1 teachers will be holding a reading meeting via Zoom, on Tuesday 13th October at 6.30pm. We would love to see all KS1 parents and carers at this meeting. A Zoom code will be sent out closer to the date.

Parent Governor

A vacancy has arisen for the role of parent governor. A separate letter will be sent to parents and carers today giving information about this and how to put forward a nomination. The closing date for nominations is Friday 16th October (4pm).



House Captains

Well done to the Year 6 children who have been chosen by their peers as House Captain for this year. The children had to develop their own presentations before it was decided who was to become House Captains. We look forward to our House Captains, as all Year 6 children, modelling our values for the rest of the children - inside and outside of school.

House Points

Over the last few weeks, we have been collecting all our house points on Class Dojo and, after four weeks, the totals are:



Times Table Rock Stars message from Miss Hurd

Speed and accuracy are so important when it comes to times tables and related division facts. The more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do more challenging calculations.

Over the last 7 days, the following houses have played this often:

- Blenheim 19%
- Britannia 23%
- Concorde 27%
- Brabazon 31%



Next week, let's all **Fly High** with practising our quick recall of times tables and related division facts by aiming for as close to 100% as possible. The house which plays the most often will receive a house point for every percent they achieve. For example, the winning house will achieve 95 house points if 95% of the children play over the next 7 days. Good luck everyone!

Numbots - % of children 'playing'. Can we increase the percentage of children playing numbots over the next week? Over the last 7 days, the following year groups have played this often:

- Year 1 20%
- Year 2 14%
- Year 3 4%

Friends of St Helen's

The Friends of St Helen's will be holding their AGM, via Zoom, on Monday 19th October at 7.30pm. All parents and carers are welcome and it would be wonderful to see as many faces as possible so that we can start to plan a very different set of activities in these challenging times. In order to make decisions at the AGM we do need a minimum number of attendees, so please do come along and help to support the work of FOSH, which in turn supports the school in enhancing the education of our children. A meeting code will be communicated nearer the time. We look forward to welcoming you along. If you have any questions then please do contact us either via the school or using clarkefranc@gmail.com. Fran Clarke, Chairperson

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Holly Class – Emilia, Isabelle, Ruben and George
 Beech Class – Bear, Chloe, Peaches and Emily B
 Oak Class – Lewis, Rory, Rose and Imogen F

Ash Class – Jonathan, Isabel, Selby and Emelia
 Sycamore Class – Evie, Cody, Alfie and Bouthayna
 Elm Class – Jonny, Niymi, Cameron and Emma C



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

