

From Mr Chappell

As we come to the penultimate newsletter of this very busy autumn term, it is worth stopping for a few moments and reminding ourselves of all the things that have been achieved by the St Helen's School community this term. It has been a huge joint effort and, working in partnership, we have tried to ensure that school life continues as close as possible to 'normality'. Trying to continue to develop things as normal as possible, when we know they are not, is an incredibly hard job. So once again a huge thank you to everybody involved as we move into the very busy Christmas period and all that brings - productions, Christmas dinners and the Christmas Fair. Although these will be very different experiences for us this year, the fact that staff are adapting to the current climate shows their dedication and effort. Likewise you will have received a letter from FOSH (Friends of St Helen's) yesterday, outlining their Christmas fundraising ideas. Please, if you can, contribute to these very worthwhile events. As I said, as a school community we are trying to adapt to enable all children to have the best Christmas that they can in school (with a little bit of work going on as well!). Thank you for your continued support. Have a great weekend.

Inset Day

Today, as part of our work in the partnership with St Mary's School, we held joint staff training to look at planning collaboratively for Terms 3 and 4. In line with our Global Curriculum, the theme for our Brave Change makers is Rights and Responsibilities. This is a very exciting topic which, for example, will enable the children in KS2 to look at areas such as Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire. They will consider what it was like to be a leader in those historical periods and what it means to have a 'voice' and consider why their voice is important nowadays. We look forward to sharing our curriculum overviews in the New Year.

Times Table Rock Stars

Well done to Concorde House who won the battle of the house TTRS competition last week and earned themselves an additional 100 house points to last week's total!

23RD NOVEMBER - 30TH NOVEMBER

 Concorde (Blue)

561

Britannia (Yellow)

78

Brabazon (Red)

386

Blenheim (Green)

476



Please continue to encourage your children to play as much as possible throughout the week. One of the strengths of the school over the last few years, in Maths, has been the children's ability to quickly recall their key multiplication facts.



Whilst we appreciate that some children do find learning their times tables a little tricky, taking 5-10 minutes a day to learn multiplication facts will make a huge difference. As teachers have been demonstrating to children, there are only 38 multiplication facts to learn, and if you consider that this sometimes starts in Year 1, learning 38 facts is not a lot to try and do! A great video here shows this very clearly.

<https://komodomath.com/blog/how-many-times-tables>

Thank you!

We wanted to say a huge thank you and recognise all the great work that Laura Derham has achieved during the time that she has been the Clerk to the Governors. This a very rewarding and extremely important role and the Clerk ensures the school governors function to the best of its ability. Laura has played a huge role in this, and on Wednesday evening she attended her last Governors' meeting. Thank you Laura!

This does mean we now have a vacancy for a Clerk. If anybody would be interested in taking this on, or knows someone in the local community who may be able to fulfil this role, please contact the school office.



Walk to School Initiative

In the new year, working alongside the South Gloucestershire Council Safer Streets initiative, we will be encouraging children to walk, cycle or scoot to school more often. We will be using an incentive of badges that can be earned depending on how many times the children walk, cycle or scoot in a month. More information will be distributed next week.

Message from Friends of St Helen's - Christmas Fundraising

Due to the current situation FOSH have been unable to run events in the way we normally, including our hugely popular Christmas Fair. However, we have worked hard with the school to consider ways that the children can still enjoy some of the fun of the season and we can raise much needed funds to support the school. Full details were emailed to parents yesterday. Over the next two weeks there will be:

- A Christmas art competition with prizes on offer for children in each class.
- Our ever popular Christmas raffle, with a first prize of a £100 Mall voucher and runner up prizes including fabulous festive hampers and afternoon tea vouchers.
- Christmas goodie stalls, operating in a Covid secure way, after school on both Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th December.
- 'Christmas Jumper' day on Thursday 17th December.
- And, most excitingly, Father Christmas will be appearing (by appointment only) on the evening of Thursday 17th December!

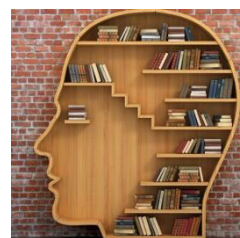
We hope you will support these events with your usual enthusiasm and if anyone would be happy to help then please contact FOSH via our Facebook page.

As a reminder, our AGM will be held on Monday 14th December at 7.30pm via zoom. Details of how to join the meeting will be shared nearer the time. It would be wonderful to welcome new members to the team of regular parent helpers so that we can organise a wide range of events over the coming year.

We Love Reading!

Reading really fills the brain and gets the creative juices flowing! With this in mind, to celebrate all our children's achievements, last week we held a very special celebration assembly devoted entirely to reading! Well done to all the children below who received their 'We Love Reading' Certificate for recognition of their efforts in developing their love of reading.

Well done and remember reading 10 minutes or more a day every day with your child is so important.



Congratulations to these children on winning the 'We Love Reading' certificates last week!

Cherry Class – Aiden and George
Holly Class – Joshua and Taamiran
Beech Class – Honey and Lily
Oak Class – Fernando and Amelia

Ash Class – Seth and Katlyn
Sycamore Class – Harry C and Emma
Elm Class – Charlie N and Zainab