

From Mr Chappell

It has been another incredibly busy week, with school trips, football matches and a new member of staff! I am sure you will join me in warmly welcoming Mr Cockle to St Helen's school. As you are aware, Mr Cockle has taken on the role of Executive Headteacher, whilst our governors and the St Mary's governors continue to review and move forwards with the next steps of the partnership. Mr Cockle will be here each Monday and when he visited last Monday he called in to each class to say hello and was very impressed by our children. In his role he will continue to support both partnership schools (as well as his other two schools) as we continue to move forwards. Have a great weekend. Keep Flying High!

Message from Mr Cockle

Firstly, I am delighted to have joined the St Helen's community and I have been so warmly welcomed by everyone I have spoken to so far. Mr Chappell and the leadership team have taken the time to get me up to speed on all the exciting things we are currently focusing on this year. On Monday I had the chance to meet all the staff and pupils. I was taken aback by how welcoming the pupils were and the lovely conversations we had about their learning, classrooms and varying aspects of the whole school. I had particular fun being on the playground and seeing year 6 playing football on the all-weather pitch and the younger children using the loose parts connected to the Playpod. I will need to bring my dirty clothes next week and join in.



I hope to arrange a time where you can come in, meet me and ask any questions you may have. In the meantime, I am always on the playground at the beginning and end of Monday so please introduce yourself. I promise I will learn everyone's faces soon. This week has been another busy one for our children especially the year 1 and 2 team who really enjoyed Noah's Ark. I know there are lots of exciting activities planned to support our curriculum in the coming terms which I have no doubt the children will love. If you have any questions or worries, on the playground before and after school, there will be key members of staff who will be there to help.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you all next week.

Year 1 and 2 Trip:

It is great that we are able to start getting out of school again and visiting new places as part of our Connected Curriculum. This week Year 1 and 2 visited Noah's Ark, as part of their topic, learning about animals from Africa. The children had a great time and I am told that one of the leaders at Noah's Ark, who ran a workshop, remarked that our children 'were some of the best behaved children that had ever visited'. This is a huge credit to all the children who are epitomising our vision of 'Flying High'. Well done Year 1 and 2! Next week Year 5 and 6 have a very exciting trip to STEAM as part of their Victorian topic.



Uniform:

I had the incredible pleasure of teaching Year 2 PE this week and as we did some fantastic Gymnastics. What struck me, aside to their fantastic travelling and balancing, was how smart they looked in the correct PE uniform. Please can we remind you of our expectation for uniform both in PE and in general uniform. For example it has been noted by teachers that a number of children are wearing trainers and unsuitable footwear to school. Please can we ask for your support in following our school uniform policy and if there are any issues please contact us to see how we can help with any difficulties.



Parents in Partnership Meeting

Thank you to those who attended the Parents in Partnership meeting last Friday via Zoom. I would like to make this a regular termly catch up to talk to parents to get views on a number of school questions. Last week we talked in depth about homework and the homework that is given at St Helen's. It was great to hear people's views on the success of the homework policy, but also to give a few ideas on how we can improve. These comments will be taken back to the SLT (Senior Leadership Team) and will be discussed further. The next PIP meeting will be held in Term 4 and we are hoping for this to be in person.

Parents' Evenings – Tuesday 8th March and Thursday 10th March

Please note the dates of our Parents' evenings early in Term 4. We are hoping to be able to hold these in person, but will confirm this nearer the time.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday all classes will be spending some time during the day reiterating key e-safety messages about the internet, as part of national Safer Internet Day. As a school we always spend Term 1 in Computing looking at e-safety issues and on Tuesday we will be

carrying out some activities in class about staying safe and reminding children about the SMART rules. It is fundamentally important that you as parents and carers are aware of what your children are accessing on the internet, especially with growing numbers of children having access to smart phones.



For your interest, we recommended some websites that you may wish to look at with your children.

- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022/advice-for-parents-and-carers>
- <https://www.childnet.com/resources/be-smart-online/>

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

Thank you to those who have made donations of duplo, construction and lego. We were pleased to also received a number of storage containers and a small sand pit, which will help the OPAL activities to grow, enabling children to continue to have fun at playtimes. Thank you!



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

Cherry Class – Zachary, William, Arlo, Eva
 Holly class – Scarlett C, Rosa, Albie, Freddie
 Beech class – Bea, Isabel, Freddie, Bronnie
 Oak class – Luke, Lily, Cole, Michael

Ash class – Nithilan, Rory, Frankie, Zack
 Sycamore class – Ollie J, Frankie, Phoebe, Selby
 Elm class – Levi, Logan T, William, Xander



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

