

From Mr Chappell

Thank you to all those who attended our first ever online Parents' Evening this week. The overwhelming feeling from talking to teachers has been one of positivity, with lots of great examples being shared of children really enjoying school and relishing the work that they are completing in our Global Connected Curriculum. Rose in Year 3 has been so inspired by the Global Topic that she wishes to raise money in the future for the children in India she has been finding out about! From our recent monitoring sessions as school leaders, we are seeing some lovely examples of work in books and examples of art work, that inspire our children to do the very best that they can. Whilst it is disappointing that, because of the current times we find ourselves in, we cannot share your children's books with you in person. We are looking at other ways to share the children's successes in the Connected Curriculum and are looking at developing some end of term online class assemblies to share what we have been doing in more detail.

Help and Support: In these unprecedented times we understand that the ever changing climate of work, the difficulty of receiving support of extended families and friends, and children's well-being are things that some parents may be experiencing difficulties with. If you have any worries or concerns about anything, please remember that as a school we are here to support you and your children, and that confidential support, help and advice is available from myself, other members of staff and external agencies that we can signpost you towards, such as the school nurse. Please do not hesitate to speak to us, if you have any worries about anything, not just about school, as we know in these difficult times everybody will be having different experiences.

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

National lockdown implications for St Helen's

With the national lockdown commencing, we received updated government advice on Wednesday night. To reassure parents, we continue to closely follow the guidance and ensure children are taught and remain in separate bubbles and that staff are also well distanced in different staff room pods and holding meetings online. There are a few additional changes we've made this week as well:

- Revised one-way system for parents and introduction of face coverings. Thank-you for your support with this
- Cancelled one-on-one tours for parents of Reception children looking to join the school in 2021. These will now be held on line
- Postponed the introduction of after school clubs, we will keep this under review

Parents of any children who are 'extremely critically vulnerable'

If your child has a medical condition which means that they fall under the category of 'extremely critically vulnerable' then you should speak to your child's GP or specialist clinician if you have not already done so, to understand whether your child should still be classed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' during this lockdown period.

From the recent guidance: *'Those children whose doctors have confirmed are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.'*

Please could parents contact the school if this category applies to their child in order to discuss this further.

Free School Meals

As mentioned earlier, if you have any changes in circumstances due to Covid-19, you may be eligible to be in receipt of Free School Meals. If you feel you would want some help and advice about this, please use the link below or contact the school office to speak to Mr Chappell.

<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=96T2gCAk10A>

Children in Need – Friday 13th December

Next Friday is BBC's Children in Need Day. We are encouraging all children to come to school dressed in appropriate non-school uniform (normal rules apply with no jewellery and sensible footwear) for a donation of a minimum £1 to the charity.

Donations can be given to class teachers, who will send money to the office to be sanitised before making its way to the bank!



Use of the park after school

During lockdown, parks will remain open. Given the changes to the guidance, please could we ask that children and parents do not gather in groups after school. During the day, we work hard to ensure that children are not mixing between their bubbles and we would be most grateful if parents could reinforce this message outside of school too. Thank-you in advance for your support with this.



Wesport are offering Virtual Winter Games challenges to encourage more exercise in schools and at home and to compare results with other schools as a competition. It is set up as five weekly challenges. It began on Monday 2nd November and will continue to Friday 4th December. Please see below the weekly challenges if you would like to participate at home; results can be sent to teachers via Tapestry or Class Dojo.

For examples of what is expected please click on the link below:

<https://www.wesport.org/active-education/school-games/2020-virtual-winter-school-games/>

Week One: How many star jumps can you do in sixty seconds?

Week Two: How many times can you pass a ball between your legs in sixty seconds?

Week Three: How many times can you skip in sixty seconds?

Week four: How many times can you dribble a ball around a marker in sixty seconds?

Week five: How many times can you step up and down in sixty seconds?

Your class teacher will post more information about each challenge every week.

Good Luck! Mrs Boffin

A huge well done to all the children in KS1!

The teachers in KS1 have been so pleased that many children are having a go on our new game 'Phonics Hero' over the last week and during half term. It has been great to hear from children how much they are enjoying



playing and making great progress through the levels. 61% of children across the three classes have played; it would be amazing if we can get this as close to 100% as possible! From next week we will be awarding weekly certificates to children in each class for best effort. We are excited to see which children will be first to be awarded these! We are aware that Phonics Hero can't be downloaded on a phone and if you are unable to access it on another device, please continue to access Phonics Play which is a free resource. Happy playing!

Arts Week

This week EYFS, Year 3 and 4 have completed some fabulous Art work with two artists, our resident in artist Jo and Laura from Colourful Minds. The children have worked within their own bubbles either in the hall or, for the older children, in St Helen's Church and they have completed some wonderful examples of work based around their Connected Curriculum objectives. For example as part of their Peace and Conflict work, having looked at India, Year 3 did a wonderful job making leaves and a tree, background pieces and some colourful elephants whilst Year 4 made a beautiful collection of 'tiles' as part of a design based on Indian textiles. EYFS children were looking at what makes them unique and created some fantastic self-portraits using different materials. We can't wait to see these great pieces of art work on display. Well done all children! Next week it will be the turn of children in Years 5 and 6 and, the week after, Years 1 and 2 will have their turn.



School photographs

The photographer will be in school on Friday 20th November to take individual photographs of each child. Unfortunately, due to the COVID restrictions, we are not able to invite pre-school children to come into school to join their siblings for a photograph.

Initially Yours

Our uniform supplier, Initially Yours, will remain open during the lockdown period for online orders and 'click and collect' from the branch. Orders can be delivered to school or your home address. Their staff will be available to assist via email or telephone.

Flu vaccinations

Just a reminder that the NHS team will be in school on Monday to administer flu vaccines to the children whose parents have given consent.

Congratulations to all these children on winning the Flying High certificates for this week.

Cherry Class - Obi and James
Holly Class – Dougie and Sienna
Beech Class – Harrison
Oak Class – Olivia and Mia

Ash Class – Hudson and Dexter
Sycamore Class – Layla and Harrison
Elm Class – Mya and Dakota



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

