

## From Mr Chappell

Welcome back to a new academic year at St Helen's! I hope you all had an amazing summer. The children have come back to school in such a positive way and there has been a real buzz of learning right across the school as I have moved from class to class throughout the week. It has been great to see the children come back with our ethos of 'Flying High' and I have been very impressed by the attitude and effort that our children have started the year with. In assembly on Wednesday we talked about using all our school values to enable us to do the very best that we can and this has already been seen with lots of examples of friendship, respect and compassion across the school. We'd also like to say a big welcome to our new children who have joined us and welcome our class of new Reception children who will be attending school next week for the first time. We're also excited to welcome Miss Adams (Year 1 class teacher) and Miss Clarke (Reception class teacher, Thursday and Friday) who have joined our incredible staff team. As always we will be encouraging the children to aim for 'Flying High' and with your continued support I am sure that we can make it another very successful year at St Helen's.

## Mrs Hardy – SENCo Assistant

As part of my new role as Head of School, Mrs Hardy will be taking on more of the role of SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) and supporting me, teachers, and teacher assistants in our work with children with additional needs. As always if you have any concerns or worries about your child, then please see your child's class teacher, who may arrange a meeting with Mrs Hardy.

## Message from Miss Clarke

Hello! I am Miss Clarke, and I am so excited to have joined your wonderful school as the Reception teacher alongside Mrs Boffin. I have recently qualified, with specific training within Early Years, and I can't wait to begin my teaching career in St Helen's.

I am passionate about Art and Drama and look forward to implementing my creativity in the classroom to help shape your children's learning. I also love teaching Phonics and Maths! I can't wait to meet you all.



## Year 6 Trip to Dean Field Studies Centre

Next week, our Year 6's head to the Forest of Dean for the annual camp. They will be doing all sorts of exciting activities while they are away from canoeing to orienteering, to caving. We hope that they have a really fantastic time away as a class! Technology permitting, we'll be sharing photos and updates from the trip on twitter. Twitter users can follow us @sthelenspri, or you can visit [www.twitter.com/sthelenspri](https://www.twitter.com/sthelenspri).

## Back to school night

There's a lot of information to communicate at the beginning of the school year and so we would like to invite all parents and carers to our 'Back to school' evening on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 6.00pm until 7.00pm. We will be talking about some of our plans for the new academic year including our wider curriculum developments and our plans for the academic year. There will then be an opportunity for you to visit your child(ren)'s new classroom to have a look around and meet their teacher. Unfortunately we do not have space to allow children to attend with their parents.

## Generosity

This term the children will be exploring the Value of **Generosity**. You will have received the home school sheet relating to this Value at the end of last term.

## Out of school achievements

- Jasper in Ash class has achieved his 50 metres distance swimming award.
- Alfie in Ash class has passed the ABRSM Piano Grade 2 exam.
- Harry in Holly class successfully completed the 'Space Chase' Summer Reading Challenge.



**HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE**

**The Generositree**

The fruit of the generositree are blessings.

Think of something **generous** that you could do that would bless someone and make them happy. Then do it.

Design and make a colourful exotic looking fruit to represent the blessing and take it to school to hang on the Generositree.

## Our target for school attendance

Last year our whole school attendance was a fantastic **96.8%**, which was just short of our target of 97%. As with all areas of school life, including pupil achievement, we want to set ambitious targets for the year ahead and are again setting the High Target of 97%. We will also be continuing to monitor the number of 'broken weeks' that children are having and are looking to improve this for the forthcoming academic year. Research shows that great attendance makes a real impact on learning and so I'd like to thank-you in advance for your support with this.



## St Mary's and St Helen's Partnership update from Mr Spens

We started the new year on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September by holding our first ever 'Partnership INSET Day'. We went off-site and spent the day working on our shared vision and values and in particular thinking about the impact that we all have on creating the kind of culture and environment where everyone can thrive. It was an exciting day and a great opportunity for the staff of each school to meet and work alongside each other and it was clear to see how much there is in common between the schools.

This year, we will be particularly working together on developing the wider curriculum at both of our schools, combining our expertise to create an even more engaging, inspiring and purposeful curriculum for our children. To achieve this, we will be forming a core team of teachers from both schools and working alongside a teaching and learning consultant who will help facilitate our work together. As well as this, both schools are trialling a revised approach to the curriculum during the Autumn term and our Year 3 and 4 classes will be trialling an innovative joint topic/theme across both schools, which we hope to learn from.

We are holding a 'Back to School' night on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 6-7pm where we will talk more about this as well as communicating some other important updates and plans for the new school year. I really hope that as many parents and carers as possible will be able to make this evening. Have a restful and enjoyable weekend!

## Emotional Wellbeing

As part of our work with the local authority and the school nursing team we are delighted to announce that we will be working alongside the School Nurse, Angela Gardener, to host a series of workshops entitled 'Supporting you and your child's emotional wellbeing'. Developed by Mark Allen (Public Health & Wellbeing, South Gloucestershire Council), Pat Carr and Allison Fry (School Health Nursing) and Claire Morris (The Park Primary School), the programme, which has been used across schools in the local authority,



will look at how you can help your child's well-being. Starting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, the sessions will be held from 1:45pm to 3:25 pm and will run for 3 weeks. The sessions will be run by the School Nurse, Angela Gardener and Mr Chappell. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact the office.

## Flying High at all times!

One key element of our School Development Plan this year is to ensure our ethos of Flying High is replicated around all areas of school and at all times. This is something that we are aiming to do at break times and lunchtimes and we are exploring the activities we do during these sessions. With that in mind we would like to say a huge thank you to **FOSH (Friends of St Helen's)** who have purchased the lovely new playground markings that the children have been exploring all week. We are also looking at developing the use of our 'quiet area' and would welcome donations of any 'quiet' activities such as Uno cards, board games, colouring books and easels.



## Friends of St Helen's News

A warm welcome back to school from the FOSH team! Hopefully you have seen the fantastic new playground markings which your kind donations to the recent FOSH events have contributed towards. We have our **AGM** on 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm at The Ship, Alveston, so please come along and find out a little more about what we do and meet the team. Everyone is very welcome! We are looking to introduce two new parent/carers representatives from each year group to attend FOSH meetings and help out at key events. If you are interested in joining and becoming a representative for your child's year, please contact our Chair, Rebecca Meredith: 07827 585058 / [rebeccameredith68@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccameredith68@yahoo.com)



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