

From Mr Chappell

Wow! What another busy week! Over the last few weeks we have had two school trips, the introduction of certificates for NumBots in KS1 (KS2 - don't forget to keep going on Times Tables Rockstars!) and our new KS1 reading challenge. Also, teachers have been working in each other's classrooms to learn from each other, to help ensure our Maths teaching is the best it can possibly be. On Monday, I had the pleasure of accompanying the Year 1 and 2 children to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm in Wraxall, as they looked to develop their knowledge of animals and their habitats. Throughout the day what struck me most was the children's thirst for learning and how well they represented our school and our 'Flying High' values. These 'Flying High' values were also seen following the Year 5 and 6 trip to the Armstrong Hall in Thornbury to watch Macbeth, when I was delighted to receive an email praising the behaviour and manners of our children. One helper on the trip said ***'Sometimes I am still blown away by the children's natural politeness'*** which is delightful to hear.

Also this week I received a lovely letter from a member of the community, praising the actions of two of our children, Ava and Isla, who looked after an elderly neighbour alongside their parents, after the neighbour had a bad fall. The letter stated ***'for them to act as caring and considerately as they did is a great credit to them, their family and the school'***. One of our values is 'compassion', and the girls certainly showed this in abundance. As you know, there are many things that make me proud to work in this school, and the behaviour and attitude of our children and the way they conduct themselves is one of them. This week we have seen many of our children 'Flying High' in lots of ways. Have a great weekend.

KS1 Reading Challenge

At St Helen's we aim to instil a love of reading in all our children. You can help us do this by reading every night at home with your child, no matter what year group they are in! To encourage our younger children to read, the KS1 teachers have been offering a special weekly prize to one child who reads at least five times a week. When you listen to your child read, please make a comment and sign the reading journal as it all helps in their reading development. Last week only **31 children out of 88 in KS1 read five times or more, which is only 35% of our children**. We would really love to see this increase dramatically and for all our KS1 children to be in with a chance to win a special book of their choice! Who wouldn't want to win one of these lovely books?



Reading is so important and really opens so many different doors for our children, so please join us in encouraging your child to read as much as possible. **#readingisthekey**

"Into the Light" exhibition celebrating Candlemas

Well done to our Year 3 children who produced some beautiful pieces of art for the Candlemas Service at St Helen's Church. The children worked incredibly hard with several local artists to produce some lovely lanterns.



Noah's Ark

Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoying their school trip.



Letter from the Department for Education

Last week we were delighted to receive a letter from the Minister of State for School Standards, the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, congratulating us on our KS2 results. Our progress scores from results last year (the progress children make from KS1 to the end of KS2) put St Helen's in the top 3% of primary schools in the country. A fantastic achievement.

Request for absence during term time

Following advice from our Education Welfare Officer, and in line with Government legislation, we now ask parents to complete an 'Absence Request' form prior to any leave of absence. This form should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the requested absence. A copy of the form will be emailed to parents today. It is also available for download from our website or a copy can be collected from the school office. Thank you for your co-operation.

Attendance

Congratulations to Holly class who had 98.2% attendance last week. The school total was 95%.
Congratulations to Ash class who had 99% this week. The school total was 96.7%

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Cherry Class – Sienna, Logan, Elizabeth and James
Holly Class – Aryo, Emily B, Pixie and Emily R
Beech Class – Lewis, Luca and Lexi Mae
Oak Class – Isabel, Aksel, Oliver H and Frankie

Ash Class – Aliona, Charlie, Bede and Hudson
Sycamore Class – Leona, Harry, Jonny and Emma R
Elm Class – Esther, Ryan, Jake and Evie



Out of school achievements

- Harriet in Ash class achieved a merit in her Grade 1 Imperial Classical Ballet examination.
- Chloe in Holly class achieved her level 3 award and the 15 metres distance award in swimming.

FRIENDS OF ST HELEN'S

School Discos tonight!

On arrival you will need to register (and confirm who is collecting your child) and pay for the ticket.

Every child will need to be collected by an adult and will be signed out by a member of staff.

KS1 Disco 6pm to 7pm - KS2 Disco 7:15pm to 8:15pm.



Dates for your diary

Donut Day - Friday 28th February
Quiz Night - Friday 27th March
Summer Fair - Saturday 13th June
End of year disco - Monday 13th July



Collecting Christmas attire for recycling!

To become more sustainable and help the environment, we are collecting your unwanted **Christmas** attire for recycling! We will sell these next Christmas to raise funds for school. These can be for adults or children (look out the things that won't fit them next year!), jumpers, t-shirts, pyjamas, slippers, headwear – anything with a Christmas theme!



Please drop off your donations in the covered area in the school playground and a member of FoSH will collect them – or bring them along to the school disco.



01454 866530



sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk



www.sthelensprimaryalveston.org.uk