

From Mr Chappell

Happy New Year! We hope you all managed to have a great break and a fantastic Christmas and New Year. It has been great to see all the children come back to school feeling really positive and enthused, ready for another really important term of work ahead. In terms of my own children, I always look forward to returning to school after any holiday as it enables us to get back into routine! I am sure that you are the same and this is where as a school we really value your help and support in enabling your children to continue to do well. For example, getting back into the routine of reading every night and helping your children with learning keywords and number facts for a few minutes every day. This is so important, even in Year 6! The time spent at home doing 'little and often' will only reinforce, consolidate and develop your own children's learning. Indeed research from the Education Endowment Foundation shows that in the short term, regular engagement at home and parental engagement has a positive impact on children's learning and on average can add up to four months' additional progress. With that in mind, hearing your child reading ten minutes or so a day, helping them to learn key maths facts, such as timetables, daily, seems a very important use of time at home. Thank you to everyone for your continued support in ensuring you are enabling your children to do the very best that they can.

Connected Curriculum: Although sadly parents are still not able to come into the school building to share the results, the hard work continues by staff and children to ensure that the corridor displays show the excellent work going on in our Connected Curriculum! Look at the recent new displays at the end of Term 2, completed by Year 4 and Year 1.

Well done children – lovely writing outcomes!

Year 4:

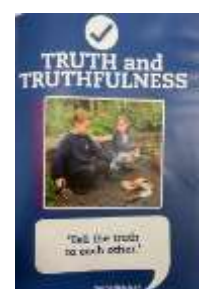


Year 1:



At the end of next week you will receive the Connected Topic overview plans as we explore the whole school theme of Social Justice. Look out for the big questions that your children will be answering as part of their curriculum work.

Value for this term: Our value this term is Truthfulness. Alongside this newsletter is the Home School values sheet that you can share with your children and work alongside them on some of the discussion activities.



Uniform: Please ensure that your children are adhering to the school uniform policy. Staff are reporting that more and more children are, for example, wearing trainers to school. PE days are set out by class teachers in advance, so trainers only need to be brought in to school on these days alongside the appropriate PE kit. Thank you for your support in this. If there are any difficulties please speak to your class teacher and we will see how we can help.

Covid-19 Update: Please see a separate letter from Mr Spens with an update on current guidance. We continue to be very proactive to minimise risk within the confines of the building. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the playground or to contact the school office.

New financial support: Please see attached information from the local authority about new financial support available and how households can make an application.

OPAL:

As you know we are always looking for donations of games such as lego, duplo or playmobile. We are also looking for small sand pits and small tents for den building! If you are thinking of getting rid of anything like this, please do not hesitate to speak to me. We would like to continue building our stock of loose parts play so would be pleased to receive donations of guttering or tyres.

We have also created in school our own OPAL display!



House points: Well done to all children at St Helen's for Flying High and collecting a huge number of house points last term. Congratulations to the children in Concorde House for gaining a stunning 3421 house points – a letter will be sent to these children on Monday. Term 2 totals:

Concorde House 3,421
Brabazon House: 3,406
Blenheim House 3,030
Britannia House 2,768



Term dates

Term 3: Tuesday 4th January to Friday 18th February
Term 4: Monday 28th February to Friday 8th April
Term 5: Monday 25th April to Friday 27th May
Term 6: Monday 6th June to Thursday 21st July

Please note that Term 6 ends one day earlier than previously published. This adjustment follows the announcement of an additional bank holiday in June. All term dates are available on the South Gloucestershire Council website.

INSET DAYS

Our remaining INSET days for this academic year are Monday 14th March and Friday 27th May 2022.

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

Cherry Class – Molly and Georgina
Holly class – Archie and James
Beech class – George
Oak class – April and Ollie

Ash class – Olivia and Imogen
Sycamore class – Katlyn and Huw
Elm class – Sam D and Alfie



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





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7th January 2022