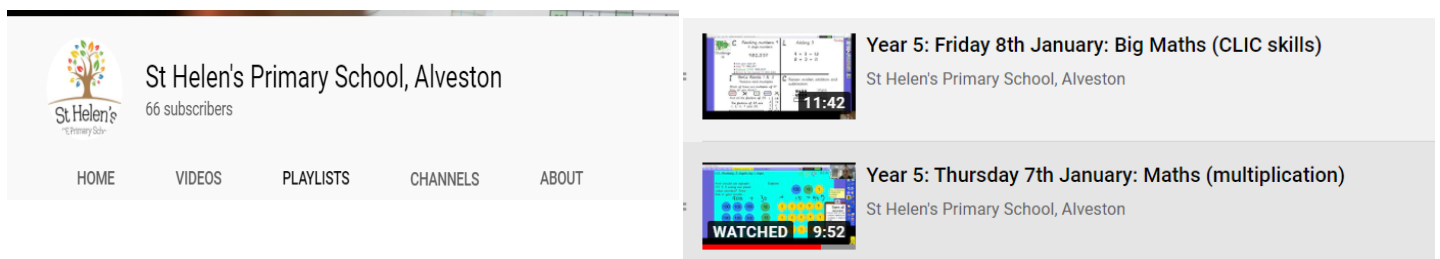


From Mr Chappell

Well, where do I start? Firstly I hope you all had an amazing Christmas and New Year and that you were able to enjoy the festivities as much as you would normally. Whilst in my house, like many others, it was very strange to have Christmas without spending time with other family and friends, we know that the sacrifices we are all making now helps everyone in the bigger picture. Then with us all feeling refreshed and ready to go for a great Term 3, we were hit by the news on Monday night of another national lockdown. Since that announcement at 8:10pm, the work that all members of staff at St Helen's has put in has been truly remarkable. I have spoken many times over this pandemic about how our staff have shown our school values, and gone above and beyond in many different ways and the work that has been completed over the last few days has been unbelievable. We have always had the contingency plan of working remotely, in case a bubble had to close, but to see the whole school set up and pre-recorded online learning, is a fantastic effort. Once again, I am sure that you will join me in recognising their huge efforts. Thank you so much for all your kind messages this week as it really helps us to read your positive comments on Class Dojo and Tapestry or by email. We appreciate your continued support.



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for St Helen's Primary School, Alveston. The channel has 66 subscribers. The page features a navigation menu with links for HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. Two video thumbnails are visible:

- Year 5: Friday 8th January: Big Maths (CLIC skills)** - St Helen's Primary School, Alveston - 11:42
- Year 5: Thursday 7th January: Maths (multiplication)** - St Helen's Primary School, Alveston - 9:52 (marked as WATCHED)

Home Learning

I have to say I have never been a huge YouTube fan; I've never seen the attraction as my own sons watched endless re-runs of Minecraft videos, funniest football moments and cats that do crazy things! However, this week I have been glued to the channel, watching the videos that have been produced by our amazing staff. Hopefully the children are really engaging with these pre-recorded lessons, and last night we held a very positive parents' meeting to review the last few days and to talk through our future home learning plans.

Thank you to everyone who attended and we had some really good reflections, feedback and ideas from parents. The main thing to understand is that we will be continually reviewing our provision and whilst the pre-recorded videos, and the check in and check outs, will stay the same it might be as things evolve we find ourselves developing even more live interactions, for example small phonics groups or maths support. In some classes this is already happening, but it is worth remembering that staff are balancing teaching in class with providing support and recording videos.

Some key messages that we gave last night and which is in the guidance we produced, is that **we are expecting all children to engage with the online learning** and to have a go at the activities that have been set for them. All the pre-recorded sessions that we are producing are exactly the lessons that would be delivered in school at this particular time and are clearly sequenced to maximise learning. If one lesson is missed, or not attempted, then when you come to the next lesson the following day, your child may not be able to understand some elements as it was covered the previous day. For this reason, it is important to access each lesson and we will be contacting parents whose children are not completing the work to find out the reasons behind this.

At last night's meeting there was a question about having to upload all work by 12:30pm. It would be good if you can get this completed by then, but any time through the afternoon would be fine, as it gives the staff a chance to look at what is being uploaded and to check on the learning.

Next Friday I will let you have another home learning update, to go through all the positives and any changes we may have made and to answer any questions you have raised. Thank you for your continued support.

Devices: One of the main reasons we decided to use pre-recorded lessons on YouTube was for the ease of access and being able to watch the video via tablets, computers, SMART TV or phones, when more than one device is possibly needed. If there is anybody who is having difficulty accessing the recording, due to lack of devices, please let us know as soon as possible and we will try to help as much as we can. It is also worth noting that major communications companies such as EE, BT or Vodaphone are looking to increase the amount of mobile data available for families, and this is something that we will be investigating.

Emotional Wellbeing

Back in September, in the very first newsletter of the year, I talked about how the first lockdown affected us all in different ways and I wrote the following (see below). As we move into a new set of circumstances and the children adjust to new routines and changes to their day to day interactions with other children, please remember that we are here to help as much as we can! Please contact us, if you need anything.

It is important to know that as always, we are here to help as much as we possibly can. As a school we pride ourselves on our relationship with all of our families. Our open door policy, that we talk about so much, will be there over the next few weeks and months, as children and families reconnect with school. Please be aware that we are here at any time to listen to any worries or concerns and to

"When have you been at your strongest?" asked the boy.

"When I have dared to show my weakness."



"Asking for help isn't giving up," said the horse.



"It's refusing to give up."



help

support you in the best way possible. This may be through support we can give your child directly in school or by signposting you to external services that we can access, for example the services of the school nursing team. If you need anything please do not hesitate to ask and make contact with school.

Safeguarding

During the closure, I will continue with my reminder about safeguarding: It is imperative that if you have any concerns you contact the school or South Gloucestershire's Access and Response Team if you have any concerns. Our greatest priority as a school is to always ensure the safety, well-being and happiness of all our children. In these unprecedented times, and during the school closure, the safeguarding of all our children remains our number one priority.

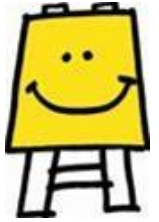
We will continue to support our families through different means: whether by frequent phone calls, class Zoom meetings, emails and, when necessary, face to face house visits (with social distancing protocols). Please note that we are also continuing to work with external agencies during this period of closure. With this in mind please remember that if you have any safeguarding concerns regarding our children, please contact us as a matter of urgency. I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Mr Spens is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). Throughout the closure we are contactable at all times via the school email: sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk South Gloucestershire Council's Safeguarding Access and Response Team (ART) is also available to report concerns about a child: 01454 866000 Monday to Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm (4.30pm on Friday) and 01454 615165 out of hours and at weekends.

Year 3's Readathon

During December the children in Year 3 held a Readathon to raise funds for Pratham UK. The children set themselves a target of how many minutes to read each day for two weeks and many of them worked so hard to reach and even go beyond their targets. Many thanks to their parents and other family members and friends for supporting them so generously in raising a staggering £565 for this charity. Well done, Year 3!

Pratham UK

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on all of us and we have all had to adjust to a "new normal" of living and learning. For millions of children in India, the disruption in many impoverished communities has been far more significant. The global impact of COVID-19 has had a considerable impact on Indian school children, resulting in the near-universal closing of schools at all levels with no online access to classes or lessons. With more than 300 million learners in India out of school due to the lockdown, Pratham's work to ensure continuity of education becomes more important than ever before.



Term 3 Value

This term our value is 'Responsibility'. We will be continuing to record our assemblies and playing these to the rest of the school. We will look at how we can share these online with children at home.

Congratulations to these children on winning certificates today.

Cherry Class – Hugo and Zara
Holly Class – Babilan and Eleanor
Beech Class – Willis and Mia
Oak Class – Fernando and Catherine

Ash Class – Jacob and Harry
Sycamore Class – Harry F and Bouthayna
Elm Class – Katie and Josh



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

