

St Helen's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 Week 3

Message from Mrs Evans

Hello St Helen's community and welcome to our first newsletter of the school year! I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to you all for welcoming me to the St Helen's team. So many of you have said hello, stopped to introduce yourselves and been friendly faces on the playground. It has certainly helped me the past few weeks to feel settled and positive about this new school year. There are so many wonderful things about St Helen's that I am yet to explore, but already I can see what an incredible community we are.

We have started strong this term with lots of wonderful learning. I have enjoyed dipping in and out of lessons and have been impressed with some of the knowledge the children already have about their curriculum topics. A real highlight for me has been celebration assembly – hearing the teachers describe the fantastic learning and attitudes of the children in their classrooms is a wonderful way to end the week. I'm looking forward to many more of these opportunities to celebrate many more of the incredible children we have at St Helen's!

Congratulations!

You may have already noticed that Mrs Hardy is expecting a baby! We are so excited for her as she embarks on this new journey and hope you join us in wishing her all the best. Please rest assured that Mrs Hardy is putting together a very comprehensive handover. We will provide more details in terms of staffing later in the term.

Harvest Foodbank Collection

This year we are again collecting donations for the North West Bristol and St Paul's Foodbanks. If you are able, please send in donations of tins or dried foods by the end of this term. Thank you for your support!



Our Most Needed Items* ...

Tinned Fruit
Tinned Meat
Rice
Long Life Milk
Biscuits
Instant Coffee
Long Life Fruit Juice
Tinned Fish
Peanut Butter/Jam
Crisps/Nibbles
Custard

When donating food please ensure that it has a 'sell by date' of at least 6 months in advance which is clearly marked.

Digital Inclusion Needs

Please see the message below from South Glos Council:

Dear parents and carers,

We want to make it easier for residents to access and use online services, regardless of people's backgrounds and circumstances. Some evidence shows that households with children are more likely to struggle to do the things they need to do online. We are keen to understand this in more detail, so that we can work towards reducing the barriers that families may face.

We would be grateful if you could complete a short survey by **Friday 16th October**, so that we can hear from you about your experiences. Your answers will remain anonymous, and you have the option enter a prize draw for a chance to win one of five £10 shopping vouchers. If you have any concerns or wish to complete the survey another way, please contact South Gloucestershire Council by either calling 01454 868009 or by emailing consultation@southglos.gov.uk.

[What does digital inclusion look like in households with children? – Fill in form](#)

Thank you,

South Gloucestershire Council Customer Services Team

Singers for Harvest Service

Reverend Moss has asked me to share the following message:

St Helen's Church is recruiting junior singers to sing at the special St. Helen's Harvest Service October 4th at 4pm. They will be singing Rutter's All Things Bright and Beautiful.

Please see this clip from Firs School: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j27bWnV3kJg>

The first practice will be Tuesday 22nd at 6.30 pm for 30 minutes.

Look forward to seeing you

David – Vicar

Cygnets Fine Art Club

Cygnets Fine Art Club are investigating the possibility of running a club at our school. This would be held on a Wednesday from 3.15 – 4.15pm in the school hall. The club focuses on fine art skills and resilience as children create art pieces each week. They provide all the equipment and materials needed and work in a 1:6 ratio with trained artists to

ensure children receive the support they need to be successful. The club would cost £13.50 per session. If this is something you would be interested in, please fill out the expression of interest form so we can gauge interest (to follow).

Term dates and INSET dates

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Term 2	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Term 3	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Term 5	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2027	Wednesday 21 July 2027

INSET dates: Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October 2026, Monday 22nd February 2027, Friday 25th June 2027.

Please note that the last two days of **this term** are staff INSET days, and so school will our last day in school before October half term is Wednesday 21st October.

Upcoming dates for the diary

Term 1

Thursday 1 st October	The Castle School Open Evening at 5pm. Please see The Castle School website to book onto a tour.
Monday 5 th October	Reception Tours for prospective parents at 9.45am
Thursday 15 th October	Nasal Flu Immunisations
Friday 16 th October	FOSH non-uniform day
Tuesday 20 th October	Reception Tours for prospective parents at 1.30pm
Thursday 22 nd and Friday 23 rd October	INSET - School closed to children

Term 2

Wednesday 4 th November	Reception tours for prospective parents at 11am
9 th – 13 th November	Y6 Camp
Thursday 19 th November	Reception tours for prospective parents at 9.45am
Monday 23 rd November and Wednesday 25 th November	Parent's Evening at 3.30 – 6pm
Monday 30 th November	School Pictures – individuals and siblings
Friday 4 th December	FOSH Wreath making event
Monday 7 th December	Reception tours for prospective parents at 11am