

From Mr Spens:

I'd like to start with a huge 'Thank-you' to all of the parents who supported our fantastic book week last week at school. It was our most successful book week on record and your support resulted in the school receiving nearly £600 in commission to be spent on new books for our school library and classrooms. You will have probably read in the press about the challenges facing schools funding, particularly in South Gloucestershire where our funding is one of the lowest authorities nationally. The money we raise from events like the Book Fair means that we can continue to invest in key areas of school life such as reading.

We also had a brilliant 'stay and read' morning on Thursday and it was great to see so many parents reading with their children and often lots of others too! Thank-you as ever for your ongoing support with everything we do at St Helen's, it really is so key to what we are hoping to achieve together.

Finally, we are all looking forward to our theme week next week called 'Explorers'. It's been organised by Miss Beech, Mr Adams and Mrs Kossmann, who make up our 'Humanities' team and it will be a great opportunity for children to learn about different places around the world. Just a reminder that on Monday 13th March, children are invited to come to school dressed as an 'explorer'.

Have a great weekend!

St Helen's pick up bronze medal at the South Gloucestershire TAG Rugby Tournament!

Last week, Mr Leeming took nine of our Year 5s and 6s to a primary school Tag Rugby tournament at Chipping Sodbury Rugby Club.

This was the first tournament that the children had played together as a team, but Mr Leeming's last minute crash course seemed to pay off. They reached the semi-final before losing to St Mary's, Thornbury after they scored a 'golden try' in extra time. St Helen's went on to win the third and fourth place play-off, finishing third overall out of around 15 teams and picking up a bronze medal each. A fantastic achievement!



Parents' Evening

You will have received information about our upcoming parents' evenings on **Tuesday 21st** and **Thursday 23rd March**. These are important opportunities to meet with your child's class teacher and catch up on their progress over the year. Appointments can be booked on our school website under the 'school life' section.

This year, we will be making a change to our KS2 (Years 3-6) parents' evening arrangements. As a school, we're working hard to ensure that all we do is child-centred and so are inviting parents to bring their children with them to the KS2 parents' meeting. In school, children are increasingly involved in reflecting on their own learning, progress and next steps and we see this as a continuation of this development. As part of the meeting, the children will have completed an A4 sheet where they have reflected on what has gone well and where they feel they need to go next. This will be the starting point of the meeting and then teachers, parents and the child will continue that discussion together. Parents of KS2 children are clearly free however to decide whether or not they would like their children to be present on the evening.

Bingo Night – Friday 31st March

Friday 31st March is the PTA Bingo night. It's always a fantastic after school event for all ages! Entry is £5 per family (for 2 adults and 2 children) or £2 for adults and £1 for children.



The event takes place in the school hall from 6:30pm until around 8:30pm. We hope to see you there!

'Explorers' Theme Week and dressing up day – next week!

On Monday 13th March, the whole school will be dressing up as explorers. This will be the start of our Humanities theme week when we will be spending time learning about different explorers and the countries they discovered, as well as finding out about cultural influences from those countries. We will be concluding this special week with an exhibition of the children's work and parents are invited to come in to share this at **3.30pm on Friday 17th March**.

STEM Week – w/c 22nd May

We will have another special week in May when our theme will be 'Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics'. The children will be taking part in projects based around 'flying'. If you have an interest in these areas or have links with Airbus or Rolls Royce, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mr Leeming, Mr Chappell or Miss Pearce if you can help.

Parents in Partnership – Home Learning

The next 'Parents in Partnership' meeting will take place on **Monday 27th March from 9:15 – 10:15am**. At this meeting we will be reviewing home learning and looking at a proposal for a new approach to home learning at St Helen's. All are welcome. Please come through the main entrance and sign in at the office.



MUGA update

Next week, the MUGA fundraising team along with some children from St Helen's will be going along to 'pitch' to the Round Table's 'Dragons' Den' for some money for the MUGA, or all-weather pitch proposed development.

'Buy a Brick' – there is still time to purchase a brick which will be laid in the path up to the MUGA. Forms can be picked up from the school office and need to be returned to school by the end of term.



Y1 & Y2 children



Planting in our new woodland area.



Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Reception – Charlotte, Seth, Cerys, William, Harry and Olly T
Year 1 – Aliona, Finley, Alfie, Harry C, Charlie and Emma
Year 2 – Poppy, Max M, John, Emma C, Alex W, Thomas
Year 3 – Kiara and Alice M
Year 4 – Kody and Lucy
Year 5 – Daniel and Lola
Year 6 – Molly S and Jake

Out of school achievements

- Harley (Y1) achieved her 10 metre distance and Stage 2 swimming badge.
- Harry F (Y1) achieved his 10 metre distance and Stage 2 swimming badge.
- Maddie (YR) achieved her 5 metres distance and Stage 1 swimming badge.
- Lilie (Y3) achieved the British Horse Society Progressive Riding Test and Stable Management level 1.

Alveston Jubilee Hall – Volunteer needed – Booking Secretary - www.alveston.org/Community/JubileeHall

The hall operates as a charity and serves the local community as a meeting venue and activity group facility. All volunteers are entitled to claim reasonable expenses. Contact Mike Casey (01454 414448 / 07767 884491) or Jane King (07895 066494).