

From Mr Spens:

Yesterday, we had a school evaluation morning focussed on Maths at St Helen's. This visit was led by our School Improvement Advisor (SIA) and two Headteachers from our learning partnership, 'Connect for Learning'. They spent the morning in classrooms, looking at children's books and speaking to children in order to evaluate teaching and learning in Maths across the school.

We are yet to receive their report, but the morning was incredibly positive and there were some real strengths that the team identified. These include:

- Consistency in approach across the classes, following the changes made to maths teaching this year
- Work pitched appropriately for children; not too easy, not too challenging
- Maths is exciting and pupils enjoy it as maths is explored in interesting ways
- Clear progression in maths from year group to year group
- Excellent attitudes to learning shown by the pupils
- Use of resources, including the additional adults in the classrooms
- The positive impact that 'Big Maths' is having, now that it is fully embedded

I'd like to say thank-you to Mr Leeming who has led maths so well during the year and to all of the staff and children for their hard work and the polite way in which they welcomed our visitors to St Helen's.

Class Updates

This week, I have asked each class to create a speech bubble updating everybody on the learning that is going on in the different classes! We hope you enjoy finding out about it.

Have a great weekend!

St Helen's receive award for excellent RE!

On Wednesday, some of our ethos team received a special award from Mrs Allison from the South Gloucestershire SACRE (Standard Advisory Council on RE). The award was for 'Widening Inclusivity in RE' and came as a result of the great RE provision at St Helen's. Miss Beech has done a fantastic job leading RE, introducing a new curriculum, organising exciting theme days such as 'John Wesley Day' and looking for opportunities for children to learn about other faiths. For example, Year 5 went on a fantastic visit to a mosque in Bristol earlier this year as part of their topic on Islam. St Helen's is one of the first schools in the local authority to receive this award, well done to everyone at St Helen's!



The Grand Appeal – Bristol Children's Hospital

Thank you for supporting our recent Cake Sale; £176 was raised for The Grand Appeal. We will again be supporting this charity on Friday 29th June when we take part in their 'Wrong Trousers Day'.

Out of school achievements

- Seth in Holly class has achieved his Level 1 swimming award.
- Rory in Cherry class has achieved his Level 2 swimming award and swam 15 metres.
- Harriet in Beech class has achieved her 5 metres distance swimming award.
- Charlotte M in Cherry class has achieved her Level 1 swimming award.
- Harry in Holly class has achieved his Level 3 swimming award.
- Charlotte O in Cherry class has achieved her 5 metres distance swimming award.

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Cherry Class – Amber, Charlotte M, Nithilan and Neiva
Holly Class – Emily B, Charlie and Macy
Beech Class – Bouthayna, Maddie, Lola, Harley
Oak Class – Kyle, Elena C, Emma C, Charlie N and Mya



Ash Class – Libby, Alice H, Summer, Matthew
Sycamore Class – Jack, Lily, Kody and Lizzy
Elm Class – Hatty, Jake, Daniel and Rhonaugh

Attendance

Our school attendance last week was 96.8% and Cherry Class (Reception) achieved 98.7%.

Our school attendance this week was 96.3% and Holly Class (Year 1) achieved 99.6%.

Year 4: "I liked the short story of the commander going into space." (Rose) I have really enjoyed learning about the angles of a shape and if it is an acute, reflex, obtuse or right angle. (Evie T) "In topic I have enjoyed posters about the light bulb, digital cameras and bicycle." (Ryan) "I enjoyed making power points on woodland animals." (Matthew) "I like the quiet area because it makes us quiet when we have been rushing." (Daisy) "I enjoyed learning to swim properly, dive and jump in." (Alice M) "I loved the topic on Nature." (William)

Year 5: "We have learnt about dissolving which is where a material like sugar goes into water and kind of disappears so you can't see it." (Kody) "Over the last two weeks we have learnt about the perimeter and area of 2D shapes, which is a very exciting part of maths. Perimeter is the length of the outline of a shape and the area is the space within the shape. I find this subject challenging but that's why I like it!" (Jamie) "In RE we have been comparing whether we should express our religion in art and architecture or charity and generosity. We went round the class to complete four different activities and even designed our 21st century prayer space." (Charlotte)

Over the last two weeks, Year 3 have been doing lots of interesting things. Starting with Maths, we've been doing fractions and what we really love about fractions is when we do bar models. For example if you were doing one eighth add four eighths you would make a bar model with eight parts and with one colour you would shade in one of those parts and with a different colour you would shade in four parts. Moving on to English, our book is 'The Pebble in my Pocket'. We've read most of it and have practised our conjunctions, described a setting, written a poem, a story map and we've been writing in role. In Science we've been doing electrical circuits and we made our own amazing circuit with lights and switches. In Topic we've been finding out about Thomas Edison who created the light bulb, Steven Sasson who invented the first digital camera and Alexander Bell who invented the telephone. PE is probably one of our favourite lessons because we've been doing basketball and cricket. We did cricket with an all stars coach who made learning cricket really fun and Miss Hurd taught us basketball focussing on passing, dribbling and mini games. Finally, in Art we did collaging. What a lot of fun we have had! Emma

In Year 2 we have been reading the story 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' and writing our own stories. We had to use author voice and use the language that the author used like 'periwinkle blue' and 'buttercup yellow'. Beatrix Potter compares colours to nature. She also uses expanded noun phrases which are two adjectives before a noun like big, brass buttons. In Maths we have been doing challenges. When we do our entry test we can go on core, stretch or challenge and everyone challenges themselves. We really like learning about the Amazon rainforest. Did you know coffee and cocoa come from there?

In Reception we have been investigating the sights and scents of Spring during our forest school learning. We enjoyed concocting our own spring perfumes using plants we gathered in the woods. We have been learning about how plants grow and have planted our own seeds. We are eagerly watching as they grow and change in our garden.

Year 6 have been building up to their SATS, which they take next week! They're working so hard! Good luck to them all!

In Year 1 we have begun our unit on fractions in maths, finding halves and quarters of shapes and numbers. In literacy we have been learning about meerkats and have begun writing our own non-fiction books!

