
From Mr Spens:

There is quite a lot to update you on in this newsletter and there has been so much going on in school. We held a really successful 'Explorers' week, organised by our Humanities team, made up of Miss Beech, Mrs Kossmann and Mr Adams. I'd like to thank them and all of the teachers for putting so much effort into providing opportunities for the children to learn about different countries around the world.

Two weeks ago today, Years 3-6 went to the Colston Hall to perform as part of a concert with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. They performed two pieces that had been specially composed for the event, with some quite challenging parts to sing and body percussion to accompany the music. As ever, they represented the school superbly, behaving well and performing with real commitment! Well done to you all.

This week our Year 3 and 4 children had a very exciting trip to Cadbury World in Birmingham. This was a key part of their 'Chocolate' topic and gave the children the opportunity to learn about how chocolate, where it comes from and how it is made. Continuing the food theme, we've also had visits from 'Warburtons' this week who have been running food workshops with Year 2 and 4 and will be coming back later this year to work with Year 3.

Year 6 visited 'Life Skills' on Tuesday. The children made their way through different scenarios learning and demonstrating safety skills and experiencing emergency situations, including practising emergency 999 calls, discovering and reacting to a house fire, carrying out first aid and experiencing the consequences of trespassing on a railway line.

All in all, a busy, but exciting few weeks!

Parent Survey - £25 prize draw!

As a school, we are keen to work closely with parents and understand your views. Today we are launching our annual parent survey which is online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alveston2017>. We need your responses by the end of term please, when one lucky parent who has completed it will win a £25 book token for their family!

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!

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 - so close, we've provisionally booked a date!

It's been a long time in the planning, but we are delighted to announce that we've selected a contractor and hope to begin building the new MUGA, or all-weather pitch during the May half term break.

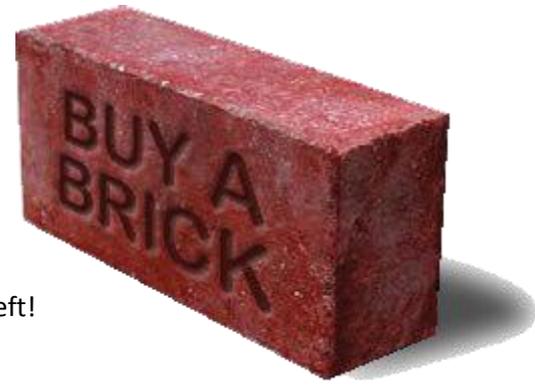
In the last few weeks, we've had some significant grants and donations come in, meaning we are now extremely close to raising the full amount.

Last Wednesday evening, we took a group of parents and children to pitch to the 'Dragons' as members of the Thornbury Round Table gave away £15,000 to local causes. Despite having to speak to Father Christmas, Guy Fawkes, a man dressed as Deborah Meaden and a member of the Round Table, the children pulled off a superb pitch and we were awarded £2,400. This was on top of nearly £19,000 which we were awarded the previous week through grant applications.



Buy-a-brick!

The final piece of fundraising that we have left to do is the 'Buy-A-Brick' campaign. This gives families, grandparents, former pupils and local residents the chance to have a brick engraved and laid in the short pathway leading up to the MUGA. Today we are sending home a leaflet and order form which needs to be completed by THURSDAY 6th APRIL giving us time to have the bricks ordered and ready for the project. If you can think of a person, or local group or business who might be interested in buying a brick to support our project, please drop into the school office to pick up a leaflet, we've got plenty left!



Your chance to name the woods!

The woodland work is nearly finished and the pond and woods are looking fantastic! There are a few final jobs to complete and some woodchip to lay on the paths and then we hope to have it all in use for the summer term. We want to come up with a new name for the woods. If you can think of a great name for the woodland, please let the school office know, either by sending an e-mail to sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk or by sending in a note with your suggested name for the woodland. We're working with quite tight timescales for this, so please ensure that your entry reaches us by 5pm on Tuesday 28th March.

SATS briefings for parents of Y2 and Y6 children

We will be holding short briefings for parents about the arrangements for SATS this year. They take place on Monday 3rd April. Year 2 starts at 5:15pm and Year 6 at 5:45pm.

Year 5 and 6 'Rainforest Library'

Year 5 and 6 have been enjoying their topic on 'Rainforests'. They will be sharing some of their own projects with parents from 2:30 – 3:30pm on Thursday 6th April in the school hall.



Easter 'Prayer Space' at St Helen's

On Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th April, our 'Open the Book' assembly team will be coming into school to set up and run a special Easter themed 'prayer space' in one of our small group rooms. All of the children, in groups, will get the chance to pause, think and reflect through creative activities which the team have set up.

About Prayer Space: 'A prayer space is usually a classroom sized area that has been transformed for a few days or a week with a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection on issues such as forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, big questions, identity and stillness.'



Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:



Reception – Emily R, Isaac, Emily B and Frankie
Year 1 – Emma D, Max, Harry F and Harrison
Year 2 – Yasmin, Dakota, Ruby and Isis
Year 3 – Jack, Rose, Bea and Lilie
Year 4 – Ronny, Evelyn, Jamie and Amelie
Year 5 – Jaydon, Sidonie, Peter H and Sophie M
Year 6 – Melissa, Harry, Adam and Lucie



Out of school achievement

- Rose in Y3 has earned a blue belt in taekwondo.
- Carter in Y5 has earned a green belt with a blue stripe in taekwondo.
- Carter has also achieved his 25 metre distance back stroke swimming award.

 <h3>Easter Holiday Free Family Dog Training Classes from the Dogs Trust</h3>  <p>Following our visit to the school earlier this year, Dogs Trust would like to offer a free 90 minute dog training class for you, your child and your four legged friend!</p> <p>When? Monday 10th April or Friday 21st April 3pm – 4.30pm 11am – 12.30pm</p> <p>Where? Headley Park Community Centre (Near Bishopsworth) BS13 7NW</p> <p>Spaces are limited so please book early! For more info contact 07973 140406 or email bristoldogschooll@dogstrust.org.uk</p> <p>Dogs must be dog and human friendly and are subject to pre-assessment by our dog school trainers.</p> <p>www.dogstrust.org.uk www.thelocalcouncil.gov.uk www.facebook.com/dogstrusteducation</p> 	<h3>May Pole Dancing Lessons</h3> <p>Tytherington Jubilee Field Every Saturday from 1st April, 4.15pm to 5.00pm</p> <p><i>Please be free to perform on Monday 1st May at 2pm at the May Day Fair</i></p>
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ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Attendance and punctuality is very important to us at St Helen's as we recognise the impact that it has on your child's education. Currently, we're lying a little away from our school target of 97%. From next term, we'll be publishing the best class's attendance in our fortnightly newsletter and we are sure that, with your help, we will get close to, or even achieve our school target by the end of the year.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD ACHIEVE!

- Ensure your child attends school EVERY DAY unless your child is ill. If they are ill please ensure that you inform the school ASAP by calling us on 01454 866530. Only keep them home if they are really unable to attend.
- Phone school EVERY morning that your child is absent so that our attendance records are accurate and up-to-date.
- Make sure your child arrives on time by 9.00am. Late comers not only miss vital lesson time but also disrupt learning for other members of the class too. Our gates open from 8.45am so there really is no excuse to be late.
- If your child is late into school it is vitally important that they are signed in at the school office.
- Make sure that we have all the correct contact details for you so that we can contact you about illnesses or absence.
- Please take your family holidays during school holidays.