

From Mr Spens:

It's been a fantastic few weeks at St Helen's. Everyone's continued to work really hard in their learning right up to the very end, but we've also managed to find the time to celebrate Christmas in many different ways! Following last week's amazing KS1 Nativity, our KS2 children put on two wonderful concerts at St Helen's Church as they celebrated Christmas 'S-Club-7 style' with iSingPOP's nativity. A particular thank-you to all of the dads who got involved too! On Tuesday morning, we turned the school hall into a recording studio and they recorded a school Christmas album, which I'm sure families will have the chance to enjoy over the holidays!

On Tuesday afternoon, we also held a Christmas service in the church and we were treated to some really incredible singing, particularly standing out were the Year 6 soloists who led some of the carols and also our brilliant school choir, led superbly by Miss Beech and Mrs Kitson. On Wednesday, we had our annual Christmas dinner and a very special visitor decided to pay KS1 and Reception classes a visit, with a little gift for everyone.

It's a good opportunity to stop, reflect and be thankful for all of the energy, hard work and commitment that the pupils and staff of St Helen's continue to put in day after day, as together we strive to be the very best that we can be. I'd like to say a huge thank-you to the whole school community for your continued support for everything that we are trying to achieve at St Helen's. I hope that you have a really restful and enjoyable Christmas and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 2nd January.

Happy Christmas!



St Helen's hit the top 10!

This week, the government primary school performance tables were released. Yesterday these were published on the BBC website and in the Bristol Evening Post. St Helen's made it into the top 10 primary schools in South Gloucestershire for pupils' achievement in Reading, Writing and Maths. A bit of further analysis shows that we came 4th in terms of pupil progress and 4th for the percentage of pupils who achieved the highest standards. Out of 107 primary schools in total, that is an achievement to be proud of!

School name	% reaching expected standard	% reaching high standard	Disadvantaged
Marshfield Church of England Primary School	91%	41%	14%
Watermore Primary School	89%	15%	7%
Beacon Rise Primary School	88%	12%	23%
Frampton Cotterell Church of England Primary School	88%	15%	10%
Wick Church of England Primary School	87%	30%	13%
Almondsbury Church of England Primary School	86%	16%	9%
Blackhorse Primary School	82%	18%	11%
Rangeworthy Church of England Primary School	82%	0%	27%
Mangotsfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	81%	23%	11%
St Helen's Church of England Primary School	81%	22%	15%



Courage – our value for next term

Coming home today is our 'home-school values' sheet. Over the Christmas break, we'd like every child to think of someone (it doesn't need to be a child) who they'd like to nominate for a 'Courage Award'. There is a slip on the sheet which children can fill in. If they are able to draw a picture of that person for our display in the hall too, that would be fantastic!

Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you for supporting today's Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £137 for the charity 'Save the Children'.



KS1 and KS2 Christmas Performance Collections

At this year's Christmas performances, we took a collection to raise money for a school that we are building a link with in Africa. 'Our Child Nursery and Primary School' is based in a refugee camp in Northern Uganda and is made up of children who have moved from South Sudan because of the civil war there. Currently classes meet under trees and so we are



joining with another primary school from South Gloucestershire to try to raise £2000 together to allow simple shelters to be built for each class. This is particularly important to give them protection from the rain. Thanks to your generosity, we got off to a flying start, raising £708.75. We will let you know more about how we plan to fundraise our total in the new year!

Out of School Achievement:

- Katlyn in Holly Class has achieved her Stage 2 swimming award.
- Seth in Holly Class has achieved his 5 metres distance swimming award.

Attendance update and attendance of the week!

Our school attendance for this week is 95.5%; Elm class (Year 6) achieved 98.3% attendance. Total attendance for Terms 1 and 2 is **96.9%** with Oak class (Year 3) achieving the highest overall at 97.7%.

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week

Cherry Class - Imogen F and Imogen S
Holly Class – Charlotte and Frankie
Beech Class – Emma and Evie
Oak Class – Harry and Max M

Ash Class – Jake and Evie S
Sycamore Class – Amelie and Charlie
Elm Class – Amelia and Evie



Term dates:

Term 3: Tuesday 2nd January – Friday 9th February

Inset day: Monday 19th February

Term 4: Tuesday 20th February – Friday 23rd March

Term 5: Monday 9th April – Friday 25th May

Inset day: Monday 4th June



St Helen's Church - Christmas Services

Sunday 17th December 10am – All Age Nativity service

Saturday 23rd December 2pm – Christingle making

Sunday 24th December 4pm – Family Christingle Service

Sunday 24th December 11.30pm – Midnight Communion

Monday 25th December 10am – All Age Family Worship



Alveston Methodist Church

Sunday 10th December at 10.30am

All age service

Tuesday 19th December at 3pm

Informal Nativity service

VOTE NOW – Thanks to everyone who has voted for our 'Reflective garden project' in Tesco Thornbury. Voting continues into the new year. Please encourage friends and family to post a blue coin into our box!

