

From Mr Spens:

Christmas is coming!! It seems a bit early to be writing that in this newsletter, but there's quite a lot in this week's edition all about the build up to Christmas at St Helen's. Please note down the key dates and don't forget our annual PTA Christmas Fair, which kicks off the Christmas season at school **next Friday 25th November**, from 3:30pm – 5pm. This is always a really popular and successful event. You'll find more information about the Fair in this newsletter and the PTA are requesting donations of various items too.

Olympian to visit St Helen's on Monday!

We are very excited that Sally Conway, bronze medallist in the Rio Olympic games, is going to be visiting St Helen's on Monday. Sally is a former pupil of St Helen's and will spend some time on a tour of the school, after which she will talk to children in assembly and meet with them in smaller groups to answer their questions. We are sure it will be a really inspiring morning and are very grateful that Sally has agreed to take the time to visit us.

Have a great weekend!

Trip to London – Year 5 and Year 6

Last Friday, Year 5 and 6 boarded the coach at 6:20am for an exciting 'Remembrance Day' trip to London as part of their topic on 'World War 2'. It was an action packed day, with a visit to the Churchill War Rooms in the morning and then the Imperial War Museum in the afternoon. Below are some quotes from the children who had a fantastic time.

The best thing for me, was being in Churchill's War room looking at all the original letters and maps showing the military operations during the Second World War.
Beck, Y5

My favourite place was the Imperial War Museum and learning all about spies. I liked having a go at the code breaking challenge. Peter H, Y5

It was great to see all the vehicles in the museum such as: Submarines, Hurricane Jump Jets and Second World War tanks. Isabelle H, Y 5

It was amazing to have the two minutes' silence in the corridors of Churchill War Rooms, and to think that Churchill once stood in the place I was standing. Harry N, Y6

I liked being in the Anderson shelter in the museum and hearing from an elderly person who was visiting the museum about their experiences of being evacuated.
Darcy, Y6

I enjoyed reading all the different facts in the war rooms, and seeing where Churchill ate and slept in his underground bunker. Josh H, Y6

Overall the trip was amazing and we would all like to go again. It was the BEST museum we've ever been to and we saw lots of sights of London such as Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. Churchill War Rooms was brilliant!



Thank-you!

A big thank-you to Mrs King who came in to school on Remembrance day and played 'The Last Post' before the children observed two minutes of silence. It made the moment very special and memorable!

Children in Need – Friday 18th November



We raised a **SPOTACULAR** £225!! Thanks for your support!

Meeting with Dr Tom Robson – “Support your child in their learning”

Wednesday 30th November, 6pm to 7pm, School Hall

Parents are warmly invited to come along to a meeting, led by Dr Tom Robson, on Wednesday 30th November. Tom has been working with us as a staff at St Helen’s developing the learning behaviours of our children and establishing a ‘growth-mindset’ culture in the school. At the meeting he will be speaking to parents about how they can support their children to develop great learning habits and become the very best learners that they can be. You can find out more information about Tom on his website: <http://www.tredu.co.uk/>

‘Operation Christmas Child’ - Shoebox Project

Thank you so much for supporting this project; we were able to deliver 34 boxes to the Operation Christmas Child depot at St Chad’s Church in Patchway this week.



School Meals

We appreciate your support in making the transition to Eden, and using ParentPay, so smooth. Thank you! The new system is working well and we’d just like to remind you to make your menu choices in advance and also to cancel your booking should your child be absent from school.

Our special **Christmas lunch** will be on Wednesday 14th December and this can be ordered in the usual way on ParentPay.

PTA Christmas Fair – Friday 25th November – 3.30pm to 5.00pm

Please come along to our Fair after school next Friday! Contributions to the stalls would be welcome – they can be sent into school any day next week. The PTA would appreciate donations of wine, books, toys, cakes and items for the rainbow tombola.

Rainbow tombola: Reception class (pink or blue), Year 1 (red), Year 2 (yellow or gold), Year 3 (green), Year 4 (orange), Year 5 (white or silver), Year 6 (purple).

Don’t forget the Decorated Sweet Jar competition! The children are asked to decorate a jar (with a Christmas theme) and fill it with sweets. Prizes will be awarded for the best in each class, so make sure your child’s name and year group is on the jar. The jars will then be sold in a tombola at the Fair.

School Uniform

Initially Yours have a small stock of our uniform with the old logo. They are happy to sell this at half price if you’d like to contact them. This stock cannot be purchased online, you will need to telephone them or call in for details.

PARKING: Please could parents refrain from parking on the pavement outside the front of school

Friday 16th December - Christmas Jumper Day

This year we have decided to support the 'Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day'. This will be a non-uniform day with the children invited to wear their Christmas Jumper in return for a donation of £1 each (or more!) for the charity 'Save the Children'. If you do not have a Christmas Jumper, it could just be an ordinary jumper in a Christmas colour or decorated on a Christmas theme!



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Christmas Performances

Preparations are now underway for the Christmas performances! KS1 and Reception class will be performing on Tuesday 6th December at 6pm and on Thursday 8th December at 2pm.

The Year 3 and 4 Carol Concert will be held on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm.

We will be writing to parents in the next week with arrangements for ticketing these events.

Prayer Spaces in Schools – Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th November

On Tuesday and Wednesday 29th and 30th November, our 'Open the Book' assembly team will be coming into school to set up and run a '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.'

Dates for your diary

Monday 21st November – visit from Olympian, Sally Conway

Friday 25th November – PTA Christmas Fair, 3.30pm to 5pm

Monday 28th November – Flu immunisation in school for Years 1,2,3

Tuesday 6th December (6pm) & Thursday 8th December (2pm) – Nativity, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2

Tuesday 13th December – visit from Bristol Old Vic for Nativity performance

Tuesday 13th December – Christmas Carols with Year 3 & Year 4, 7pm

Wednesday 14th December – Christmas Lunch

Friday 16th December – 'Christmas Jumper' day to support Save the Children

Friday 16th December –end of Term 2

Friendship Week!

This week, in conjunction with the national 'Anti-bullying week,' we have been running a Friendship week as a school. We've been thinking about how we get along with each other, what makes a great friend and how we want to treat each other. We've also talked about the kinds of behaviour that can make people feel sad and upset and we have been very impressed with how the children have taken these messages on board.

On Friday, as part of our Children in Need day, we held a special celebration assembly to celebrate 'Friendship'.

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Reception – Hudson, Huw, Emily and Olly
Year 1 – Xander, Harley, Aliona and Harrison
Year 2 – Josh, Katie, Lola and Elena
Year 3 – Ryan, Alice, Bethany and Kiara
Year 4 – Maisie, Joshua, Amelie and Charlie
Year 5 – Sidonie and Iwan
Year 6 – Ben and Madison



Out of school achievements

Alisdair in Y2 has recently been awarded the yellow belt in Taekwondo.

COMPETITION TIME!

At St Helen's, we love to celebrate all of the amazing things that go on in school. One of the ways we do that is by sending postcards home to share the great learning with parents.

In the last two years, we have given out an incredible **2,000** postcards for amazing things that have happened in school. Unfortunately, we've now run out of postcards and we urgently need some more!

We'd like the children to create a design for our 'postcard home' and return it to the office by **Friday 25th November**. The design needs to fill an A4 page and be in colour. Felt tips, paint or colouring pencils are fine to use! If children do not have a blank A4 piece of paper at home, please contact the school office.

Examples of previous winners:



THE PRIZE!

The final designs that are chosen will be professionally printed and made into postcards. The winners will have their name on the back and some free copies to take home!