

From Mr Spens:

Term is hurtling along at a pace and while spending time in the classes, it's been fantastic to see the enthusiasm which children are showing to their learning in every classroom.

I've been struck this week particularly about the importance of partnership as we continue to develop as a school. Working together and learning from each other is something that we spend a lot of time on and this week it's been great to see children supporting each other in so many different ways; in learning together, playing with each other, through the fantastic Year 6 buddies and in many other ways across the school.

Partnership is something that we very much believe in as a school staff and governing body too, working with colleagues from other schools, sharing what we do well and learning from each other. In the last two weeks there have been so many examples of where we've done that as we look to make St Helen's the very best it can be. We hosted governor training for around 20 governors from across the Local Authority last week and held our own 'Governor Morning' at school here last Friday. This week, some of the staff have been working with colleagues from other schools on developing writing and Mr Chappell hosted all of the SENDCOs (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinators) from a group of schools we work closely in partnership with, called 'Connect 4 Learning'.

As ever, children's success at school is also built upon strong partnerships with parents and we have fantastic support both in school through the huge numbers of parent volunteers we have, but also at home as you support your children with home learning, reading, spellings, baking chocolate cakes The list goes on. Thank you for your support to all we are aiming to achieve as a school.

Have a great weekend!

Food week at St Helen's

The 'Arts' curriculum team are planning a week where there will be opportunities for children to cook and learn about food. More information will follow nearer to the time, but we already have planned:

- Cooking workshops for each class led by the Eden Foodservice Training Manager on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th February.
- 'Design a menu' for lunch at school. Children will learn about a balanced meal and have the chance to design a menu for St Helen's. One of the menus will be selected and will be served as a school dinner later this academic year at St Helen's!
- The Great St Helen's Bake Off 2017. We're going to launch a Bake Off style competition for children to cook at home and bring their baking into school on Thursday 9th February to be judged. There will be a cake sale at 3:30pm that afternoon and all of the money will go to support a good cause.



INSET days

A reminder that **Monday 20th February** will be an INSET day, with St Helen's hosting a training day for staff of our school and the three other primary schools that make up the Connect 4 Learning partnership: Bowsland Green, The Manor and St Barnabas. The day is entitled 'The Art of Brilliance' and we'll be looking at how we create a culture where we can all be the best we can be.

The final INSET of the school year will be on **Friday 21st July** and the first INSET of the new academic year on **Friday 1st September**, meaning term will start on Monday 4th September.

Baby Boom!

We send our congratulations to Miss Pearce, who is expecting her second baby, which is due in July. We'll be writing to parents of Year 4 closer to the time to outline our plan to cover this period of maternity. We have successfully recruited for Mrs Boffin's maternity leave position, starting after Easter and will be sharing the news of this new teacher and a transition plan with parents of Reception class in the next few weeks. Mr Leeming will be taking his paternity leave at some point in the very near future and we hope to have a supply teacher covering Year 6 during this period of absence. All in all, an exciting time!

Reception 'Fairytale' Day

Yesterday, Reception class had a fantastic 'Fairytale' day as part of their topic. It sounds as though they had a great day!

"We had lots of fun dressing up for our topic of 'Happily ever after'. We explored many Fairy Tales, wrote character descriptions and made some Gingerbread Men biscuits. We re-told different Fairy Tale stories, made mini swords and shields and decorated our own crowns."



Bristol Rovers Football Coaching started in school

We were fortunate to have been selected for a free 12-week project for two classes on a Tuesday morning, funded by the Premier League. The focus does not have to be football and so Year 3 and 4 will be spending this term learning a number of different sports. This is in addition to the sports coaching we have provided for each class during the academic year on a Monday afternoon for two classes as well. This term, Year 5 and 6 are having coaching in Hockey.

Double success for the football team!

St Helen's played two matches yesterday against Olveston Primary School. The first game saw St Helen's running out 4-2 winners in their brand new school kit and the second game featured a different team of footballers.

The second match was a 3-0 victory with two goals from Ellis in Y5 and one from Jaydon also in Year 5 and some particularly jubilant celebrations! A big well done to all of the children involved.



Lost Necklace

Mrs Boffin lost her Pandora necklace in school yesterday. If you've seen it please do let us know as she'd really appreciate its safe return. Thank you.

Operation Christmas Child

We have received a thank you note for the shoeboxes we gave to Operation Christmas Child. The 9,195 shoeboxes from Bristol were sent to children in Lusaka, Zambia.

Thank you to all those who contributed and played a part in this wonderful project!



Diary Dates

Wednesday 25th January – Y4 visit Armstrong Hall for Jazz Workshop (Arts Festival)
Thursday 26th January – Y5 visit Bristol Cathedral for Candlemas
Monday 30th January – 3.45pm, Y5 children & parents, Dean Field residential trip meeting
w/c 6th February – Food Technology Week
Wednesday 8th February – Y5 & Y6 visit Armstrong Hall for 'Jason & the Argonauts' (Arts Festival)
Thursday 9th February – 3.30pm, Cake Sale
Friday 10th February – end of Term 3
Monday 20th February – INSET day
Tuesday 21st February – start of Term 4
21st – 24th February – Book Fair at 3.30pm each day

Out of school achievements

- Jamie in Y4 has completed another 10k run. He completed it in 1 hour, 15 minutes and was second in his category.
- Rose in Y3 has been awarded her stage 4 swimming badge.
- Charlie in Y1 achieved his Petit Yeti ski award.
- Lucy, Lizzy and Jasmine in Y4 gained distinctions and merits in their recent Grade 2 Modern Theatre dance exams.

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Reception – Sophia, Phoebe, Laura and Frankie
Year 1 – Maddison, Levi, William and Harley
Year 2 – Leona, Alex W, Alexander F and Kyle
Year 3 – Ryan, Katie, Evie T and Alex
Year 4 – Ronny, Jasmine, Luca and Lily-Rose
Year 5 – Jessy, Jackson, Rhonaugh and Alex
Year 6 – Lucas, Lucie, Alex R and Chelsea

Term Dates for 2017/18

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 4 (2016/17)	Tuesday 21 st February (20 th is INSET)	Friday 7 th April
Term 5 (2016/17)	Monday 24 th April	Friday 26 th May
Term 6 (2016/17)	Monday 5 th June	Thursday 20 th July (21 st is INSET)
Term 1 (2017/18)	Monday 4 th September (1 st is INSET)	Friday 20 th October
Term 2 (2017/18)	Monday 30 th October	Monday 18 th December
Term 3 (2017/18)	Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Friday 9 th February 2018
Term 4 (2017/18)	Monday 19 th February 2018	Friday 23 rd March 2018
Term 5 (2017/18)	Monday 9 th April 2018	Friday 25 th May 2018
Term 6 (2017/18)	Monday 4 th June 2018	Friday 20 th July 2018