

From Mr Spens:

It's been a hot, hot week! As ever, the children have been a real credit to the school, working so hard in their learning and looking after each other, despite the extreme weather conditions.

Last Saturday, the PTA organised a superb Summer Fair which was really well attended by families from school, but also many others from Alveston and the surrounding area. It was a great example of the amazing community that we have at St Helen's, with so much hard work going on behind the scenes and some brilliant performances from the children. The gym display is always one of the highlights of the year for me and it is down to the hard work and commitment of Vicky Moore and Gaynor Mills (and assistants) each week giving up their time to invest in the lives of so many children.

The school choir performed at the fair too – taking their songs outside, which is never easy! The children were brilliant and the soloists in particular really stood out. I'd like to thank Miss Beech and Mrs Kitson for their hard work with the choir this year. Mr Chappell organised a football tournament and the girls' match even went to penalties which was a really exciting end to the competition.

The whole event raised a brilliant total of £2500 and I would like to say a huge thank-you to the entire PTA for their hard work, energy and dedication to the school. Particular thanks go to Jo Glasgow, who stepped in as PTA chair this year and organised her first school fair.

Have a great weekend.

Class organisation for 2017/18 academic year

We will be holding our 'moving up' morning on Tuesday 18th July. Children will get to spend time in their new classrooms and meet their new teacher(s). The organisation for classes next year will be:

Reception (Cherry Class)	Miss Hodson	Year 4 (Ash Class)	Mr Adams / Mrs Jenkins
Year One (Holly Class)	Miss Kitching	Year 5 (Sycamore Class)	Mr Chappell / Mrs Kossmann
Year Two (Beech Class)	Miss Beech	Year 6 (Elm Class)	Mr Leeming
Year Three (Oak Class)	Miss Hurd		

'We don't like cricket... we love it'

Cricket has really taken off this year at St Helen's. Over the last couple of years, through our partnership with Gloucestershire Cricket Club's 'Chance to Shine' programme, many of our children in KS2 have benefitted from cricket coaching. Particularly successful has been the Year 5 and 6 girls' coaching over the last two years which has really encouraged girls to get involved.

This year, Mr Leeming and Mr Chappell have run an incredibly popular cricket club, with over 30 children taking part each Thursday afternoon.



Over the last couple of weeks we've entered three tournaments as a school. This Tuesday, the Year 4's entered a competition at Frenchay Cricket Club and got all the way to the Semi-Final, a fantastic achievement.

Our Year 5s and 6s have also entered tournaments and both the boys' and girls' teams ended up winning their respective tournaments, a huge accolade for St Helen's. Today, both of these teams are representing St Helen's in the county final in Cheltenham, on an amazing ground where Gloucestershire play their matches during the annual Cheltenham Cricket Festival.

Sports Day – Thursday 6th July (am)

The Reception & Key Stage 1 events will start at 9.25am, followed by a short break while our gymnastics team perform for us, then the KS2 events start between 10.30am and 10.45am. We aim to complete all the events by 12 noon, but hope you will appreciate that timings will be a little flexible depending on how quickly the children complete the races! **PLEASE COULD CHILDREN BRING A T-SHIRT TO WEAR IN THEIR HOUSE COLOUR.**

MUGA complete!

It's been two years in the planning, but we're delighted that the new MUGA is complete. The children have started to use it this week and we think it will become a great facility for the children and a legacy for future children of St Helen's to use. It's also transformed the space, turning it from a redundant swimming pool to a new sporting facility for the children to enjoy!



Fig 1 – Old pool from KS1 playground



Fig 2 – Changing room



Fig 3 – Disused swimming pool

Now transformed to this...



You will no doubt be aware that school funding is likely to be a real challenge to schools over the next few years and so, on behalf of the whole school community, I would like to say a huge thank-you to the fundraising team of parents who I have had the privilege of working with over the last 2 years.

Their hard work and energy, along with the very generous donations of parents, local residents, businesses, the PTA and grant bodies have meant that we have been able to deliver a really significant project for our children with barely any financial contribution needed from the school budget.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES: We will be officially opening the MUGA at 3:45pm on Tuesday 18th July and all children and parents are very welcome indeed! We hope to have some special guests with us – more details to come!





St Helen's Got Talent

Over 150 children signed up to share their talents! It's great to have such a confident and talented group of children at St Helen's!

Class auditions have been underway this week and successful children will be auditioned by Miss Beech in a 'semi-final' which is planned to take place on Tuesday afternoon next week.

The **St Helen's Got Talent 2017 Grand Final** will take place on **Friday 7th July from 7pm** in the school hall. To ensure we meet fire regulations, this will need to be a ticketed event and information about tickets will be released to parents next week. These will go first to families of children who have made the final and then on general release.

Woodland Project Opening Celebration

You will be aware that we received a £10,000 grant from Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme. We spent the majority of this money developing the woodland and pond area and it is now back in use.

The money went to develop and improve access, clear and open up the woodland space, re-fence the boundary and create spaces for play, such as the new covered mud kitchen and the revamped camp-fire area. The remaining money will go for 'outdoor learning' staff training, which will take place in the autumn of this year.

To celebrate the project, we will be holding a 'Woodland Opening' on Wednesday 19th July. Each class will spend 40 minutes in the woods engaged in two different activities led by woodland experts. From 3:30 – 4:15pm, the woodland will be open for families to visit and enjoy together.



Athletics Success!

On Thursday 15th June, Mr.Chappell took 5 girls and 5 boys from Year 5 and 6 to Yate Athletics Track for the local area Quadkids Athletics tournament. The children had to participate in all four events: 75 metres sprint, 600 metres distance run, Long Jump and the throwing event of a Vortex throw. Depending how well the children performed in the different events, they scored a specific number of points to contribute to the school's overall total as well as their own individual scores. After some fantastic performances on the track and in the field, the children were delighted to win overall bronze, finishing just 35 points behind the second place school and narrowly missing out on a place in the South West County Finals at Bath University in July. A particular well done goes to Harry N (Year 6) and Peter H (Year 5) who finished 3rd and 4th in the overall boys standings out of a total of 80 boys and to Darcy T who finished 9th overall in the girls individual points standings.

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week and last week:



Cherry Class – Hudson, Liam, Millie, Emily B
 Holly Class – Alfie, Oliver, Sehyun, Charlie
 Beech Class – Cameron, Elaina, Alexander
 Oak Class – Joe, Jake, Evie T, Caitlin
 Ash Class – Ronny, Yasmin, Charlie, Lily-Rose
 Sycamore Class – Carter, Jackson, Isabelle H, Sophie M
 Elm Class – Eva, William, Alex



Congratulations to both Cherry and Sycamore class on last week's best class attendance – 98.7%
Congratulations to Beech class for this week's best class attendance – 99.3%

Dates for your diary

Thursday 6 th July – Sports morning	Wednesday 19 th July – Woodland open session for families – 3:30pm
Friday 7 th July – St Helen's Got Talent Grand Final – 7pm	
Monday 10 th July – School performance – Y5/Y6 – 7pm	Thursday 20 th July – Leavers' Service – Y6
Tuesday 11 th July – School performance – Y5/Y6 – 7pm	Thursday 20 th July – end of Term 6
Wednesday 12 th July – Whole school visit to Tyntesfield	Friday 21 st July – INSET day
Tuesday 18 th July – MUGA Grand Opening – 3:45pm	Friday 1 st September – INSET day