

From Mr Spens:

It's been a busy start to term 2. Exciting school trips, Children in Need, Recycling week, Parents' evenings and 60 of our children working with our newly appointed 'Artist in Residence' over 6 days – there's been so much going on. I'd like to say a huge thank-you to the staff for organising all of these exciting events and also to all of the parents who attended our recent parents' evenings. Working in partnership for the benefit of the children is so key to all we hope to achieve and your support is really appreciated.

In this edition of the newsletter, we're sharing lots of information and dates about the upcoming Christmas period, please do take a note of these. Also as the weather gets colder, please can I remind parents and children to ensure that children have appropriate coats, hats etc in school.

Have a lovely weekend.

Christmas at St Helen's

Bristol Old Vic Nativity:

On **Monday 3rd December**, we are excited to be welcoming the 'Bristol Old Vic Theatre School' to St Helen's to perform their nativity. This is always a brilliant event for the children and a fantastic way to begin the season of Advent, remembering what the Christmas story is all about.

FOSH Christmas Fair – Friday 7th December, 3:30pm – 5pm

The annual Christmas Fair is coming up soon! Your support selling raffle tickets, making sweetie jars and donating toys and books (these will be collected during w/c 3rd December) is greatly appreciated! Extra books of raffle tickets are available from the office should you need any more.

KS1 Nativity:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are starting preparations for their upcoming nativity – 'Christmas with the Aliens'. There will be two performances and a letter will be coming home shortly with information about costumes and how to order tickets.

Tuesday 11th December, 2pm

Wednesday 12th December, 6pm

'Christmas with the Aliens is an enchanting modern nativity by Nikki Lewis. The traditional Christmas story is retold to some alien visitors who become stranded on earth and meet a group of schoolchildren rehearsing their Christmas play.'

Year 3 and 4 'Carols by Candlelight'

Year 3 and 4 will be leading 'Carols by Candlelight' in St Helen's Church on **Tuesday 18th December**, from 6pm. The school choir will also be performing as part of this event. There will be a letter shortly with information on how to order tickets.

School Christmas Dinner

The school kitchen will be serving a special Christmas dinner on **Wednesday 19th December**. Parents can order this on ParentPay in the usual way. The price will be £2.05, as normal.

New for 2018! – Carols around the Christmas Tree

To mark the end of term, at **3:40pm on Friday 21st December**, everyone is welcome to join together as a school community to sing a few Christmas carols and wish each other a 'Happy Christmas!'. Weather permitting, this will take place outside on the KS2 playground and will last for approximately 15 minutes.



Friends of St Helen's meeting: Monday 26th November, 3.30pm, in the Elliott building. All welcome!

Prayer Space

Next week, our 'Open the Book' team from St Helen's Church will be running a 'Prayer Space' at school. Each class will have a chance to visit the space, giving children the opportunity to pause during the busy school day and take some time to reflect. 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.'

Year 5 and 6 'Evacuees'

During WW2, children were evacuated to the countryside to escape the danger of cities like Bristol during the Blitz. Year 5 and 6 were instead evacuated to the centre of Bristol for a day, exploring life in WW2 at the M-Shed. They had a fantastic time finding out about life in Bristol during the Blitz. During their topic, they've done some wonderful learning, come and have a look at some of their writing and art in their WW2 display in the KS2 corridor.



Awesome Art at St Helen's!

Our 'Artist in Residence', Jo, has spent 6 days working in school over the last few weeks. 10 children from each class have had the opportunity to work with her for a full day exploring different techniques in art, learning about life as a professional artist and creating amazing artwork linked to their topic. Jo has then been building some incredible displays of learning in the corridors outside the classrooms showcasing not only art, but also some of the children's writing from the topics. Over the year, every child will have the opportunity to work with Jo when she returns in the Spring and then in the Summer too. Feel free to drop into school at 3:30pm one day and take a look!



Out of school achievements

- Olivia in Elm class plays netball for TJ's club and last weekend she was awarded the 'Coaches Player' of the match against Bradley Stoke, which they won 15-2.
- Charlotte in Holly class has achieved her Stage 2 in swimming.
- Katie in Ash class has achieved her 200 metres swimming award.
- Imogen F in Holly class has achieved her Stage 3 in swimming.

Attendance: Congratulations to Sycamore Class, whose have had best attendance for the last two weeks! Their attendance this week attendance is 98.9% and last week was 96.8%. Well done!

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Cherry Class – Karalee, Michael, Aryo and Cole
Holly Class – Toby, Luca, Imogen F and Sebastian
Beech Class – Oscar, Hudson, Isaac and Phoebe
Oak Class – Evie, Levi, Maddie and Emma

Ash Class – Alex W, Elena C, Katie and Yasmin
Sycamore Class – Isla, Josh D, Lilie and Joe
Elm Class – Amelie, Alfie, Kody and Charlotte



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