

## From Mr Spens:

We've had another good week at St Helen's. It feels like the term is really racing by and it's hard to believe we've only got two more weeks before the end of term 3 and the halfway point of the academic year. As ever, the children are working so hard in their learning and continue to win so many house points for their team with their super attitude to school life.

## Support at St Peter's, Pilning

As a school, we work closely within two partnerships. The first is 'Connect 4 Learning', a group of primary schools who work together with a real focus on supporting improvements in teaching and learning within the 5 schools: Wheatfield, Bowsland Green, The Manor in Coalpit Heath and St Barnabas in Warmley.

The second is our local 'Severnside' cluster. The Local Authority have asked if I could give some support for half a day a week at one of our cluster schools; St Peter's in Pilning, working alongside the new acting Headteacher over the rest of the academic year. From my experience of partnership working, both schools always benefit from any shared working and I am looking forward to building strong links between the two schools. When I am out of school, Mr Adams or Mr Chappell will be available in school, deputising in my absence.

Have a great weekend!

## Staffing arrangements for Reception class

Following maternity leave, Mrs Wendy Boffin will return to St Helen's, teaching Reception class on a part-time basis from Monday to Wednesday each week. She will be returning on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March. We are incredibly grateful for the superb job that Miss Hodson has done, both in teaching in Reception, but also leading KS1 and she will be leaving St Helen's at Easter to take up a new post at Beacon Rise Primary School in Kingswood. There will be a two-week crossover, where both teachers are in St Helen's, which will help to ensure a really smooth handover for the children.

We have appointed Miss Sarah McClelland, an experienced EYFS teacher, to work alongside Mrs Boffin in Reception, teaching on Thursdays and Fridays each week. She will join us after Easter; the beginning of Term 5.

## Advanced notice: Parents' evening

Parents' evening will take place at the beginning of Term 4, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Letters with information on how to book an appointment will be coming home next week.

## Young Enterprise Club

Young Enterprise Club is a newly formed club run by the Year 6's, where we create gifts on a budget and sell them to gain money for future projects. The Club is currently working on developing Mother's Day gifts. We'd appreciate donations of plain white mugs that must be in good condition, as this will help us maintain the budget and therefore make more profit. This will enable us to contribute to school improvement projects. Also, we are looking for any plastic planting pots for bulbs. Thank you.

*Amelia and Evie*



Year 1 had a great time in the woods! They made their own paintbrushes and paint!

**Football** - St Helen's have been enjoying football success! Our boys' team beat Olveston School 11-1 and later that week beat Elm Park in the cup, winning on penalties. The girls were also successful, with a 3-2 win against Olveston.

*On Monday the girls' football team played Olveston School. Despite their team being fully trained, we won because Marni scored one goal and Maisie scored 2 goals. Lily-Rose did an amazing corner and Maisie volleyed it in the top corner of the net. I think St Helen's played incredibly; Evie nearly scored about five times and Lily-Rose nearly scored twice. Also I would love to say that Alexis was amazing in goal, Sidonie and Jamie were amazing too and Lola threw incredible long distance throw-ins. Maisie*



### **NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' workshops for parents and children – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

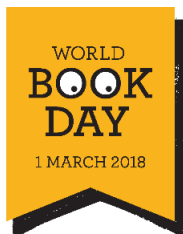
We are delighted to be working once again with NSPCC to deliver assemblies to all our children and, in addition, workshops for Year 5 and 6 children. The aim of the 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' programme is to give the children the confidence, knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse. This is a highly successful national project and we will be writing to parents with more information shortly.



### **Free online safety workshop for parents and carers**

As part of the NSPCC work, all parents, carers or family members are invited to a free online safety workshop at **9am on 27<sup>th</sup> February**. Our last session on online safety was in the evening and a number of parents who struggled to make it asked if we could run something at the beginning of the school day.

The hour-long workshop will help parents, carers and other adults understand their child's online world, build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online and help you know where to go for help and advice. We would really like to encourage as many parents as possible to attend this training.

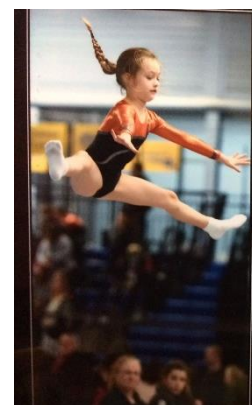


### **World Book Day**

Don't forget our 'Dress as your favourite book character day' on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Book Fair - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

Please put the date of our Book Fair in your diary!



### **Out of School Achievement:**

- Evie T in Ash class gained her 200 metres distance swimming badge and has moved onto Bronze Stage.
- Aliona in Beech class came 4<sup>th</sup> in her first competition at trampolining NDP (National development pathway) level 1. She achieved a qualifying score, but is currently too young to be eligible to go through to the regional team finals.

### **Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:**

Cherry Class – Kye, Rose, Olivia and Ava  
Holly Class – Cerys, Phoebe, Emily J and Danosh  
Beech Class – Jake, Harry F, Harry C and Harrison  
Oak Class – John, Charlie N, Yasmin and Max C

Ash Class – Bethany, William, Kiara and Rose  
Sycamore Class – Tom, Lucy B, Josh and Charlie  
Elm Class – Torin, Lily, Alex, Carter and Ben



### **Attendance update and attendance of the week!**

Our school attendance this week is 91.6%; Ash class (Year 4) achieved 100% attendance.  
Our school attendance last week was 95.6%; Beech class (Year 2) achieved 98%

