

From Mr Spens:

It's been a fantastic week at St Helen's with plenty going on! Yesterday was a real example of that and as I drove home, I reflected on what a privilege it is to work here and what a brilliant school St Helen's is. We had so many visitors! I thought I'd give you a 'day in the life' of St Helen's from Thursday! You can read more about this below.

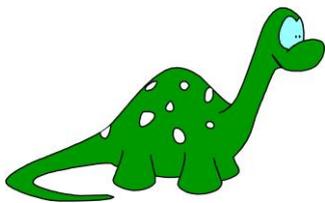
Today, we were treated to an amazing performance from our school choir. The quality of the singing, the soloists and the harmonies were really excellent and through songs, poems and readings, the choir also encourage us all to believe in ourselves, stay true to ourselves and to persevere when things are hard. Important messages for us all.

I hope you have a fantastic break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th June, the beginning of term 6.



A day in the life of St Helen's – Thursday 25th May 2017

We had an action-packed day in school on Thursday and it was a real reminder of some of the fantastic things about our school. We thought we'd give you a quick overview of some of the highlights!



Two paleontologists came from Bristol University to speak to Reception, Year 3 and Year 4 children about dinosaurs. The children had a great time, but the students were blown away by a couple of our Reception boys whose passion for dinosaurs they thought was amazing. On being shown a random dinosaur bone, one of them correctly identified it as an 'Iguanadon's knee' and they said they'd never come across a group of 4 and 5 year olds like it!

We had seven teaching assistants visiting our school from our partner schools in 'Connect4Learning' or 'C4L'. Mr Chappell had organised a morning for them to see our school and observe some of our teaching assistants and teachers working with children here. They spent time looking at phonics, maths and also joined our Reception class in the woods and left some fantastic feedback for the staff and children here.



Yesterday, we also served Jamie's Roald Dahl Themed Menu for lunch. He had come up with the ideas himself and the children (and adults) loved his menu, inspired by 'The Twits', 'Charlie and the chocolate factory' and 'James and the giant peach'. A big thank-you to Jamie and the kitchen staff for their hard work!

Three teachers came to the school to be interviewed for the vacancy coming up when Miss Pearce is on maternity leave. They taught a maths lesson, met the KS2 school councillors, joined us for lunch and had a formal interview. The teachers were so impressed by the school and spoke very positively about the staff, the grounds and the children. I was particularly impressed with our older school councillors who met the candidates. Amelia (Sycamore class) saved us some time in the interview later and clearly has a career in recruitment ahead of her, should she choose it! She asked 'What made you want to apply for job at St Helen's instead of all of the other schools you could have chosen?' We appointed a new teacher and will let you have more information when all the various checks have been completed.



After school, over 30 KS2 children took part in the weekly after school cricket club that Mr Chappell and Mr Leeming run and the sunshine brought out some brilliant cricket skills. In the next few weeks, they'll be taking part in various cricket tournaments across the county.



At 4:30pm, I met with James from Pentagon Play, Sarah Brown (governor in charge of Health and Safety) and Alan Richards (school caretaker) to put in place the final plans for our MUGA build which will start on Thursday 1st June. Over half term, the stone will be arriving to level the site so that they can begin to build the all-weather pitch. When we return to school, the site will be fenced off and the construction team will be starting work.

All in all, a really great day at St Helen's School!

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!

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Cherry Class – Lacey, Oliver T, Sophia and Madison
Holly Class – Harley, Maddie, William and Levi
Beech Class – Max C, Max M, John, Emma R
Oak Class – Alex, Neve, Bea and Jack
Ash Class – Charlotte, Lucy, James and Maisie
Sycamore Class – Rhonaugh, Iwan and Jamie
Elm Class – Cheyenne, Adam, Lucie and Ben

Congratulations to Beech class for their fantastic attendance last week – 100%!
Congratulations to Ash class on this week's best class attendance – 97%

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 13th June – Year 6 visit Bristol Cathedral for a 'moving on' day
Thursday 15th June – Class photographs for Reception and Year 6
Saturday 17th June – PTA Summer Fair, 12 noon
Thursday 6th July – Sports morning
Monday 10th July – School performance – Y5/Y6 – 7pm
Tuesday 11th July – School performance – Y5/Y6 – 7pm
Wednesday 12th July – Whole school visit to Tyntesfield
Thursday 20th July – Leavers' Service – Y6
Thursday 20th July – end of Term 6
Friday 21st July – INSET day
Friday 1st September – INSET day

Out of school achievement

- Caitlin in Oak class has passed her Performing Arts Award Grade 2 with a Distinction.