

## From Mr Spens:

As part of our monitoring of teaching and learning, last week the leadership team spent time in each class. There is a real focus and buzz of learning right across the school and it is clear from talking to the children and seeing the work in their books what great progress they have been making this year.

One highlight from this week was when Revd. David Moss brought his dog into collective worship on Monday to talk to us all about friendship. We heard about how his dog's behaviour had totally changed when it felt safe and secure as part of their family, having previously been unsuccessfully trained to be a guide dog. We reflected on how important it is to look after each other and encourage each other so that everyone can flourish.

There are lots of important dates in today's newsletter. Please do put them into your diaries! Have a great weekend.

## Update from 'Young Enterprise Club'

Young Enterprise club are currently working on a new project: developing a stall for the summer fair. We would first like to say thank you for the generous donations of the plain white mugs as these really helped our mother's day stall.



We would now be grateful for help with our next project and would like your donations of jam jars please, with or without lids. Thank you!

Amelia and Sidonie (Year 6) on behalf of the Young Enterprise Club

## Merlin Housing present Year 6 Digital Leaders with a cheque for over £2500!

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded over £2500 to pay for a new interactive whiteboard. This follows close in the footsteps of the £5000 donated by the Friends of St Helen's (FoSH) for two other new whiteboards.

What is particularly great about this donation is that it came because three of our 'Digital Leaders' were brave enough to pitch to the Merlin Housing 'Dragons' in their 'den' in Chipping Sodbury and explain how the new whiteboards would benefit the children at St Helen's. Even more impressive was that they were initially turned down, but made such an impact that Merlin Housing reviewed the application again and awarded the grant. A very real life example of the importance of perseverance, keeping positive and never giving up!



### New online spelling resource 'Spelling Frame'

We have become aware of a new resource for supporting spelling for children in Years 2-6. It is currently totally free to use and gives children the chance to learn age-appropriate spellings in different ways and then test out their knowledge in an on-line 'test'. It seems to work well on tablets as well as computers/laptops. Visit [www.spellingframe.co.uk](http://www.spellingframe.co.uk) to have a go! Research suggests that the most effective home learning reinforces the basic core skills of spelling, reading and mental maths (through Big Maths) and is done 'little and often', so we hope this will be a useful resource. Let your child's class teacher know how you've found it!

### Miss Burman joins us

We are pleased to welcome Miss Burman who joins us for the remainder of the academic year for her final placement as a PGCE Student from Bath Spa University. Miss Burman will be working alongside Miss Kitching in Year 1. We are currently working with Bath Spa University and our partner schools in 'Connect 4 Learning' on developing a training pathway for PGCE students within our schools in 2018/19. We will let you know more information about this exciting project when the plans are confirmed.

### Dates for your diary

We have a number of important dates to communicate as we build up to the summer and the end of the academic year. We have tried to give plenty of notice for these important school events and are always so grateful for your support!



<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 9:10 – 10:15 (approx.)</b>	Reception and KS1 Sports Day
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 10:30 – 11:45pm (approx.)</b>	KS2 Sports Day
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1pm</b>	Summer Fair
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Reserve date for Sports Day (same timings)
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July (after school)</b>	FoSH end of year Disco
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm</b>	Year 5 & 6 end of year play (matinee)
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm</b>	Year 5 & 6 end of year play (evening)
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 9:30am</b>	Year 6 Leavers' Service (St Helen's Church)

### Attendance

Our school attendance last week was 97% and Beech Class (Year 2) achieved 99.7%.  
Our school attendance this week was 96.6% and Holly Class (Year 1) achieved 99%.

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

Cherry Class – Kye, Casey, Billie, Fred and Lewis  
Holly Class – Sophie, Oscar and Sophia  
Beech Class – Emma, Bede, Harry M and Sehyun  
Oak Class – Josh and Alisdair

Ash Class – Lilie, Ryan, Katie T and Esther  
Sycamore Class – James, Logan, Ronny and Evelyn  
Elm Class – Torin, Jamie, Jessy and Isobel W



### Out of school achievements

- Carter (Elm class) took part in a 5k obstacle race in Chepstow last weekend.
- Lola (Oak class) received a silver medal in trampette and a bronze on vault at her recent gymnastics competition.

