

From Mr Spens:

Welcome back!

It's been a really good first week back, with all of the classes starting off their new topics and the children displaying some great attitudes to learning.

This term, Year 5 and 6 will be learning about 'The Ancient Greeks', Year 3 and 4 will be learning about 'Dinosaurs', Year 1 and 2 will be learning about 'Fantastic Beasts (and where to find them!)'. Reception class have already started their learning about 'Growing' and will be continuing this over the term.

We'd like to welcome Miss Hodson to the school staff, who joins us as Reception class teacher and Key Stage 1 leader, taking over from Mrs Boffin who has recently had her baby (more on this in the newsletter!).

This weekend is a 'Bank Holiday' weekend and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday.

Have a great weekend!

We send our warmest congratulations to Mr & Mrs Boffin! Mrs Boffin has sent us these lovely photographs and message:

Welcome to the world – Baby Boffin!

It gives me great pleasure to announce the safe arrival of Stefan Boffin on the 10th April. Stefan decided mummy did not need a rest in the Easter holidays and was born in Bath hospital three weeks ahead of schedule! I have never felt such a special joy in my heart and feel so blessed to have him. I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for the lovely messages and gifts I received. I was overwhelmed by everyone's love and kindness across the school and I feel so lucky to be a part of such a fantastic school community. When we get into a routine Stefan and I look forward to coming into school to meet all the children. I am also hoping to come to Sports Day and the summer fete, dates permitting, so don't forget to come and say hi and tell me what is going on! Anyway thanks again and hope you all had a lovely Easter.

Wendy Boffin



Reception and KS1 visit from Bristol Zoo!

Cherry (Reception), Holly (Year 1) and Beech (Year 2) classes had some very exciting visitors to see them on the very first day back after Easter. To launch their new topics, their teachers invited Bristol Zoo to come to school and introduce the children to some animals! The animals that visited included snakes, hissing cockroaches, geckos, stick insects and even a spider! The children (and adults) had a fantastic time handling the animals and learning from the zookeepers.



Congratulations to Elm Class (Year 6) on their fantastic attendance this week – 99.5%!

Year 5 and 6 girls begin a special cricket project with Gloucestershire CCC

Yesterday, girls from Sycamore (Year 5) and Elm (Year 6) classes had their first session in a series of six weekly cricket coaching sessions. Mr Chappell and Mr Leeming are hoping to begin a weekly cricket club for Years 4-6 children this term and letters have been sent home to interested children. We are hoping to enter both a boys' and a girls' team into local tournaments this year and will be setting up cricket equipment for children to use at lunchtimes when both the field and the playground are in use.

Value of the term – 'Service'

Each term, we take a value to work on as a school and explore it through collective worship and in class. This term, our value is 'service'. Coming home with the newsletter today is an information sheet all about the value, with some activities which you can explore with your children at home.

Jigsaw – A mindful approach to PSHE

St Helen's is part of a pilot group of South Gloucestershire Primary Schools introducing a new approach to teaching PSHE (Personal, social and health education) called 'Jigsaw'. This is a highly regarded scheme of work and is used across Bristol and other local authorities. Classes are now trialling the Jigsaw curriculum ready for a full launch in September 2017.



PSHE Association: "This is a really comprehensive resource. It links emotional literacy, social and spiritual development alongside an integrated mindfulness approach in order to support pupils' learning in PSHE."

In term 6 (the final term of the year), we will be following the Jigsaw units across the school called 'Changing me'. This covers key topics such as transition to the next year group and secondary school, but also delivers the 'Sex and Relationships' areas of PSHE. We will be running an information session for parents of **all children** on Wednesday 24th May from 5-6pm introducing the new material. Please do put this date into your diaries.

Parent Survey

We had a fantastic response to our parent survey, thank you so much for your support in completing this. We ran a prize draw for parents who completed the survey and are delighted to announce that Mrs Gordon has won the £25 book token for her family.

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week:

Cherry Class – Emelia and Hudson
Holly Class – Bouthayna and Harriet
Beech Class – Alexander F and Josh
Oak Class – Libby and Josh
Ash Class – Logan and Libby
Sycamore Class – Amelia and Carter
Elm Class – Tom and Charlotte

Out of school achievements

- Sophia in Cherry Class has achieved her 5 metre distance swimming award.
- Xander and Alfie in Holly Class received a certificate for participating in the 2016/17 rugby season for Thornbury Broncos.

Stepping Stones Pre-School, Elberton
Fun Day – Saturday 6th May – 2pm to 4pm
Cakes, forest crafts, scavenger hunt,
Toys & books and competitions
All in aid of "Make a Wish Foundation"
steppingstoneselberton.co.uk

PTA SUMMER FAIR
Saturday 17th June