

From Mr Spens:

It's hard to believe we are almost half-way through the academic year at St Helen's! Topics for Terms 3 and 4 are now well underway and as I've visited each of the classes in the last two weeks, there is a really purposeful buzz of learning in each class, with children rising to the different challenges in their learning and making some really great progress.

Yesterday, I took our group of 'Digital Leaders' out of school to work with children from the other three primary schools that make up our 'Connect 4 Learning' collaborative partnership. They were working with an advisor from South Gloucestershire Council on 'staying safe online' and thinking of the different ways that they can promote internet safety to children and parents in each school. Watch out for more information on this!

Our Year 4's went on an exciting trip last week and took part in a Jazz workshop, as part of the Thornbury Arts Festival, and our Year 5's visited Bristol Cathedral to learn more about Candlemas. There has been lots going on!

Have a great weekend.

The Great St Helen's Bake Off and 'Food Technology' Week

Next week the children will have different opportunities to learn about food during our 'Food Technology Week'. As part of this, Eden, our new catering company, will be running workshops for each of the classes on Monday and Tuesday. The children will also have the chance to design a menu for a school lunch to be served by the kitchen at some point in the future.



On **Thursday 9th February** we will also be holding the first ever '**Great St Helen's Bake Off**'. The children are invited to bake at home 8 small sweet treats and enter in one of four categories:

Cup cakes - Flapjacks - Biscuits - Scones

The entries will be judged by some of the staff team during the day. Prizes will be awarded for the best entries. Due to allergies, please can we ask that **NO NUTS** are included in any of the baking. Cakes should be brought into school on Thursday morning at the beginning of the day. All members of staff are also invited to 'get baking' so look out for their creative contributions!



Cake Sale: All of the entries will then be sold at the Cake Sale which will take place at **3.30pm** in the school hall. Please come along! The money we raise will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Woodland and Pond Redevelopment to begin!

As you know, we have been awarded £10,000 from Tesco 'Bags of Help' donation scheme. We have appointed a contractor, who will begin work in the woodland as early as next week. We expect the work to take between 4-5 weeks and the woodland will be out of use during this time.

The works include:

- Improving access to the woodland by creating a clear path and some natural steps on one of the steeper sections
- Re-fencing the outer boundary
- Renewing a camp fire area, with log seating for a class of children
- Building an outdoor/mud kitchen with canopy
- Linking each class with a type of tree from our woods, creating a wooden emblem for each
- Clearing the pond area, re-planting and installing new wooden benches into the area
- Woodland launch day for children in Term 5/6

We will also use some of the funding to pay for staff 'Forest School' training.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 7th February

Next Tuesday is the national 'Safer Internet Day'. Our digital leaders, a group of Year 5 and 6 children, will be sharing some important messages with the children at St Helen's about keeping safe online. There is also plenty of information online for parents and we would encourage you to find a few minutes to take a look. Visit www.saferinternet.org.uk and click on the 'Parents and Carers' section for lots of tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online.



Social Media Guide to parents

Most people take part in online activities and social media. It's fun, interesting and keeps us connected.

The PTA has a Facebook page which allows parents to receive and respond to messages about school events. Classes often have 'Parent Groups' set up by parents to communicate together, organise social events etc. We encourage you to positively participate if you wish.

We ask that you use common sense when discussing school life online: 'Think before you post.' We ask that social media should not be used to air any complaints or grievances parents might have regarding the school, school staff, parents or children. If parents have any concerns in this regard they should:

1. Initially contact the class teacher
2. If the concern remains, contact the Headteacher
3. If still unresolved, the school governors should be contacted through the complaints procedure, which is available on our website.

Without this approach being followed, the school may be unable to help resolve any issues which might arise. Our guide to social media use:

- Please do not post pictures of pupils other than your own children on social networking sites without permission from that other child's parents
- Please make any complaints or raise any concerns you might have through official school channels rather than posting on social networking sites
- Please do not post malicious or fictitious comments on social networking sites about any member of the school community

In cases of serious misuse of social media, we would be obliged to explore appropriate legal routes in order to ensure that the school, its pupils and their families are adequately protected.

Thank-you for your support in this,
St Helen's School Governors and Senior Leadership Team

Lunchbreak Supervisor vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a member of our lunchbreak team. In addition to supervising the children in the dining hall, duties will include promoting constructive outdoor play by providing a range of creative and fun activities which are physically active and create a playground environment inclusive of all children. Please call the school office for more information.

PTA Meeting

The next meeting of the PTA will be on Monday 6th February from 7pm at The Ship. All parents are welcome to attend.

Dean Field Camp 2017 meeting

Mr Spens will be holding a re-arranged Dean Field camp meeting on Monday 6th February at 3:45pm in the Year 5 classroom for parents of children currently in Year 5.

Parent Governor Election

Following the vacancy that was advertised for a parent governor position, we are currently holding an election after two candidates were nominated. A letter, along with voting slips, were distributed yesterday. Votes should be in by Thursday 9th February at 4pm.


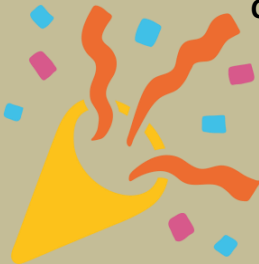
INSET Day reminder

A reminder that **Monday 20th February** will be an INSET Day at St Helen's. School will reopen for Term 4 on Tuesday 21st February. The final INSET Day of the year will be on **Friday 21st July** and the first INSET day of the 2017/18 academic year on **Friday 1st September**, meaning that the new year will start on **Monday 4th September 2017**.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

We are currently collecting Sainsbury's vouchers. We will be able to exchange the vouchers for sports and cooking equipment, so your contributions would be appreciated.

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:



Reception – Lacey, Oscar, Isabel and Millie
Year 1 – Harrison, Sehyun, Lola and Oliver
Year 2 – Mya, Jonny, Charlie N and Yasmin
Year 3 – Kenzie, Neve, Alice H and Joe
Year 4 – Lewis, Cassy, Maisie and Zack
Year 5 – Jaydon, Harry, Rylee and Ben
Year 6 – Charlotte, Rosie, Molly S and Mollie G

Out of school achievements

- Amelie (Y4) was singer of the week at 'Voices Extreme' singing group for the lyrics she wrote for a song that the group will sing.
- Evie T (Y3) has achieved her 100m distance swimming award.

Diary Dates

w/c 6th February – Food Technology Week

Monday 6th February – 3.45pm, Y5 children & parents, Dean Field meeting (postponed from 30.1.17)

Monday 6th February – 7pm, PTA meeting, The Ship

Wednesday 8th February – Y5 & Y6 visit Armstrong Hall for 'Jason & the Argonauts' (Arts Festival)

Thursday 9th February – 3.30pm, Cake Sale in the school hall

Friday 10th February – end of Term 3

Monday 20th February – INSET day



Tuesday 21st February – start of Term 4

w/c 27th February - Book Fair at 3.30pm each day (please note week later than previously published)

South Gloucestershire Council, Streetcare and Transport – Road Closure

The construction of speed cushions, upgrade/installation of pedestrian informal crossing points and waiting restrictions (lining) will commence from the 13th February in the vicinity of St Helen's Primary School and will last approximately 2 weeks.

A road closure on Greenhill Road will be in place from the 13th – 17th February which will enable the 2 sets of speed cushions to be built.





Animal Antics
Animal crafts
and stories

At Thornbury Library
Monday 13th February



Drop in anytime
between 11 and 12 noon

Most suitable for children aged 4 - 11
You are welcome to drop in for as long as you like but please note that the library cannot be responsible for children left unattended by a parent/carer. All under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.



Pancake Day

Tuesday 28th February - 3.30-4.30pm
The Parade, Alveston



The Churches in Alveston invite you to join them to enjoy a pancake, or two. There will also be information about the origin of the day and details of Lenten Activities in Severnside.

Any donations received will be for the Methodist Centre in Bristol, who provide care and support for the vulnerable homeless people in Bristol.