

## From Mr Spens:

This newsletter was originally due to go to parents on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February, but as the school was closed due to the weather, we're sending it home today.

This week, we are holding our 'Book at Bedtime' evening, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, when we will be welcoming back to school children and their parents from 6:00-6:45pm. Please can I encourage parents to stay during this time, when Mr Adams and Mrs Boffin will be leading a workshop for parents on reading, with some tips on supporting your children at home. You can find more information about this below.

## Parents' Survey 2019

Thanks so much to everyone who took the time to complete the parents' survey. We'll be analysing the survey over the next few weeks and reporting back to parents. We're pleased to announce that Mrs Moore (Year 2) was chosen at random from all of the completed surveys and we'll be sending home a £20 book token later this week.

Congratulations!

## St Helen's through to the county 'Dodgeball' finals!

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January St Helen's Year 6 dodgeball team (Lily, Logan, Marnie, Luke, Charlie and Lizzie) went to UWE to take part in the West of England regional final of the dodgeball tournament. Many schools from as far away as Wiltshire and Somerset participated in this challenging event. When we lost the first of three semi-final rounds, Mr Leeming gathered us together for a team talk. Our spirits rose and we persevered through to the final. At this moment we thought that, even if we didn't ultimately win, we had been resilient and tried our best. Our hard work was rewarded with a strong win and a gold medal! We all enjoyed the morning very much and would like to say thank you to Mr Leeming and the four dads for taking us. *Logan and Luke*

## Times Table Rockstars: an update

A couple of weeks ago, we launched 'Times Table Rockstars', an online platform for children to develop their knowledge and recall of important times table facts. Quick recall of mathematical facts, like times tables, is a key skill to enable children to progress in their maths and an area we are keen to develop further at St Helen's. We are delighted with the take-up from the children on this and already it's clear to see the impact on the children's recall of facts. Next term, at parents' evening, we hope to share a personalised 'heatmap' with you, generated by Rockstars, showing you the times tables that your child is strong with and the ones which they need more support to continue to learn.

## Book at Bedtime – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February - 6pm until 6.45pm.

Who loves to listen to a great story? At St Helen's we are going to celebrate the great art of storytelling by inviting the children back to school to hear a story. A list of stories is noted below, and the children will be invited to sign up for their choice beforehand. On Wednesday, children arrive at 6pm and join their group for a story. Perhaps it will be: relaxing, exciting, awesome, funny – or all of these! The children can wear PJs for that bedtime story feel, and the FoSH will be providing refreshments for the children.

While the children are entertained with a story, we invite parents to attend a short presentation and Q&A session on the developments that have been happening in reading. We will also offer some helpful tips for reading with or to your child at home. Mrs Boffin will offer tips and guidance on reading with our younger children. Thanks to FoSH, a hot drink will be available.



## Story Time:

'Open very carefully' in the Library, 'Aliens Love Underpants' in Reception classroom, 'Traditional Tales' in Year 1 classroom, 'Mrs Pepperpot' in Year 2 classroom, Revolting Rhymes in Year 3 classroom, Outlaw Varjak Paw in Year 4 classroom, 'Esio Trot' in Year 5 classroom, 'Star Wars Adventures' in Year 6 classroom.

### **Charity Cake Sale – this coming Friday, 3:30pm**

This week, we're going to be holding a charity cake sale, raising money for three different charities suggested by children or parents over the last few weeks. We'd love to encourage the families of St Helen's to bake some cakes this week and bring them into school in a **named** tin/box on Friday. We'll hold the cake sale on Friday, from 3:30pm. All of the money we raise will be split equally between three charities:

- Shelter, suggested by Elaina M in Year 4
- Jessie May Trust, suggested by the Taylor family
- Lee's Fight, suggested by the Smith family

### **Partnership exploration, from Jim McLaren – Chair of Governors**

Following the letter to parents at the end of the Christmas Term about partnership, I would like to share that our exploration has started. A working group formed from governors and senior leaders at both schools have held two successful meetings. We will update you with further information as we continue this process.

### **Reminder about parking outside St Helen's**

Over the last week or two, we've had a number of parents sharing their concerns about parking before and after school. Please can we remind parents to park considerately, taking care not to park on yellow lines, or in places that may block driveways and obscure sightlines for pedestrians. Thank-you for your support with this.

### **Out of school achievements**

- Jasper in Oak class has achieved his Level 2 swimming award.

### **Term dates:**

Term 3: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Term 4: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Term 5: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Term 6: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

### **Remaining INSET days during this academic year:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

### **Term dates for 2019/20:**

Term 1: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Term 2: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Term 3: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Term 4: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Term 5: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Term 6: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **Attendance**

**Congratulations to Sycamore class who had the best attendance during w/e 25<sup>th</sup> January with 99.3% and the school total was 95.8%.**

**Congratulations again to Sycamore class who had the best attendance during w/e 31<sup>st</sup> January with 99.1% and the school total was 96.5%.**

### **Congratulations to our certificate winners on 25<sup>th</sup> January:**

Cherry Class – James and Harry

Holly Class – Amelia and Amber

Beech Class – Olly T and Macy

Oak Class – Charlie and Jake

Ash Class – Dakota and Niyumi

Sycamore Class – Isla and Katie B

Elm Class – Jack and Lily-Rose



