

From Mr Spens:

It feels like the school year is now really underway and we're racing towards half term with plenty of exciting things going on all across the school.

Today, I'm pleased to be able to announce our 'House Captains' for the school year. These children will be responsible for leading their house teams in the house point competition this year and, along with the rest of Year 6, set a great example to the younger children in the school. Congratulations to them!

Brabazon	Blenheim	Britannia	Concorde
Lizzie	Marni	Maisie	Lucy
Josh	Luke	Zack	Jack

We have three other opportunities for pupils to lead and develop areas of school life. We will not be running a school council, but instead have created two teams and these will be running alongside the existing Ethos Team:

Learning Council - responsible for identifying improvements and developments in teaching and learning, led by Miss Hurd

Eco Team - helping to make our school sustainable and eco-friendly, led by Mrs Hardy.

I'd like to wish all of our staff and families a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Pasta day

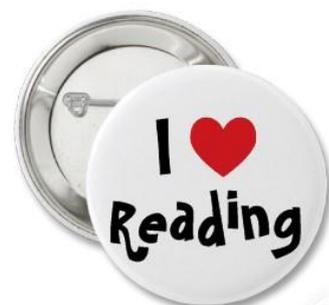
Yesterday, our kitchen served up a special 'Pasta Day' for the children which was extremely popular. Children had the choice of three different types of pasta, with three different options for toppings. Over the next year, there will be a number of exciting themed menus. Coming up next is a 'Bonfire Night' themed menu on 5th November, a special Christmas lunch on 19th December and a 'Build your own burger' day on 17th January. Changing the menu on ParentPay was a bit of a challenge for the catering team, but this should now be sorted for theme days going forwards! Thanks for bearing with us on this.



Reception and Year 1 Reading Evening – Wednesday 10th October

The teaching staff will be sharing an overview of how reading is taught in the early years of St Helen's on Wednesday 10th October from 5pm to 5.30pm and all parents are very welcome to attend.

This is for parents only, but Mr Spens will have some activities for any school aged children to do in the next door classroom, should childcare be an issue.



What an achievement!

Last night, Logan, from Y6, was chosen as Gloucestershire Cricket U10's player of the year by his coaches. This is a significant achievement! To play for Gloucestershire U10's is impressive enough, but receiving this accolade goes one step further. We are all very proud of you Logan for 'Flying High' not just when you're at school, but on the cricket pitch too!

From his coaches:

'This award goes to a consistent performer who has the ability with the bat to take on the toughest of opponents and succeed. He strives to maintain a high standard in everything that he does including his wicket keeping and has a fierce competitive nature while always upholding the spirit of the game. Scoring a total of 325 runs at an average of 40.63, the player of the year is Logan of Thornbury Cricket Club.'



Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child

We are pleased to be supporting 'Operation Christmas Child' again this year. This is an initiative of the Christian relief agency, Samaritan's Purse. Gift-filled shoeboxes are wrapped and packed in the UK and sent to under privileged children around the world. The children receive a box based on need, regardless of their background or religion. We want to fill as many shoeboxes as we can and will be collecting donations **until 16th November**. Your donation of gifts to go in a box would be really appreciated. Gift suggestions (new items please) include small toys (eg yoyo, skipping rope), stationery, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, hat, gloves, hair accessories. For more information about the work of this charity and a full list of items requested for the shoeboxes, please visit www.samaritans-purse.org.uk



Dates for your diary

Friends of St Helen's AGM – Monday 8th October, 7pm, The Ship
Reception and Year 1 Reading Evening – Wednesday 10th October (5-5.30pm)
Child flu vaccinations in school – Thursday 25th October (Reception to Year 5 children)
End of Term 1 – Friday 26th October
Start of Term 2 – Monday 5th November
Parents' Evenings - Thursday 8th November (4-7pm) & Tuesday 13th November (4-7pm)
Book Fair - w/c 12th November

Out of school achievements

- Phoebe in Beech class has achieved her level 4 swimming award, and is now in stage 5.
- Daisy in Sycamore class has achieved her 200 metres distance swimming award and her stage 7 swimming award.
- Charlotte M in Holly class has achieved her 5 metres distance swimming award and her stage 2 swimming award.
- Maisie and Lily-Rose in Elm class have been selected to play football for South Gloucestershire.

Attendance Update:

Congratulations to Year 4, Ash Class, whose attendance for this week was 99.3%
Congratulations to Year 2, Beech Class, whose attendance for last week was 97.4%

Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Holly Class – Fendi, Lewis, Kye and Catherine	Ash Class – Emma C, Josh G, Niyumi and Harry
Beech Class – Charlotte, Cerys, Frankie and William	Sycamore Class – Jack, Rose, Joe and Katie B
Oak Class – Sehyun, Bede, Oliver and Harley	Elm Class – Tommy, Jasmine, Logan and Bradley



SHINE YOUTH CHOIR

- An opportunity to learn the skills you need to be a professional singer **for free**.
- A chance to train for certificates and awards from The Royal School of Church Music **for free**.

With the support of Bristol Cathedral we will be starting the "Shine Youth Choir" at St Mary's Olveston on Friday 5th October, 5pm. This new opportunity is for all children in the Alveston/Olveston area. Interested in joining? Please email David Moss - Vicar mossds@gmail.com

