

From Mr Spens:

A very 'happy new year' to all of the children, families and staff at St Helen's. The children have come back to school in a positive frame of mind and we were talking in assembly on Tuesday about the kinds of attitudes we were going to choose to show in 2017. The children came up with some fantastic ideas: kindness, perseverance, positivity, bravery, courage, independence, hard work and focus and it's going to be exciting to see what they will achieve displaying these kinds of attitudes over the year!

All of the new topics for the new term have kicked off and Year 1 and 2 held their 'Wow' day today, dressing up as explorers for their 'Extreme Earth' topic. Year 3 and 4 have launched into a particularly popular topic with the children (and the teachers) – 'Chocolate'. We've had two secondary school trainee teachers working with us this week from Bath Spa University, one of whom is a scientist who led a very exciting experiment in Year 4 melting chocolate! Year 5 and 6 are learning about Rainforests and the Reception children focusing on 'Fairytale'.

All in all, a busy first week back at St Helen's!

Remaining INSET Days for 2016/17

During each school year, there are 5 INSET days for staff training and school development. We've held three already this year and the final two will take place on **Monday 20th February** and **Friday 21st July**.

Term Dates for 2017/18

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 4 (2016/17)	Tuesday 21 st February (20 th is INSET)	Friday 7 th April
Term 5 (2016/17)	Monday 24 th April	Friday 26 th May
Term 6 (2016/17)	Monday 5 th June	Thursday 20 th July (21 st is INSET)
Term 1 (2017/18)	Monday 4 th September (1 st is INSET)	Friday 20 th October
Term 2 (2017/18)	Monday 30 th October	Monday 18 th December
Term 3 (2017/18)	Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Friday 9 th February 2018
Term 4 (2017/18)	Monday 19 th February 2018	Friday 23 rd March 2018
Term 5 (2017/18)	Monday 9 th April 2018	Friday 25 th May 2018
Term 6 (2017/18)	Monday 4 th June 2018	Friday 20 th July 2018

Please note:

Only one INSET day (Friday 1st September) has been set for 2017/18, the other four will follow. Term dates can be found on our school website, under the 'Calendar' menu.

Reception and Year 1 trip to The Colston Hall

Yesterday the children in Reception and Year 1 took a trip to the Colston Hall to see the Bristol Old Vic production 'Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain'.

I liked it when Little Tim was singing in the bath. *Emily R*

I liked it when we got sprayed with lots of water to show the rain. *Sophie*

I liked it when the jellyfish came. They showed lots of different colours.

Phoebe

I liked it when it was really stormy. There was thunder and lightning. *Dexter*





New football kit arrived!

We are very grateful for all of the support parents give St Helen's in many different forms. Alan Derham managed to arrange for the company where he works to sponsor a new football kit and here's a photo with some of our Year 5 and 6 children modelling it! Thanks to Finning for their support!



Severe Weather

In consultation with the Chair of Governors, I will decide if conditions are too severe or cold for the school to open. If sufficient staff cannot reach Alveston, the school will not open. School closure will be notified on the South Gloucestershire Council website and on BBC Radio Bristol. Internet access permitting, we will also aim to update the school website and to text you. Obviously, if staff are in transit, this will not be possible, so please check the South Gloucestershire website as a first priority.

If a member of staff is able to reach school, a "school closed" sign will be placed on the KS2 playground gate. It is unlikely that the school telephone will be manned. Please note that, if the school is closed, there will be no Breakfast Club. Do check that the school is open before allowing your child(ren) to walk to school unaccompanied.

Governors

We recently held a parent governor nomination process and two parent governors were nominated and duly re-appointed. They are Anne Straw and Sarah Brown.

An additional vacancy has now arisen and so today we are sending home a letter with information about how parent governors are appointed. The closing date for potential governors to be nominated is Friday 20th January 2017.

Out of school achievements

Alexander (Y2) received a certificate for his fantastic skiing, which he did during the Christmas holidays. He was able to ski 8km, which was 10 laps of the circuit and his next step is to ski down the Kasprowy Wierch which is the highest skiing mountain in Poland.



We always love to hear about achievements outside of school. If you have something to share, please e-mail sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL PLACES FOR CHILDEN DUE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2017

Children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 are due to start school in September 2017. The closing date for applications is **15 January 2017**. Please note applications received late may not get their preferred school even if they have a sibling already in attendance.

Applications should be made to the local authority where the child lives; regardless of the location of the school they are requesting. For more information or for South Gloucestershire residents to apply online go to www.southglos.gov.uk/admissions . For help with the process call 01454 868008.

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week:

- Reception – Danosh and Emelia
- Year 1 – Jake and Bede
- Year 2 – Will and Yasmin
- Year 3 – Rose and William
- Year 4 –Anais and Logan
- Year 5 – Sophie and Jamie
- Year 6 – Darcy and Luke M