

## From Mr Spens:

It's been a great term at St Helen's and it's been lovely to finish the term with some brilliant weather! The children have been out on the field at lunchtimes and playtimes and with our new lunchtime arrangements this year, there are lots of opportunities for children of different ages to mix and play together.

Today we say 'Good-bye' and 'Good Luck' to Mrs Boffin as she begins her maternity leave. Mrs Boffin plays a really significant role in our staff team and has been a really important part of our journey as a school in the last few years. She's taught nearly all of the children in the school and given them a great start to school life. As you can imagine, we had a fantastic celebration assembly, congratulating the children on their certificates and each class presented Mrs Boffin with a card they had made. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mr and Mrs Boffin well and we look forward to meeting 'Baby Boffin' soon!

Miss Hodson will be joining us on secondment to cover Mrs Boffin during her maternity leave. Miss Hodson joins us from a school near Cheltenham, where she has been teaching KS1. As well as teaching Reception class, Miss Hodson will take on the role of 'Key Stage 1' leader, joining the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) with Mr Adams, Mr Chappell and myself. We look forward to welcoming Miss Hodson to the school team after Easter.

It's been quite a long and busy term and I'd like to wish all of the families of St Helen's a very happy, restful and enjoyable Easter holidays!

## Rainforest library – an amazing success!

Year 5 and 6 have been learning about the rainforests in their topic since January. Yesterday afternoon they presented some really brilliant individual projects which they'd created on the topic. It was great to see the effort that the children had made to present the information that they'd learnt in so many imaginative ways. There was art, animation, powerpoints, 'Google documents', QR codes and some incredible booklets and information books where the quality of writing on display was really superb. Well done to all of the children and we can't wait to see what you produce for the Ancient Greek topic in the summer!



## Parent Survey

Thanks to everyone who has completed the parent survey sharing their views about the school. Parents have until midnight tonight to complete the survey and stand a chance of winning £25 of book tokens for their family. You can find the survey online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alveston2017>.



**COMIC  
RELIEF**

Thank you for supporting our fundraising on Red Nose Day.  
We raised £210 for Comic Relief!

### Could we have discovered the next Jamie Oliver?

During our food technology week, we ran a competition for the children to design a themed menu to be served in our kitchen one lunchtime next term. It was a difficult decision, but the judges chose Jamie from Year 4 who came up with an amazing Roald Dahl themed menu based around 'The Twits', 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and 'James and Giant Peach'. We'll be in touch when we know the date that this feast will be served!

### Visit from our 'School Improvement Partner'

Last Tuesday, we had a visit from our School Improvement Partner, a former headteacher employed by the Local Authority who works alongside schools to support their progress. Along with her, we invited two headteachers from our 'Connect 4 Learning (C4L)' partnership of schools to come and evaluate the work that we have done with writing across the school. During the morning, the visitors watched lessons, looked at the children's books, spoke to children and also to one of our English governors, Mrs Casey. The visit went well and we wanted to share some comments from the report with parents:

*'The team observed all classes working in EYFS, KS1 and KS2. The quality of teaching and learning was judged to be very good...In all classes, the pupils spoke confidently about their progress to date and what they needed to do to improve. It was evident that the marking and feedback policy was well embedded and used well enabling pupils to make better progress... Pupils have excellent learning behaviour and they are happy to take risks and share views and advice.'*

Over the next year, we will continue to embed the work that we have done with writing, but are now putting plans together for some development work in maths, led by Mr Leeming and are hoping to launch 'Big Maths' across the school in September, which we will update you on further as we get closer to the launch.

### MUGA update

We would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone in the community who has supported our MUGA project over the last year. In the past week, orders for engraved bricks for our pathway have been flying in and we have raised over £3,000 in total through the brick scheme. We have placed an order for the bricks today which will be installed with the MUGA when construction starts on 1<sup>st</sup> June.



### Class Names

Our woodland development work is coming to an end and as part of the work, the contractors have identified 7 trees in the woods for us to link to the 7 classes we have in school. We have had engraved plaques created for these, with one for the classroom door and one which will go on the tree in the woods so that the children can see the link. From Term 6, we will begin to refer to the classes by their tree names as much as possible!

**Reception** – Cherry

**Year One** – Holly

**Year Two** – Beech

**Year Three** – Oak

**Year Four** – Ash

**Year Five** – Sycamore

**Year Six** - Elm



### Enormous Elephant Trail – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Our Year 2 children decorated this 'Alexander Fleming' elephant and it's now gone off to Broadmead to be part of the Enormous Elephant Trail! This year's theme is 'Memorable Moments' (as elephants never forget!) and is celebrating moments in history where an individual has followed their beliefs and passion to achieve something amazing.



There are 40 decorated elephants hiding in the shops in Broadmead and the Galleries waiting for you to discover them. Your child will be bringing home an information leaflet today which includes a map showing their locations. Children who complete the trail and collect the names of each elephant will be able to visit the New Room to collect a chocolate gift (Monday to Saturday only). Information about the activities is available for download:

<http://www.bristolshoppingquarter.co.uk/visitor-info/maps>

## School meals menu

Your child will be bringing home today a copy of the new menu, which will be introduced after the Easter break. Please use ParentPay to make your choices!

Please note that the menu on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May will not be as shown. On that day our Cook, Mrs Clapp, will be serving burgers (as shown on the menu for the 1<sup>st</sup> May bank holiday).

## From Mrs Murphy:

Congratulations to all of the Year 6 musicians who have performed in the music assemblies this term: Luke D, Chelsea, Lucie, Rosie, Darcy, Alex R, Eva, Josh.

It's not easy playing an instrument or singing in front of a large audience but they all rose brilliantly to the challenge. What a talented bunch!

### Congratulations to our certificate winners last week and this week:

Reception – Oscar, Martha, Phoebe and Laura  
Year 1 – Xander, Hudson, Sam and Ellie  
Year 2 – Harry, Emma, Will and Ruby  
Year 3 – Alex and Evie S  
Year 4 – Josh, Ruby, Olivia and Bradley  
Year 5 – Daniel, Torin, Elsie and Clarity  
Year 6 – Oliver, Eva, Alex R, Darcy and Madison

## Out of school achievements

- Laura in YR has completed Award 1 of the ASA duckling award for swimming.
- Emelia in YR has been awarded the STA level 4 first steps award for swimming.
- Harley in Y1 achieved her 25 metre distance swimming award.
- Alfie in Y1 has been awarded a green belt in Taekwondo.
- Alfie in Y1 has also achieved stage 4 in swimming and his 20 metre distance swimming badge.

## Dates for your diary

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April      Term 5 starts  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May        May Day Holiday  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May      Term 5 ends  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June      Term 6 starts  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July    Term 6 ends  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July      INSET

**PTA SUMMER FAIR**  
**Saturday 17th June**

### Alveston Methodist Church Easter Discovery Trail 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April

**An egg-cellent adventure  
with activities, songs & crafts.**

**Coffee morning on  
Saturday, 10.30am to 12 noon**

**The church will be open**

**Monday – Thursday, 10am to 12 noon**

**Friday – 2pm to 4pm**



### St Helen's Pre-School

#### Easter Egg Hunt



Take part in our Egg Hunt,  
finding 15 eggs hidden around Alveston.  
You can buy a map and answer sheet for £2  
from the Post Office, Greenhill Parade.  
From Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April to 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
All returned entries win a sweet treat!  
1st Prize—Old Down Day Pass for 3 people

### Thornbury Library

**Easter Eggstravaganza**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**drop in between 11am & 12**

**Most suitable for children aged 4-11**

**Writing Competition**

**Write a story about the**

**Thornbunny Family!**

**Entry forms from 8<sup>th</sup> April. Closes 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

### Thornbury Arts Festival

**[www.thornburyartsfestival.com](http://www.thornburyartsfestival.com)**

**The Sea Show – Squashbox Theatre**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30pm, The Castle School**

**Tickets £5 workshop, £5 show**

**Appropriate for 4-6 year olds**

**Street Dance**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 9.30am, NGM Studio**

**Tickets £10. Performance in St Mary Centre**

**Suitable for 7-11 year olds**