

From Mr Spens:

There has been so much great learning going on at St Helen's in the last few weeks and the children have really settled well into life in their new classes. I'm spending time this week and next joining lessons in each class across the school and have already been impressed by the superb attitudes the children have been showing to their learning and the positive way in which they are working with each other.

Yesterday we held our first 'Open Morning' for prospective parents of Reception children for 2017. It's always a privilege to show visitors around our school, but on these occasions I hand over the responsibility of 'tour guide' to our Year 6's, who did a fantastic job.

We are holding further open days on:

Tuesday 18th October: 1:30pm

Thursday 20th October: 1:30pm

Tuesday 8th November: 9.30am and 10:45am

Thursday 10th November: 9.30am and 10:45am

Places on our tours can be booked by contacting the school office, or visiting our webpage:

www.sthelensprimaryalveston.org.uk

As you will know, we were hit with a rather nasty bug last week and I wanted to say a big thank-you to parents for working with us and following the 48 hour guidelines. As a high number of children were absent, we followed the local authority guidelines, notifying the South Gloucestershire Public Health team. They have investigated the outbreak and we have followed their advice in school around additional cleaning etc. We are all hoping that the next few weeks will be 'bug free' in the build up to the half term break!

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend!

Catering Update:

Plans are progressing well for the move to our new catering contractor 'Eden' from Monday 31st October. In the next week, you will be receiving a **welcome pack** containing information about our new provider, a new menu and also a form to complete to notify Eden of any allergy information.



You will also be receiving an **activation letter** giving you login details for 'ParentPay', the new online payment system. ParentPay is the website where you can choose the meals for your child and also pay for the meals online. Parents who are entitled to Free School Meals, as well as parents of children in Reception and KS1 who currently receive free meals, will still need to activate their account, so that meals can be chosen online.



Please keep an eye out for both of these letters. We would like to ask every parent to activate their ParentPay account *as soon as possible* after receiving the letter and then to contact the school office if there are any problems. It is our aim to support all parents to ensure that this new system is all setup by Friday 21st October, which is the end of term 1.

School Photographs – Tuesday 11th October

The photographer will be visiting us on 11th October and will be taking individual photographs of all the children and sibling groups. You may bring along your pre-school child for a family group photograph from 8.30am to 9.00am. There will be no obligation to purchase photographs.

Stop Press: New Pupil Newsletter launching next Friday

Next Friday will see the launch of a new newsletter, written exclusively by pupils, which we hope to publish every other week giving our children's unique insights into life at St Helen's! We hope you enjoy reading it!

Shoebox Project

We are excited 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 by children and adults in the UK and sent to under privileged children around the world. We want to fill as many shoeboxes as we can! Donations of a filled box or gifts to go in a box would be really appreciated. The items can be for a boy or girl and suitable for children aged 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Suitable items include toys (eg skipping rope, yo-yo), stationery (eg crayons, colouring book, pen, pencil), toiletries (eg soap, toothbrush and toothpaste), hat, gloves or hair accessories. Visit www.samaritans-purse.org.uk for details. Contributions can be sent into school at any time until **Wednesday 16th November**, when we will be delivering our boxes to St Chad's Church in Patchway.



Parents in Partnership

A reminder that the next 'Parents in Partnership' meeting is on **Tuesday 18th October** at 9:15am when we will be looking at some new school priorities which we would like to develop in partnership with parents. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided and everyone is welcome!

MUGA Fundraising Film Night – Friday 21st October

As part of our MUGA fundraising, a Film Night will be held on Friday 21st October in the school hall. The film being shown is Zootropolis (also known as Zootopia), and is PG rated. The film will start at 5.45pm and you are welcome to come along from 5.15pm, when hot dogs will be available to buy, and we will finish at 7.30pm. Children are welcome to bring along a cushion, soft toy and a still drink in a bottle/flask. Fresh popcorn and drinks for the adults will also be available to buy. Tickets can be reserved from 17th October (information on how you can make a reservation will follow) and will cost £2 (payment on the night) for adults and children. Children will only be admitted with a supervising adult.

Learning and Life Skills Owl

Thanks to all of the children who entered the competition to name our 'Learning and Life Skills' owl. There were some brilliant names and the winner was suggested by Miles (Y3). Our owl will now forever be known as 'Percy' which is short for 'Perseverance', one of our school values and an essential skill for learning and life! Well done Miles!



MP visiting St Helen's next Friday

We are excited that our local MP, Luke Hall, will be paying St Helen's a visit on Friday 14th October. As part of the visit, he'll receive a tour of our school with two of our Year 6 children before speaking to the children in KS2 about his work as an MP and answering their questions. Mr Hall will also be meeting our brand new school councillors to give them some tips on listening to their constituents, or classes, and representing their views to the school leadership team!



In next week's first ever pupil newsletter we hope to share some photos and reflections from his visit with you!

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 11th October – School photographer (individual & family photos)
Tuesday 18th October – Parents in Partnership meeting, 9.15am, all welcome
Tuesday 18th October – Trip to Berkeley Castle (Year 1 & Year 2)
Friday 21st October – Film Night (Muga fundraising), 5.15pm
Friday 21st October – end of Term 1
Monday 31st October - start of Term 2
Tuesday 1st November – PTA meeting at school, 3.45pm
Tuesday 8th November & Thursday 10th November – Parents' Evenings
Friday 11th November – Trip to London War Museum (Year 5 & Year 6)
Monday 14th November – Trip to Bristol Museum (Year 3 & Year 4)
Wednesday 16th November – last date for 'Operation Christmas Child' shoebox donations
Friday 25th November – PTA Christmas Fair, 3.30pm to 5pm
Wednesday 14th December – Christmas Lunch
Friday 16th December – end of Term 2

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week:



Reception – Seth
Year 1 – Layla and Cody
Year 2 – Emma R and Isis
Year 3 – Josh and Libby
Year 4 – Logan and Lizzy
Year 5 – Ellis and Lola
Year 6 – Oliver and Chelsea



TESCO BAGS OF HELP SUCCESS!

St Helen's have been awarded either £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000 from Tesco stores in Thornbury and Yate. Customers will vote in store to decide which of three projects will receive each amount.

£8,000 will pay for new fencing around the school woods, stepped access and also the official 'Forest School' training for staff. £10,000 will also include the redevelopment of our pond area and £12,000 enable a growing area to be established in the school grounds.

Voting starts in store on Monday 31st October!

OPEN MORNINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

Open mornings for prospective parents of children due to start school in September 2017 will start in the next few weeks. Tours will take place on:

Tuesday 4th October: 9.30am and 10:45am
Thursday 6th October: 9.30am and 10:45am
Tuesday 18th October: 1:30pm
Thursday 20th October: 1:30pm
Tuesday 8th November: 9.30am and 10:45am
Thursday 10th November: 9.30am and 10:45am

Places can be booked on our school website or by calling the school office.

Out of school achievements

- Jamie in Y4 completed a 5k race in 28 minutes.
- Emma in Y2 completed her first 5k race in 33 minutes.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Breakfast Club Supervisor and Lunchbreak Supervisor

We are looking for enthusiastic and reliable people to join our team.

Breakfast Club Supervisor: 7.30am to 9.00am, Monday to Friday, term time only, £7.85 per hour.

Duties will involve making breakfast and supervising the children before the start of the school day.

Lunchbreak Supervisor: 12pm – 1pm, Monday to Friday, term time only, £7.85 per hour.

Duties will involve engaging with the children and facilitating play activities and supervising the children in the dining hall and playground.

For further information and an application form, please contact the school office.