

## From Mr Spens:

Term 3 has absolutely flown by! We've had six action-packed weeks at St Helen's and it's very clear to see the progress that the children have been making in their learning. Children's behaviour for learning continues to be excellent right across the school, with children working hard independently to be the best they can be, but also supporting each other so well throughout the school day.

At this half-way point in the school year, I'd just like to take the opportunity to thank the children and staff of St Helen's for all of your hard work, energy and commitment to our fantastic school. The hours of work that goes in, often behind the scenes, really is appreciated. Thank-you also to the parents for your support both to your children and to the staff at the school here. There are many more exciting things planned for the second half of the year, hopefully accompanied by some warmer weather too!

I'd like to wish the families and staff of St Helen's a really restful and enjoyable week's holiday.

## INSET Reminder

Just a reminder that the school will be closed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February for our 4<sup>th</sup> INSET day of the academic year. School will reopen for Term 4 on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 8:45am.

## Parents' Evenings

Thanks to all of the parents who have booked in to our parents' evenings which take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March from 4-7pm. If any parents haven't managed to make an appointment yet, please visit our school website to book in. You will find the Parents' Evening page under the 'School Life' menu option.

## Reminder: NSPCC online safety workshop for parents and carers

As part of the NSPCC work, all parents, carers or family members are invited to a free online safety workshop at **9am on 27<sup>th</sup> February**. We would really like to encourage as many parents as possible to attend this training.

## Tesco grant success!

We would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who voted in Tesco Thornbury for our 'Reflective Garden' project. We were awarded £1,000 which is a great help in getting the project off the ground. There will be some developments over the next month, but the garden project will be something that we look to work on and develop further over the next 6-12 months.

## Our Value for next term is 'Forgiveness'

Next term we will be spending time looking at the value of 'forgiveness'. Coming home today is a home-school information sheet all about the value and we'd love you to take some time as a family to talk about it over the holiday in preparation for Term 4.

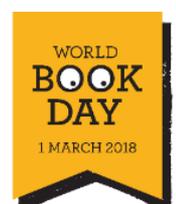


**Holiday Challenge and Competition** – on the home-school information sheet about forgiveness, there is an activity called the 'Home School Challenge'. We'd like the children to design their own version of the 'Maze Tree' and bring it back into school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. We'll be displaying the entries in our 'Values' display in the hall and there will be a prize for the best entry from each class, which will be awarded in the celebration assembly on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Entries can be any size, but should clearly state the child's name and class. In the first week of next term, we'll be exploring the story of Zacchaeus and what we can learn from the story about forgiveness.

## World Book Day and Book Week

On 1<sup>st</sup> March we will be dressing as our favourite book characters. Also on that day, you are invited to come into school from 9am to 9.25am to 'read-a-long' with your child or a small group of children within the classroom. Mr Adams will shortly be writing to you with more information about World Book Day.

**Book Fair - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** - Please make a note in your diary!



### Year 5 visit a mosque

As part of the Year 5 RE curriculum, last week the children visited Shah Jalal Jame mosque in central Bristol. Rizwan Ahmed (Muslim chaplain at the University of Bristol) gave the children an amazing tour of the mosque, talked to them about the history of Muslims in the UK and answered the children's questions. The travel costs of the visit were part-funded by the WIRE project, 'Widening inclusion in Religious Education' aiming to broaden children's experiences in RE. As a school, we will be looking to apply for the WIRE award this academic year which looks to encourage and support the best practice in Religious Education.



'The Mosque was fascinating because we got to learn more about the life of the Muslims in the UK today. We also learnt about how Muslims pray five times a day from early morning to late evening.' Logan

'It was exciting to learn facts about the Mosque like how some Muslims sleep in the Mosque during the Ramadan.' Luca

'Rizwan showed us how Muslims pray. They have so many positions!' Lucy

'What I liked about the Mosque was the dome, it has pretty gold patterns inside.' Jasmine

### Year 5 and 6 'Blue Planet II visit'

Last week, Year 5 and 6 welcomed Steve Simpson, a marine biologist who worked on the popular **Blue Planet II** series. He came to speak to the children about his work on understanding the sounds that fish make underwater and how they are being affected by pollution right across the world. Steve told some amazing stories and showed footage from the last episode of the Blue Planet series where he had been filmed talking about his work. They also learnt about exploring Antarctica and what kinds of equipment explorers would need if they were visiting there.



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

Cherry Class – Bonnie, Catherine, Charlotte O and Francesca  
Holly Class – Isabel, Katlyn, Oliver T and William  
Beech Class – Aliona, Logan, William and Finley  
Oak Class – Lola, Kyle, Cameron and Will

Ash Class – Bea, Libby, Katie B and Joshua D  
Sycamore Class – Libby, Anais, Bradley and Jaden  
Elm Class – Lola, Jamie, Isobel W and Rhonaugh



### Attendance update and attendance of the week!

Our school attendance this week is 91.8%; Sycamore class (Year 5) and Elm class (Year 6) achieved 94.7% attendance. Our school attendance last week was 96.3%; Holly class (Year 1) achieved 99.3%



### ST HELEN'S CHURCH PANCAKE DAY SERVICE

13<sup>th</sup> February at 10am

### FRIENDS OF ST HELEN'S

The next meeting of the FOSH is on  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm**  
in the Elliot building (end classroom). All welcome!