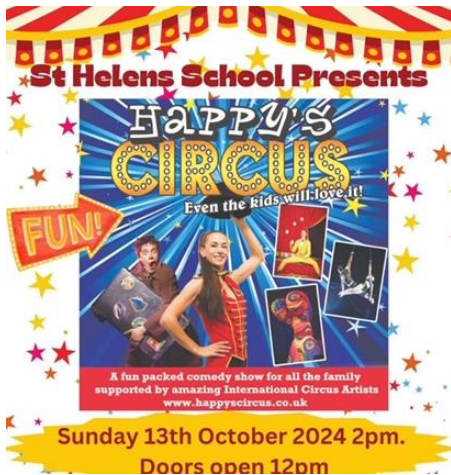


From Mr Chappell Welcome back to a new academic year at St Helen's. I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable break. As the new term begins I wanted to extend a very warm welcome to all our new parent/carers in EYFS and we look forward to another great year at St.Helen's – Flying High. The children have returned to school in such a positive way and there has been a real buzz of learning right across the school. It has been great to see the children come back with our ethos of 'Flying High' and all staff have been very impressed by the attitude and effort that our children have started the year with. As always, we will be encouraging the children to aim for 'Flying High' and with your continued support, I am sure that we can make it another very successful year at St Helen's. These 'little' things really do make a huge difference and like regular attendance at school and regularly supporting your child with home learning, for example reading daily, these are the things that are under your control to help us with. So please continue to support us in line with our school vision : *Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community' 'They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31'* Have a great weekend.



Back to School Session: Thank you to everyone who attended Wednesday's session. Hopefully you have taken away some of the key expectations for the year ahead. A key message in every year is to continue to get the basics right, with your very important continued help at home, to hear your children read every night and to practice multiplication facts with TimesTables Rockstars (Years 1 to 6) and Numbots. On Monday we launch our first TTRS competition of the year! The children with the most correct answers in the next week will receive a certificate from our very own special Rockstars. Please encourage your children to be revising number facts and listen to your children read every single day!



FOSH Circus: A reminder that our amazing PTA group FOSH (Friends of St.Helen's) are working hard preparing for the amazing circus next month. A reminder that tickets can be purchased from the link below. This is an amazing achievement, and as a school we are very thankful for all the support that FOSH has given us over the years. It was sad to hear this week that FOSH are in desperate need of volunteers to keep their existence going. Over the last few years, they have tried so hard to recruit new volunteers to this vitally important group. As a school staff we are so grateful for all the events that they put on as it raises much needed funds to enhance our children's experiences. If you could volunteer to give some time to this amazing group, please contact the school office and we will put you in touch with the chair Claire G. Thanks in advance.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofsthelens1/?event=event&eventId=81070>

Year 6 Trip to Dean Field Studies Centre

Next week, our Year 6's head to the Forest of Dean for the annual camp. They will be taking part in all sorts of exciting activities while they are away, including canoeing, orienteering and climbing. We hope that they have a fantastic time away as a class! Technology permitting, we'll be sharing photos and updates from the trip on class dojo and twitter. Twitter users can follow us @sthelenspri, or you can visit www.twitter.com/sthelenspri

The Year 6s have started the year superbly as role models and look extremely smart in their new red jumpers!

Our target for school attendance this year!

As with all areas of school life, including pupil achievement, we want to set ambitious targets for the year ahead and are again setting the high target of 97%. We will also be continuing to monitor the number of 'broken weeks' that children are having and looking to improve this for the forthcoming academic year. Last year as you know we had a tiny number of 'persistent' absences. This is something that we will be working with our EWO (Educational welfare Officer) to eradicate. We make no excuses for



wanting all our children to be in school every day if they are well enough to be. As discussed before the summer, please do not be offended if we contact you in person or write to you about your children's attendance, it really is crucial. As you know the DFE have published new statutory guidance on attendance, which includes increasing fines for term time absence over a longer sustained period. More information about the new attendance regulations can be found on our website: <https://www.sthelensprimary.org.uk/our-school/attendance/>

A reminder that we cannot authorise any term time holidays and that now absences are considered over a longer period with a new national threshold for Penalty Notices being introduced. Please support us as a school to ensure that your child's attendance is as high as possible to enable your children to be Flying High.



Value for this Term: Please find alongside this newsletter the home school values sheet to discuss with your children. This term our value is **perseverance**. On Tuesday as part of our welcome back and values' assembly, we watched the BBC's closing montage video of the Olympics, which showed lots of examples not just of our values



but the value of perseverance. If you did not see it – it really is a great video to watch. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Guluqfnz6oY>



St Helen's After School Club – Term 1

See options v

Bristol Sport Clubs: Please also find attached alongside

this newsletter the Bristol Sport Club Poster to sign up and join the range of Bristol Sport Clubs for next week. Please click the link below to access the sign up page. [Bristol Sports Foundation | Shop | Able](#)

This year we are delighted to be joined again by Bristol Sport Coach, Miss Emily Bushell, who worked with us at the end of last year. In all PE sessions as a lead coach, she is joined by an expert coach from Bristol Sport, for example yesterday in Year 5 and 2 the children had a specialised dance coach.

Prospective Parents 2024: If you have any younger siblings due to start school in September 2025, or if you know any parents/carers, who are considering our lovely school please pass on the website link and encourage them to look at our school website. The tour dates for prospective parent/ carers are:

- Thursday September 19th 2024 11 am – 12 pm.
- Thursday 3rd October 2024 11 am – 12 pm
- Monday 7th October 2024 9:15 am -10:15 am
- Thursday 17th October 2024 11 am – 12 pm
- Thursday 14th November 2024 11 am – 12 pm
- Monday 18th November 2024 9:15 am – 10:15 am
- Thursday 5th December 2024 11 am – 12 pm

Children's Newsletter: Last year we started our very popular children's achievements newsletter. A reminder if you would like to share any of your children's achievements with information or photos, please email the school office and we will put it into next week's newsletter.

Well done to those children who were awarded a Values Shield.

Holly class – Elijah & Luna
Beech class – Elana & Dom
Oak class – Freddie & Rose

Ash class – Dougie & Elizabeth
Sycamore class – Lucia & April
Elm Class – Toby & Fernando

