

From Mr Chappell: I cannot believe we are at the beginning of the summer term- where has the year gone? This week it has been a real pleasure to go around all the classes and see some of the great work going on in the first few days. Indeed, first thing on Monday morning, I walked around with a new member of staff for a tour of the school, and in every class, we went into, the children were calm and engaged in their learning. This after a couple of weeks of the Easter holidays was great to see and the children have come back with a renewed focus and determination to succeed. It is that time of year when some year groups continue to focus on the statutory assessments such as SATs and MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) and the children are working very hard towards these and with your further support we know that they will be Flying High alongside all the other tremendous year group work. Have a great weekend.

Reading Area: As you know we are delighted with our reading plane, as we aim to inspire all our children to develop a love of reading. Indeed this week, we had the our new club starting 'Book Club' that was attended by children from a range of ages across the school. In order to develop our reading further, you couldn't have failed to notice this week, that we have managed to put the original plane seats into our covered area, which will become our very own 'reading chairs.' We are hoping that these chairs will be a nice area for children to sit down and read some of the books that we have outside as another avenue to reading for pleasure!



Parent survey 2024: Early next week we will be emailing out the link for our annual parent / carer's survey. Last year we had an amazing 82 responses to our survey, which was very positive and raised some developmental points for us to consider as a school. Some of last year's key highlights included:

- 100% agreed and strongly agreed that your child is doing well at St Helen's.
- 96.3% responses (79 respondents) felt children were happy at school, with only 3 respondents (3.7%) saying their children were not happy.
- 97.6 % Agreed or Strongly agreed that we try to ensure behaviour is good. (80 respondents the other 2 responses – stated don't know.)

We are hoping that not much has changed in a year and we would love to repeat these set of results but with an even larger number of set of responses- thank you for your support in advance.

Staffing Update: We are delighted to welcome Mrs Gadsby to our wonderful team of staff members. Mrs Gadsby who has been teaching for a number of years in another local South Glos school, joins us for the next year, to work across the school, in different capacities, either working with whole classes, small groups or with individuals, as well as supporting children at lunchtimes. She has already taught a number of different classes this week, whilst teachers were conducting Pupil Progress Meetings and covered classes for teachers to be released for different meetings. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mrs Gadsby to our lovely school.

House Points: We know that all our children try their very best to be Flying High – just look at the number of house points – last week, and for term 4 (congratulations Brabazon House for winning last term) and for the whole year- it will be a very close finish for the House of the Year award!



House	Points	Score	Total
Blenheim	408	2637	7503
Brabazon	514	2919	8339
Britannia	431	2666	8009
Concordia	497	2802	7510



Picture News: This term as part of our class collective worship on a Thursday, we have started to look at the great resource Picture News.

Picture News is a great way for children to interact with current affairs in an engaging and friendly way – and so right across the school, each week the children will spend some time looking at a news story from home or abroad at an age appropriate level. Each week the story will have a focus question for children to reflect on, but also has age appropriate links to further discussions around British Values, Protected Characteristics (for older year groups) and Bible Links. Each Friday following the work that the children do in collective class worship, we will be posting on Class Dojo, the Picture Take Home, which

is an opportunity for further discussions that you can hold with your children about the story. Please feel free to discuss the weeks story and children can fill out the reflection area and bring back to school, which we will display in school.

Yesterday classes would have talked about what is art? See examples below:



What does art mean to you?

A new artwork, from the mysterious street artist Banksy, appeared in North London overnight in March. The artwork shows green paint sprayed on a wall behind a cut-back tree to look like greenery, with a stencil of a person holding a spray can next to it. In the days following its creation, it was covered with plastic and surrounded by wooden boards to protect it. The local council, Islington, has added a frame around the site, which has plastic panels to allow people to view the artwork, whilst ensuring its protection.



Week	News Story	Focus Question	British Value Link	Protected Characteristics	Bible Link	UN Article
12 th February	Pupils in England will have the choice to take a GCSE exam in British Sign Language (BSL) from 2025. BSL is a form of communication using hand gestures and other movements.	Should we learn sign language at school?	Mutual Respect and Tolerance	Race	Colossians 4:6	30 ATA Annual Teachers' Award

With the introduction of Picture News, our aim is for all our children to develop an understanding of the wider world, and the use of Picture News alongside our Brave Changemakers Connected Curriculum and our twelve very important values, will enable our children to develop even more. As Picture News states on their website: 'Our resources are designed to provide opportunities for children to learn from our world and develop respect for other's beliefs, feelings and faiths. They encourage exploration, discussion, challenge and inspire children to learn.' I am certainly looking forward to what our children come up with.

.Key Dates:

May	Year 6 SATs week May 13th – May 17th May	July	Sports Day: 1 st July KS1 9:15 am to 10:30 am KS2 10:45 am to 12:15 pm
June	Year 4 MTC week 3rd June onwards Year 1 Phonics 10th June onwards		Year 5 and 6 Production: Tuesday 9 th July 5:30 pm Wednesday 10 th July 5:30 pm End of Year Reports Out: Tuesday 16 th July Leavers Service to Parents 2pm Friday 19 th July.

Well done to those children who were awarded a Celebration Certificate and Award!

Holly class – Prithvicka & James
Beech class – Quinn & Liam
Oak class – Neve & Hugo
Ash class – James Y & George
Sycamore class – Bear & Viola
Elm Class – Rose & Neiva

