

From Mr Chappell: The only place to begin, is to say a **huge thank you** to every single member of staff, who work so hard to ensure that your children have the best possible education that they can have. Every single day, our staff, right across the school in all their different roles, work tirelessly to ensure that your children enjoy school and have great teaching and learning opportunities, as well as the extra-curricular activities and all the other enrichment that occurs. Look at the amazing opportunities such as the Choir's London O2 Young Voices trip, which because of road closures meant we didn't get back to school till 2:30 am in the morning, and yet all the staff were still in ready to teach the next day. Also, Year 6 camp, extra-curricular clubs, trips to other schools to play sports fixtures and competitions that don't finish till very late, attendance at FOSH evening activities.... the list goes on and on. What love and commitment the staff have for this school and for your children!

I'm sure you have joined me in saying your own 'thank you' to all the staff. Also thank you to all of you, for your support over the last year, the partnership between school and home is so important and enables all our children to make progress from their starting points. Have a lovely summer break and a reminder that we'll see you on the first day back for children on **Tuesday 3rd September**.

Reading at St.Helen's! As you know, one of the most precious things we love at St.Helen's is reading and trying to foster a children's love of reading and reading for pleasure is something all our staff are determined to do. Whatever a child's starting point or educational need, we try to endeavour to support our children to develop their reading and to love what they decide to pick up and read. The photos below show just a few ways we help develop a love of reading: from book shelves around school, the opportunity to devour a book at breakfast club, or to find a quiet time at break time to read something from our reading shed.



Breakfast Club Reading



Classroom environments



Reading Shed and Reading Seats



Just Read in Class

Within all this love of reading, it should be noted that this year, our Year 6 children achieved our best ever results in our statutory Reading SATs. (Standard Assessment Tests) This year we had an amazing **96% of our children** reach the expected standard in Reading. This is an astonishing achievement and is testament to Mr Leeming and the Year 6 staff, but also to all the staff throughout the school from EYFS staff into KS1 and through KS2, as everyone has played a part in developing children's love and aptitude for reading. (More on statutory results later.) The importance of your role as parent/carers cannot be over stated as well, as you ensure that your children continue to **read daily at home** and read a variety of books. Please continue to help by reading as much as possible. Early reading in EYFS, Year 1 and 2 is so important to build the foundations that lead to children loving reading and in this case also enables us to get nearly every child to the expected level. Thank you for your continued support. You must be reading at home with your children, continue to do this over the summer! Please note we are still looking for volunteers to help with reading in school, we would love to ensure we can have a volunteer every afternoon to continue to support our reading provision.

If anyone would like to do Maths work with multiplication facts with some of our children please contact the school office.



Staff from Thornbury Library came into school this week to talk about the Summer Reading Challenge: Please see more information from Miss Paul: *'As a school, our children have worked so hard in their reading throughout the year. They have made exceptional progress and we are so proud of them. We are passionate about developing our children's love of reading. To ensure this doesn't drop whilst we are away from school, we would love everyone to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge!'*

The Summer Reading Challenge is a FREE holiday activity for children. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence. The Challenge runs every year throughout the summer holidays, and all children aged 4-11 are welcome to take part. Children can read anything they like (really - anything!) and collect free rewards for their reading. All children who complete the Summer Reading Challenge will receive a certificate from school in the second week back after the summer holidays. Please provide proof you have completed it and give to your new class teacher. This can be in any form you like e.g. photos, notebooks, book reviews, certificates received from the library etc. We will celebrate all those who have completed it in a special Summer Reading Challenge whole school assembly!'



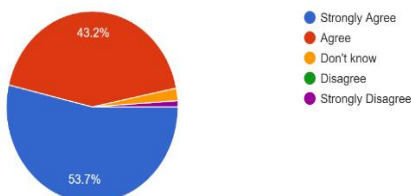
This years' Year 6 have been amazing. They have been great role models across school all year, performed in *'one of the best ever productions'* according to a number of seasoned watchers, and achieved our best ever reading SATs results! **More importantly they have displayed all our school values** and on the rare occasions when one or two, of them have not lived up to our Flying High ethos, sought to improve things by reflecting on what they have done. It has been a real pleasure to watch this class grow and develop over the last seven years and I know that they will move on to secondary school with the St. Helen's DNA, ready to try and do their best at all times. Thank you Year 6, it was a very memorable leavers service in church this afternoon to finish with. Lot's of great memories!

Staffing Goodbyes As much as the end of year is a celebration of great things, it is also tinged with sadness as yesterday and last week, we said goodbye in assemblies to three members of staff. Mrs Nanda, Miss Cratchley and Mrs Sunderland. All three have worked successfully for several years, supporting children with SEND, to give them the nurture and support that they need in school. Mrs Nanda and Miss Cratchley are moving to work at the new SEND specialist provision school Two Bridges in Alveston, whilst Mrs Sunderland has relocated to her native home of Yorkshire. We wish all three of them the best of luck in all their new roles.

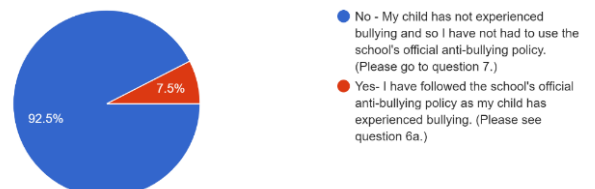
Staffing Update: Good luck to Miss Pearce, who during the summer holidays gets married and will be know as Mrs Bennett on her return. This also follows the recent marriage of Miss Adams who will be known as Mrs Derrick, when she returns from her maternity leave in 2025.

Parent/ Carer Survey: Many thanks for your patience, waiting for the parent/carer survey. Overwhelmingly, most comments from an amazing 95 responses were very positive. There were a very small number of concerns expressed, particularly around the behaviour of a tiny minority of our children, but there was a really high number detailing that your children does well at school (96.9%) and a very high number of parents/carers felt that their children have not experienced any bullying during their time at St.Helen's (92.5%)

11. My child does well at this school.
95 responses



5. My child has been bullied at school and we have followed the school's official anti-bullying procedures.* (*Please note this means that the sc...ppening, when we had only a few official cases.
93 responses



For more information and our thoughts around the next steps and to see some of the ‘free comments’ that were expressed by parent/carers please see the full survey. As always, you know that although we endeavour to help and support as best as we can, we might not get everything right and please every single person, but we will keep trying and endeavour to follow part our school vision to **‘achieve together.’** Thank you for all your support around this.

Statutory Results: The parent/carer survey result of 96.9% of you responding that ‘your child does well at this school’ is reinforced by the results of the statutory assessments that we have done this year. Across the year groups, who are tested in statutory tests, there have been huge successes, and we know that **ALL children whatever their final achievements**, have tried their best, Flying High and made good progress from their starting points.

	Reading	Writing (TA)	Maths	SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)
Year 6 SATs School	EXS = 96% GDS = 37%	EXS = 78% GDS = 19 %	EXS = 78% GDS = 26%	EXS = 89% GDS= 40%
Local Authority	EXS= 75% GDS = 30%	EXS= 74% GDS = 8%	EXS= 74% GDS = 25%	EXS= 70% GDS = 31%
National	EXS= 73% GDS = 29%	EXS= 71% GDS = 13%	EXS= 73% GDS = 25%	EXS= 72% GDS = 30%

EXS = Expected Standard GDS= Greater Depth above the Expected Standard.

As you can see from the data above, as a school we continue to be above local and national averages – which is a great achievement. Thank you for your continued support, Year 6 parents/carers.

Our Year 4 also had great success in their statutory MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) with a fantastic 71% children scoring between 20 and 25 out of 25! Keep learning those multiplication facts across all year groups – it really helps in Maths. In Year 1 an amazing 93% of our children passed the Year 1 Phonics test, again one of our best results ever!

Although these are the statutory tests that we must publish on our website (hence why they are being shared here) we know that right across the school there are huge successes. All we want our St. Helen’s children to do, is to **try their best and be Flying High** and these results and others across the school are fantastic achievements, and alongside your children’s reports this week, encapsulates our vision: **Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community** ‘They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31’ Thank you for all your help and support with your children’s learning.

Guidance

Working together to improve school attendance

Attendance: A huge thank you to everyone for your continued efforts in keeping your child’s attendance as high as it can be. We all know the importance of high attendance and it is important to know that in August new statutory guidance comes into force with the

government’s updated attendance guidance. As a local authority group of schools, we have already met to start to look at the new guidance and it will involve us adjusting some aspects of our school attendance policy for the new academic year. It is important to know that the process will be the same with us wanting to support you to get your children in school regularly. At the end of the year our attendance stood at **95.21%**, which does improve on last years’ 94.7%, although we had 22 children (11 %) classed as persistently absent as their attendance was less that 90%. Although this doesn’t sound a lot, this equates to quite a few weeks absent that impacts on children’s learning. Next year we will be looking to beat this year’s attendance and reduced the number of children who are classed as persistently absent. A huge well done to **77 children (37%)** of the school population, who had attendance above 97%, which is an amazing achievement! Thank you for your continued support on this!

Class Overview:

Session Attendance Summary (01 Sep 2023 - 18 Jul 2024)

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	All Years
Attendance	94.78%	95.77%	95.73%	95.78%	94.90%	94.93%	94.53%	95.21%



Reminder: Tickets for the Happy's Circus are now live and can be purchased via the following link: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofsthelens1/?event=event&eventId=81070>
 After just a few weeks tickets are selling fast with an amazing 271 tickets sold so far! Please help support this amazing event being organised by FOSH, which will be one of the first PTA events like this in the local area. All the funds raised by FOSH will be put in to providing a new trim trail on the field which the children will love! Sadly our current trail is not being used due to over 15 years of wear and tear with constant use. Please help spread the word about the circus to the wider community.

Safeguarding through the summer: The safeguarding of all our children remains our number one priority always, even during the summer holidays. If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding our children, please contact us as a matter of urgency via the school email which is regularly checked. As you know I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) (Mr Chappell) and Mr Adams is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL). We are always contactable via the school email sthelensprimary@sgmail.org.uk

South Gloucestershire Council's Safeguarding Access and Response Team (ART) is also available to report concerns about a child: **01454 866000 Monday to Thursday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm (4.30 on Friday) and 01454 615165 out of hours and at weekends.**

Key Dates:

September	Inset Days 2024-25
Monday 2 nd September Inset day - school closed for children	2.9.24 2.12.24 21.3.25 21.7.25 22.7.25
Tuesday 3 rd September - school open for children	
Wednesday 4th September – Back to School Class Meetings 3:45 pm – 4:30 pm 4:30 pm – 5 pm Reading Information Meeting for Parents/ Carers in Years R, 1, 2,	Please note this date of the Back to School Meetings! We want to get across expectations and routines straight away, so will be having the teacher meetings in the first week back!
Monday 9 th September – 13 th September Year 6 Camp	



House Points Winners: Huge Congratulations to **Brabazon House**, who became this year's House Winners.

- 1st **Brabazon House** 14,611 2nd **Britannia House** 14,143
- 3rd **Concorde House** 13,953 4th **Blenheim House** 13,553

Well done to all children for all their achievements in collecting so many house points this year!

Well done to those children who were awarded a Values Shield and Brave changemakers curriculum certificate.

- Holly class – Amber Rae & Jacob
- Beech class – Georgina & Dominic
- Oak class – Obi & Ciara
- Ash class – Diego & Willow
- Sycamore class – Honey & Ferlyn
- Elm Class – Nithilan & Imogen