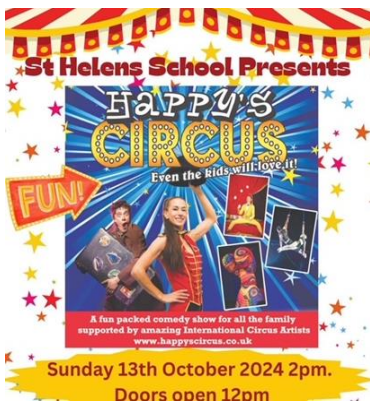


From Mr Chappell You may have noticed that this week we have had several staff absent (they are not connected, it's just one of those things that sometimes happens in schools!) However, our remaining school staff have certainly shown our value of perseverance and the one thing that struck me is the determination of all the staff to just get on with it, rearrange things to come in to school, cover each other etc, to ensure that school runs in the same way. I cannot praise our staff highly enough not just for this week **but for what they do every single day**, to help support your children in lots of different ways. Whether within the classroom, giving up their time to run a club after school, or supporting children when their behaviour does not reach the standards of our vision, all our staff work tirelessly to help your children. A huge amount of unseen work, time and effort goes on behind the scenes, which in the current climate, with other agencies stretched, is ever growing. You would be very surprised to see everything a staff member does nowadays, we certainly don't just teach! I am sure like me, you appreciate what every member of staff does at St.Helen's to ensure that your children get the best possible start to their education, ready for the next stage of their development. Whether your child is gifted and talented in Maths, a brilliant writer, amazing at sport, or someone who finds managing their emotions more difficult or needs help with their behaviour, our staff do a fantastic job with every single child, and I am sure you thank them daily in lots of different ways! Have a great weekend.

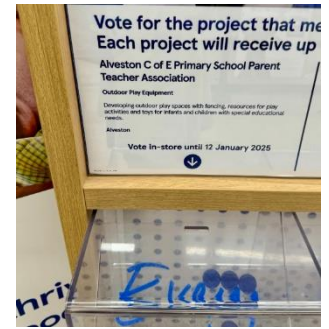


The biggest event in FOSH (Friends of St.Helen's) history, is ever closer. Next week will see preparations put in place for the amazing Happy Circus Event, which is a week on Sunday. A reminder that tickets can still be purchased from the link below. Please feel free to circulate to friends and family. FOSH do need volunteers on the day and prior to the Sunday so please contact the school if you can help.

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

If you are shopping in Tesco's Thornbury, please look out for

the blue tokens that can be put into the fundraising baskets to help raise funds for equipment at lunchtime for a range of different children. This went live yesterday and runs for a few months. Thank you to Emma G and FOSH for setting this up. Please note we are down as Alveston C of E at this moment in time. Spread the news to anyone you know who shops at Tesco Thornbury.



In the last newsletter we shared from Year 6 about all the things they love doing at St.Helen's. This week it is the turn of our children to share what they love about reading. A reminder that last year our Year 6s' had our best ever Reading SATs results – with 96% reaching the expected standard. **Please ensure you hear your children read every single day, look below for the reasons why!**

Ocean Year 6: I love reading because it helps me learn lots of new vocabulary.

Olly Year 6: I get to imagine different things in my life and imagine different worlds.

Eleanor Year 5: I love reading because there is a magic in reading stories and it helps my writing.

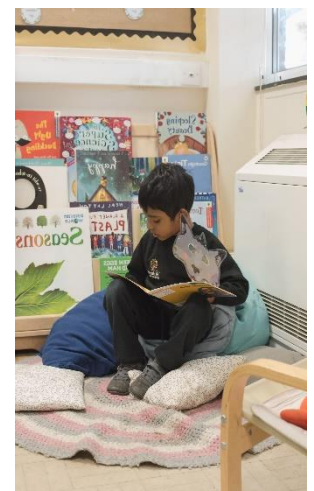
James Year 5: I like reading, it can tell you something new.

Chloe Year 5: I love reading as it can be mysterious and you can find out what happens next?

Alice Year 3: I love reading as I like finding out many things.

Elle: Year 3: I love reading because it interesting and helps me to find out more.

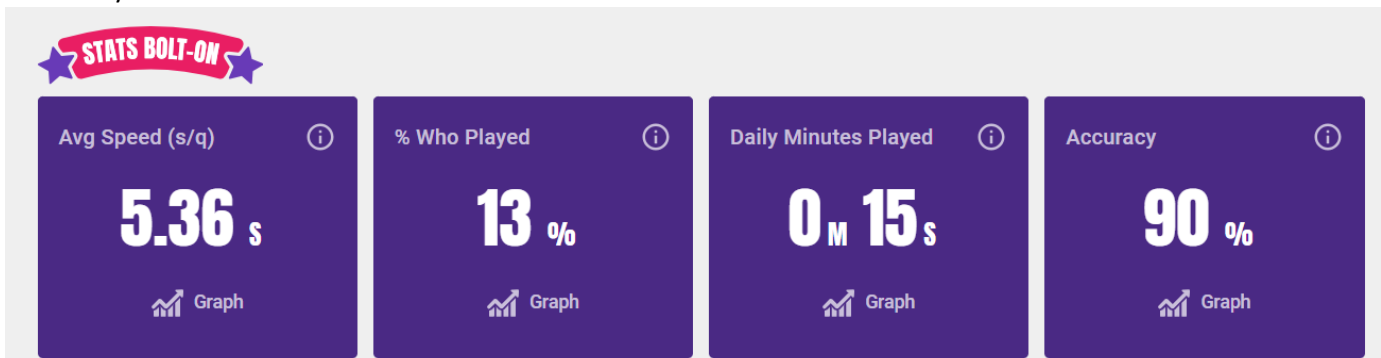
We love reading at St.Helen's and all children can love reading from their starting points.





As you may know and the children will testify to, one of my favourite lessons is Maths. We are really fortunate that we have an excellent Maths subject leader Mrs Hurd (who is currently on maternity leave) who loves Maths and stresses to the children the importance of learning the basic multiplication facts. This is something that we try and instil in all our children and it is important to know that it is never too early to start to learn multiplication facts even in Cherry Class. Those of you, who have attended celebration assembly always tell me how amazed you are that children in Year 1 last year were able to recite the facts like $9 \text{ squared} = 81$ or $12 \times 12 = 144$. It really is a case

of over learning them, and reciting them at home, playing our FunKey Maths cards or playing TimesTables Rockstars. I cannot stress enough how like reading everyday is so important – **learning multiplication facts daily makes progress in Maths a lot easier.** With this in mind over the next few weeks we will be having a huge push on multiplication facts. Indeed looking at the TTRS stats today, 13% of the school from years 1 to 6 have played TTRS in the last week- this must increase – it is only 38 facts to learn!



Please spend some time learning multiplication facts daily. We want all children to aspire to learn all their multiplication facts by the mid point of Year 4; it can be done as lots of our children have done this in the past!

Key Dates: Term 1 and 2	
Sunday 13 th October	FOSH Happy Circus Gate Opens 12 pm.
Monday 14 th October	School Harvest Festival in Church.
Monday 11 th November – Thursday 14 th November	Travelling Book Fair
Tuesday 12 th and Thursday 14 th November	Parent / Carers Evening Meetings 3:40 pm to 7 pm. Letter to follow at the end of this term.
Tuesday 26 th November	School Photographs
Wednesday 4 th December	Curriculum Showcase to Parents/ Carers
Please note we will release the dates of the KS1 Nativity and the Year 3 / 4 Christmas Production as soon as we can.	

Well done to those children who were awarded a Celebration Certificate:

- Holly class – Willow & Arthur
- Beech class – Olivia & Roscoe
- Oak class – Fenton & Georgina
- Ash class – Bavisha & Freya
- Sycamore class – Elizabeth & Elsie-Lou
- Elm – Eden & Sophie

