

From Mr Chappell Like a lot of staff members, I've been at St.Helen's for a number of years now and every single day I look forward to seeing what the day will bring. The standards we've set over the years academically, and high expectations that every staff member has in our ethos of Flying High in all that we do, will never change and this is something that we are continually reinforcing as part of our amazing school. All we want from every one of our children is that they try their best and try to continually improve and follow our school values, and whilst some children can do this more easily than others, we continue to support every one of our 208 children to be the best that they can be, to be Flying High! The reason I share this is that over half term, I was fortunate enough to bump into a former student and her parent, someone I taught at St Helen's in my first year here, ten years ago. We talked about what she's doing now (university) what she still loves doing (music – which she did a lot of at St.Helen's) and many other things. She also talked about her experiences of St.Helen's and thanked me (and all the other members of staff) for making her work hard and encourage her daily to be her best! She even reminded me of a time when I asked her to re-do something, as I didn't feel it met her normal standards (high expectations for all children!), but throughout our catch up she enthusiastically talked about her time at St.Helen's and our ethos Flying High. It also reminded me of a conversation I had over the summer with a local parent, who had three children go through St.Helen's, whose eldest son is now at university to become a primary school teacher because he was inspired by us here! Both these conversations show me that more often than not, we get things right here and our unequivocal aim to be Flying High every day is something that we will never drop. We will continue to aspire to those high standards and rely on your partnership to do so. Keep encouraging your children every day by doing the basics at home: reading, spelling and number facts, as, as proven, it really does help your children to be Flying High in the future!

FOSH Fundraising: Once again a huge thank you for your support at the Happy Circus and any other FOSH events. Due to the amazing success of the Happy Circus, we are now in a position this week, where the Year 6 Learning Councillors presented to each class a number of options for our new trail, and children then had the opportunity to vote on what trail equipment that they would like at lunchtime. A huge thank you to our Year 6 Learning Councillors Lucia and Cole, who spoke to each class and held the vote at lunchtime so that all children had a chance to vote. We look forward to seeing in the next few months how this progresses.



Flying High with Attendance Thank you for your support in ensuring your child's attendance is the best it can be. We have started off this academic year with really high attendance and it is great to see this across the school. As we move into the winter months we know there will be coughs and colds around, but if you think children are well enough to be in school, then they can be in, even with a slight runny nose. Even though last term's attendance was really high, this first week back has not been as consistent as the previous weeks. Let's aim for the best attendance we can in Term 2. Well done to EYFS, who have the best attendance since the start of the year!

Session Attendance Summary (01 Sep 2024 - 06 Nov 2024)

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	97.42%	96.67%	97.08%	96.84%	96.67%	96.45%	96.87%

At parent's evening next week you will receive your child's attendance certificate like you do for the end of year report. Following that we have meetings coming up with the EWO, who will be looking at our whole school attendance and those

children who are classed as persistently absent (attendance less than 90%). We have a very high aspiration for this and would love to see that by the end of the year we have no families that are persistently absent, it can be done!

Thanks for your support with this really important matter. Do not be offended if we contact you over your child's attendance; we want to help when we can!

House Points: Well done **Brabazon House**, who were house of term 1 with an incredible **4,174** points. It is worth remembering that they also received an extra 100 house points for winning the House Times Tables Rockstar competition.

Times Table Challenge: Quite rightly we are having a huge 'blitz' on multiplication facts and we continue to have an aspiration for all our children to know their multiplication facts as soon as they can. (This links clearly to my paragraph about our high standards and expectations over the years!) A reminder that in Year 4 there is a statutory assessment MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) where children are expected to know all their times tables. Work we did in this week's staff meeting, looking at Maths, reinforced this importance. A huge amount of mathematical concepts that children cover

in Year 5 and 6 are linked to a quick recall of times tables, which then continues in Secondary school. In the Year 6 Maths SATs papers this year (as in every year) a huge number of questions required children to have a very good recall and fluency of multiplication facts; to enable them to answer some of the questions. Please make sure that children are playing TTRS, Learning FunKey Maths games and completing their weekly homework multiplication strips. (See right) There are so many ways to learn multiplication facts (just roll dice and multiply them) Please ensure that you are helping your children to do so. Over the next week starting from Monday 11th to Monday 18th November we will be setting up another TTRS competition. On Class Dojo all the multiplication strips will be placed on as a PDF so you can have a copy if you want to help your children and not wait for the strips for homework in the older years! The more you do at home it will aid what they are doing in school.

4 x 2 = ____
2 x 5 = ____
6 ÷ 2 = ____
5 x 2 = ____
2 x 4 = ____
2 x 2 = ____
2 x 6 = ____
3 x 2 = ____
4 x 2 = ____
8 ÷ 2 = ____
6 x 2 = ____

Key Dates: Term 2

Monday 11 th November – Thursday 14 th November	Travelling Book Fair
Monday 11 th November – Friday 15 th November	Anti-Bullying week Please note: Tuesday 12th November is odd socks day to highlight this week.
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
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 in Term 1- the pictures look great alongside our Flying High Eagle!

