

From Mr Chappell The last few weeks have flown by and as we approach the end of term, I continue to be so impressed by some of the things that I see around school. Just this week, I have watched in awe as our learning councillors in Year 6, have devised and filmed their own anti-bullying video! They have written and presented their own scripted questions for other children to answer (without any scripted answers!), Lucia and Cole spent a long time during their own dinner times (act of **service**) writing their own questions, and then found enough children across the school, who would be prepared to be filmed. They are currently working on the final edit, and we hope to try and get this to all the other classes, to further enhance our work on anti-bullying. Following their work, I was also privileged to see our Year 6 House Captains showing prospective parents around school. Prospective parent/carers for 2025 have said how amazing our Year 6's are on a tour, how they talk so elegantly and enthusiastically about their school, and how they are genuinely proud to attend. It goes to show what seven years of hard work, effort and great behaviour will do for children at St.Helen's. Have a great weekend!



Friendships at St.Helen's: Many thanks to everyone who has responded to the parents/ carer survey around Bullying and Friendships. Despite only being open for four days we've already had 43 responses. (We will aim to share the results in the final week of term as we are looking to keep the survey open for another week). It's looking very positive as currently we have a very high percentage who have shared that their child is not a

victim of bullying. On the other hand, one thing that is being highlighted is the number of children who do not feel that they have a 'trusted adult' that they can turn to, to talk to about friendship issues. When we have all the results in, we will look at how we ensure that we improve on this further.

Attendance up to: 4.12.24	
Year R	95.28%
Year 1	95.41%
Year 2	95.69%
Year 3	96.49%
Year 4	96.38%
Year 5	96.1%
Year 6	96.58%

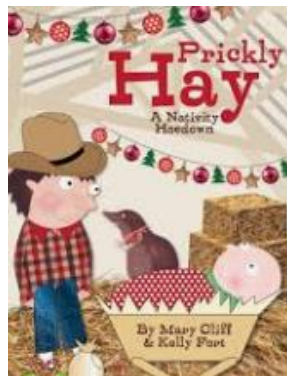
Attendance: Thank you to everyone for all your efforts with attendance so far this year. We totally understand when some children are absent due to illness, fevers, temperatures etc and know that this can mean they might have several days away. However, one of the things that was highlighted by the EWO and something we have noticed, is a growing number of children absent for one day on Mondays and Fridays. The number of broken weeks that some children have (a week where they have at least one absence) is increasing and this is something that we will continue to look at carefully with the EWO in the new term. Please

remember that everything that we are doing in terms of attendance, is in a **supportive manner** and although we have very high numbers of attendance, our class attendance figures are a little lower than this time last year. We would love to see all our children with the highest attendance possible, as research shows that consistent high attendance links to good achievement in GCSEs at Secondary school. Missing one day a week means that children are more likely to lose out on key areas of learning, as all lessons are planned through a sequence and one day absent matters! Thank you for your support for this. Also, please be reminded that we cannot authorise any term time holidays, we have always been consistent on this over the years. Please remember you are now liable for a fine if you have an unauthorised holiday with 10 or more sessions in a rolling ten-week period. Please have a look at our attendance page on our website for more information. <https://www.sthelensprimary.org.uk/our-school/attendance/>

Christmas Dinner: A reminder that Christmas lunch is fast approaching – **Wednesday 18th December**. If you would like your child/ren to have a Christmas dinner on this day, please ensure that you book this online, through our normal systems **by the end of school on Monday 9th December**. The kitchen has to pre-order all the Christmas stock specifically to ensure nothing is wasted, and **we will not be able to provide any children who do not book** with a Christmas dinner. This naturally leads to disappointment for some children, if they are expecting a Christmas dinner and they are provided with something else.

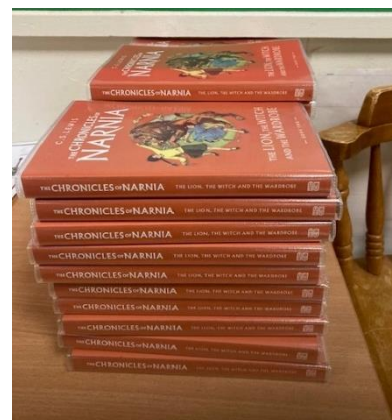


Class Dojo: Next week we will be writing to you all about how we will be changing the use of Class Dojo from the start of Term 3. Class Dojo has been great for displaying examples of some of the things we do and to share some of the great work going on in classes, however what we have found recently is that staff are being inundated with messages before, during and after school. Both myself and Mrs Hardy as AHT and SENCO, will continue to receive messages. Direct messages to teaching staff now need to be sent via the school email address and will be responded to in a timely manner. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.



Christmas KS1 Nativity: The KS1 children and staff have been working extremely hard in preparation for their nativity 'Prickly Hay' We appreciate that this is a very special occasion that you will remember for many years to come, (even though my eldest son is 17 we still talk about his role as 'one of the sheep' in his nativity)! Once again, we will be asking that all families are **respectful** of our wishes for no photos or videos to be taken. We have several children, who for different reasons, cannot be filmed or photographed, and although it may seem completely innocent to film your children, they may well be next to someone in a group who cannot. Every year we ask this and everyone is very respectful, we thank you again in advance for your co-operation in this. As a school we will be filming elements and taking photographs, and we will put some of the photos on Class Dojo throughout the week.

Just Read: Thank you to everyone for their **generosity** in donating an amazing total of £157.57 to school to enable each child in Year 3 and 4 to have their own copy of a book and to join in with whole class reading, as part of our Just Read Initiative. It is worth reminding you that our reading systems and teaching of reading such as KS1 Read Write Inc and Guided Reading in KS2, have been validated by external visitors as a strength of the school. The most important reason, and in everything we do, is to ensure that all children develop a love of reading and enjoy pleasure for reading. 'Just Read' anything over the Christmas Break: Football Annuals, Magazines, Radio Times, anything to get your children reading. Hopefully your children will be reading things that Father Christmas will be bring them!



Key Dates: Term 2

Tuesday 10 th December	9:30 am KS1 Nativity Play
Thursday 12 th December	2:30 pm KS1 Nativity Play
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19 th December	4 pm Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Carol Service in Church.
Friday 20 th December	FOSH silent Disco throughout the day for Classes.
Monday 6th January 2025	Term 3 Starts:

School values shown in our newsletter this week: **Service, Friendship Generosity, Respect: Discuss them with your children.**

Well done to those children who were awarded a Celebration Certificate in Assembly last week:

Holly Class: Charlie & Theo
 Beech Class: Amelie & Jenson
 Oak Class: Dom & Aria
 Ash Class: Elliott & Ozzie
 Sycamore Class: Ruben & Isabelle
 Elm Class: Olly & Luke

