



Join us in fulfilling our vision to

Love learn serve

'Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24

Date: 27th November 2020

Dear parents and carers,



Thank you

I would like to reiterate my email of earlier today and thank all of the parents and carers who sent such wonderfully supportive emails regarding the panto, and recognising the hard work and dedication of St. Helen's staff team. I have shared your comments with staff who have felt heartened by your kind words.

Curriculum refresh

This week I would like to pass on some exciting developments that are taking place in school and across the Alumnis MAT. We are about to launch our exciting curriculum refresh. This will be known as 'C360' to demonstrate our commitment to an all encompassing, child-centred curriculum that focuses on developing the whole child.



The four cornerstones of C360 are:

Academic - Our curriculum will make sure children have a deep knowledge and understanding of history and heritage, can articulate how diverse the world is and have a respect for all cultures and beliefs. They will study significant individuals and events that have shaped our world in order to promote their aspirations and they will understand how to keep their bodies, minds and finances healthy.

Innovation - Our curriculum is designed to ensure children become independent life-long learners. Children will learn about local, national and global issues, gaining an understanding of the world and how to function comfortably within it. Opportunities for children to develop skills associated with entrepreneurship, innovation and environmentalism will be seamlessly integrated within the curriculum.



Coming into school:

Please phone the school on 01237 475276 or email sthelens.sch@alumnismat.org before coming to the school office. If you do come to the office only one parent/carer at a time.

Drop off and collection:

Please only one parent/carer on school grounds in the morning and after school.

Absences: Please ring every day before 9.15am with accurate details if your child is unwell and will not be attending school.

Lunches: We request that lunch orders are made in advance.

Unfortunately, we are unable to order a school lunch on the day. If you have forgotten to order a school lunch, we will request that a packed lunch is brought in from home.

Ordering lunches via the app:

If you order school lunches via the School Money app, please ensure you add the choices to the basket and check out even if a payment is not required.



Community - Our curriculum aims to develop in children a strong sense of belonging and interconnectedness with the local, national and global community and a developing international mindedness. Children will learn to contribute positively to society through embedded learning about core values and character virtues.

Character - We aim to develop well-rounded students with core character virtues who respond to challenges with optimism and an open mind, are confident in their own identities and understand how they learn. They make ethical decisions, join with others in celebrating our common humanity and are prepared to apply what they learn in the real-world.

The curriculum intent, implementation and impact statement will be available on our school website very soon.

Knowledge organisers

This week your child's class teacher has shared the new knowledge organisers with you on Seesaw or Tapestry. These useful documents provide key information about your child's learning, such as vocabulary and key facts. These are designed to keep you informed and involved in your child's learning so that you are able to discuss and support their learning at home. If you have not seen the knowledge organisers, or you have any questions about them, please send a message to your child's class teacher on Seesaw or Tapestry.

Character Education

Plans are underway to roll out our Character Education programme in January. We have explored, modeled and recognised our twelve current core values for several years now, through collective worship and our curriculum. Our new Character Education programme builds on the success of this, and will ensure that every child has opportunities to practise living out our vision so that our values become virtues of good character. Each child will receive explicit teaching about moral, civic, intellectual and performance virtues along with opportunities to put these into practice and become inspiring change makers of the future.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Yours in faith...

Claire Lewis

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @StHelensVA



Dates for your diary

Thursday 3rd December

Dick Whittington panto

Wednesday 16th December

- Christmas school lunch
- Wear Christmas jumpers (with school uniform, may wish to bring in a voluntary contribution to The Children's Society)
- Virtual Christingle and carol service

Friday 18th December

Last day of term

Tuesday 5th January

Back to school

Christmas toy bank

A local committee have opened a Christmas toy bank with the aim of helping families in the local area.

If you need the support of the Christmas toy bank, please let the school know. This will be in confidence. The closing date for referrals is the end of November.





...is Ethan, Year 2, for his resilience and determination in overcoming his worries when using the apparatus.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

A very big thank you to Cranford Christmas Tree Farm, Woolsery, for donating a real tree to school. Also a very big thank you to Morrisons and Asda in Bideford for donating Christmas decorations. Here is the moment the tree was cut down. The school is going to look very festive!



Christmas lunch

Please see the menu below. Bookings can be made via School Money.



Christmas lunch

Wednesday 16th December

Roast turkey, roast potatoes, mixed vegetables and gravy

Vegetarian option: lentil and bean loaf, roast potatoes, mixed vegetables and vegetarian gravy

Sandwich options: turkey, cheese or egg mayo

Chocolate crispy puddings

Please order by Wednesday 9th December.

COVID-19 Symptoms

We ask that everyone is extra vigilant to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We ask that any parent, carer or child with any of the following symptoms stays at home and gets a test.

Symptoms:

- new continuous cough
- temperature
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Please do not come to the school for a 14-day period from the onset of initial symptoms unless a negative test result is obtained. Children **MUST NOT** attend school if they or anyone in their household has tested positive in the last 10 days. If your child is displaying symptoms please keep them at home for 10 days while siblings and the rest of the household self-isolates for 14 days.

If a positive case is confirmed, then the 'bubble' including adults may need to self isolate, depending on Public Health advice. St. Helen's CoE School will follow all Public Health guidance to maximise safety.

Ilsham English Hub Advent challenges

Please see the attached PDF from the Ilsham English Hub with 24 Advent challenges themed around promoting a love of reading, talking through stories and an awareness of reading beyond fiction books.

Adult courses at Petroc College

Petroc are offering courses for adults who are looking to retrain and/ or upskill from January 2021. Please see the attached flyer.

They are also offering the following programme:

Enhanced Adults Skills for the Future - Redundancy Support

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our nation's job market. Petroc is here to help anyone at risk of redundancy, or who has been made redundant, within the last three months. This course will support you with the tools that you may need in order to regain meaningful employment.

For more information on this FREE programme, please visit:

North Devon: <https://www.petroc.ac.uk/content/courses/enhanced-adults-skills-for-the-future-redundancy-support1>

Mid Devon: <https://www.petroc.ac.uk/content/courses/enhanced-adults-skills-for-the-future-redundancy-support1>

