

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: 8th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to welcome you back to the spring term and a brand new year. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas despite the restrictions brought about by COVID-19. It is indeed most unfortunate that the spring term began with the sudden announcement of another national lockdown, resulting in many children not being able to come into school. Nonetheless, the first few days of distance learning have gone really well with high levels of engagement. Staff have been very impressed with how hard the children both at home and in school have been working. Our focus remains steadfastly on delivering a high quality education for all our children.

I would like to take this opportunity to send my gratitude for all of the positive messages we have received this week recognising the hard work and dedication of staff. It means the world to us.

At St. Helen's we place great emphasis on developing children's character. Our Christian vision and values are an integral part of our curriculum and play a central role in our policies and practice, in our values recognition system and in collective worship. It is with great pleasure that this term we introduce the **Alumnis Character Education Programme** which builds on this good work with a more structured approach to character education.

The impact of carefully planned and delivered character education cannot be underestimated. Good quality character education develops children's academic, performance, moral and civic virtues and equips them with the wisdom, knowledge and skills they will need to be successful in an imagined future.

We have designed a bespoke Character Education Programme to complement our curriculum with opportunities to explicitly teach character virtues and for children to put these virtues into practise through a wide range of enrichment opportunities. This will ensure virtues become instilled, helping children to flourish as global citizens and inspiring change-makers.



**Absences:** Please ring every day before 9.15am with accurate details if your child is unwell and will not be attending "Bubble School" or carrying out Distance Learning at home.


**Drop off and collection:**  
Please only one parent/carer on school grounds in the morning and after school.



**Please see the attached booklet for a full explanation of the Alumnis Character Education Programme.**

Very soon all children will begin their first character education project. This will be an independent learning project that all children will carry out at home and in school. The project is designed to help children develop virtues of good character and work towards the **Alumnis Character Education Recognition Award**. More details to follow on Seesaw and Tapestry very soon.

Below is a brief overview of St. Helen's carefully chosen character virtues:

 ST. HELEN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL   CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAMME LEARNING TO LIVE OUT OUR VISION SO OUR VALUES BECOME OUR VIRTUES			
MORAL VIRTUES	CIVIC VIRTUES	INTELLECTUAL VIRTUES	PERFORMANCE VIRTUES
COMPASSION GENEROSITY THANKFULNESS TRUTHFULNESS FORGIVENESS JOY	RESPECT COMMUNITY JUSTICE COURTESY COURAGE SERVICE	CURIOSITY CRITICAL THINKING CREATIVITY RESOURCEFULNESS WISDOM PRACTICALITY	COOPERATION MOTIVATION PERSEVERANCE ASPIRATION ASSERTIVENESS CONFIDENCE

I wish you a happy and healthy start to 2021 and look forward to working with you and your children in the coming year.

Yours in good faith,

*C. S. Lewis*

Mrs C. S. Lewis  
Headteacher

For more information about Character Education please visit:

[DfE Character Education Framework Guidance](#)

[The Jubilee Centre University of Birmingham](#)

[Church of England Fruit of the Spirit Report](#)

[The School Run](#)

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @StHelensVA



**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.

