



St. Helen's Church of England School Newsletter | 24th September 2021

Dear St. Helen's families,

It was wonderful to welcome parents into school this week for the first two of our series of coffee mornings. I was very proud to be able to show you the gorgeous learning environment and for you to see the children busy with their learning.

There are still some coffee morning slots available (see below) so please phone or email the admin office to sign up for the opportunity to tour the school and find out about Curriculum 360, our Character Education Programme and our Mini Schools.

This week has also seen the welcome return of our long standing and highly valued volunteer Graham Andrews – it was so wonderful to see him after such a long time. The children were very excited too!

We really value the support of our parents and carers and members of the local community - your support makes a huge difference to the lives of our children. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the school office for an application form.

It has been an incredibly happy and busy week here at St. Helen's and your children have made a flying start to the academic year!

Please see below for more news about the four cornerstones of C360 in each of our mini schools this week.

Kind regards,
Mrs Claire Lewis

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE ADMIN OFFICE

We appreciate your patience and understanding while we carry out the recruitment process for a new school administrator and ask that you bear with us for a little while longer. In the meantime, please note that we only have admin support on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings between 08:30-11:30. There is no one available to answer the phone or emails or respond to last minute messages about pick up arrangements etc. outside of these times.



School money bookings

Please note that bookings for school lunches and Breakfast and After School clubs must be made in advance.

No bookings will be taken after midnight on Sundays. Booking for the following week will then be closed.

Term Dates

22nd October - non pupil day

1st November - first day of Autumn 2

Absences

Please ring the office every day before 9:00 am if your child is unwell.

Safety reminders

Please could parents **close all gates** as they leave the school premises.

Please could parents ensure children **do not play with the playground barrier.**

Please could all parents **park safely and courteously** in the village.



First Mini School News

Academic: This week the children in Reception have started learning their Phase 2 Phonics with Bug Club, they have enjoyed singing along with Bug and have already demonstrated some great resourcefulness in noticing the sounds that they have learned during their learning throughout the day. In Year 1, Rupert, Aiva, Fletcher have worked really hard on Phase 5 using great critical thinking and decision making skills to identify the correct graphemes in their writing.

Character: Our Character Virtue focus for this half term is 'compassion', the children have been learning about what this means and have already been telling us about other children they have seen showing compassion towards them or others. *'Enise showed compassion when she asked Bethan if she would like to hold her hand when she was looking sad because she missed her sister.'* *'Eve has been noticing when children have needed extra help this week or they just need a friend.'*

Community: The children in the First Mini School have enjoyed welcoming their families into our school for the first time! We had a wonderful walk exploring some of our local environment and seeing some of the important places in our community, followed by a lovely cream tea and a tour of the school.

Innovation: Year 1 have been using the iPads to tinker with an app called Pettson's inventions to explore cause and effect. Reception have been using the Vtech cameras to take pictures of each other and showing great confidence in exploring the learning apps on our class iPads.

Middle Mini School News

Academic: All 3 year groups have begun studying their core texts for the term, all of which focus on the theme of Social Justice - Valuing All God's Children. I have been lucky to hear some incredible conversations showing compassion and empathy for children who find themselves fleeing their homes to escape war, poverty or injustice. It has also been really motivational for the children to bring their bespoke learning books home so that you can see what they have been learning and comment on their successes. Thanks for your support with this!

Character: In Character Education this week, we applied our critical thinking skills to the Jo Cox quote, "We are more united and have more in common than that which divides us." We considered all the things that bring us together and the children came up with some amazing ideas, including: faith, friendship, family, learning, sharing, and humanity.

Community: The children have enjoyed practising the hymns for our harvest festival next Tuesday. We are excited to be going to church after what feels like a very long time. Due to their COVID risk assessments, the wardens have asked us to restrict attendance to pupils and staff at the moment, but donations of non-perishable food items would be greatly appreciated. They will be given to Harbour to help feed those who are struggling.

Innovation: The children have been creatively exploring the theme for this year's Spirited Arts RE competition, the theme of which is the Jo Cox quote above. They have begun thinking about how they can express this idea through images. Additionally, some enterprising Year 4 students will be running a tuck shop on the netball court on Friday's after school to raise funds for FOSH (Friends of St Helen's - our PTA)

Upper Mini School News

Academic: A busy week in both Y5&Y6 this week in maths. Y5 have been enjoying the challenge of Roman numerals and Year 6 have been mastering their understanding of negative numbers. In science this week Y6 have looked at (and eaten) phases of using Oreos. Year 5 have been learning about the planets.

Character education: Y5 have been inspiring skills builders this week, visiting The Burton Art Gallery to practise portrait drawing. One of our parent helpers said this about the trip,

"I really enjoyed the school trip today, it was so lovely to see all the children working so hard but also having fun. They were all a joy to be around." 😊

Year 6 has been inspiring adventures this week, as we visited Lundy. Everyone had such a fantastic time on the boat and exploring the island. One of the highlights of the trip was spotting the seal pups and watching the dolphins play in the waves next to the MS Oldenburg.

Community: When Class 5 were on their trip to The Burton a member of the public said, 'She was blown away by the quality of their art work and their focus and concentration.'

It was a pleasure to take the class out into the community.

Innovation: This week in computing Year 5&6 took part in a digital safety Kahoot! quiz. Coding skills have been tested this week, making ping pong games and animating names.

After taking some amazing footage of the Lundy trip, Y6 are looking forward to using editing skills to show the whole school.



On Friday 1st October we will be taking part in the
'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'
Please support this important charity event by sending in cakes to
sell at 15:30 after school in the playground (in place of the usual
'tuck shop')

Cakes will cost 20p each (or per slice).
All monies raised will go to Macmillan.
Thank you!

Information about music tuition in school

Music tuition will soon be re-starting in school. Please contact me (Bekah Tanton) if you are interested in a keyboard/piano, guitar or ukulele lesson for your child. Previous students will need to re-apply. I will contact you with prices and confirmation of a place. I am looking forward to returning to St. Helen's to teach music lessons again.

Thank you,

Bekah Tanton

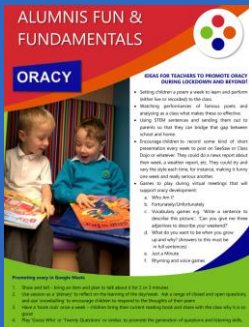
bejahtanton@googlemail.com

Community coffee morning sessions:

- Monday 4th October 09:15 – 10:00
- Tuesday 5th October 09:15 – 10:00
- Tuesday 5th October 16:00 – 16:45
- Monday 11th October 09:15 – 10:00
- Thursday 14th October 09:15-10:00
- Thursday 14th October 16:00 – 16:45
- Monday 18th October 09:15 – 10:00
- Tuesday 19th October 09:15 – 10:00

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter to see posts like this:





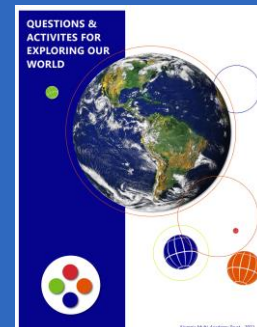
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To read about ideas to have **fun with maths at home**

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For questions and activities for **exploring the world** with your children

[please click here.](#)

Safeguarding Updates

Social Media

[Click here](#) to read information on how to **keep your children safe** using social media

Devices and Technology

[Click here](#) to read information on how to **keep your children safe** using devices and technology

Family Support

Click [here](#) for information about [Family Support](#) from Devon County Council.