



St. Helen's Church of England School

Abbotsham, Bideford, North Devon, EX39 5AP

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Headteacher: Mrs C. S. Lewis BSc (Hons) / PGCE / QTS / NPQH



**At St. Helen's we learn to LOVE, love to LEARN and aspire to SERVE
so that we become Inspiring Change Makers**

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

Friday 10th September 2021

Dear families of Year 5 & 6,

Welcome back, we hope you have all been able to enjoy the summer holiday and had a chance to relax. I am very much hoping that we have just had a fantastic enrichment day, getting to know each other and have enjoyed a BBQ (thanks to Morrisons for the rolls & sauces).

We have had a fantastic start to the year this week. The children have come back into school smiling and eager to learn. This year we plan to work hard and play hard! The children have shown their maturity already by helping the younger children in the lunch hall and outside at playtime. Within our mini school we have a strong team of qualified and experienced staff supporting the two classes and we are all looking forward to working with all of the children and all of you!

For the children's well-being and to make sure they are prepared at all times, please can you encourage your child to pack their bag ensuring they always bring a coat and water bottle.

We have noticed that lots of the children are getting pretty peckish during the morning. Please make sure your child brings a fruit or vegetable snack to school each day.

Reading is a priority this year, as always, and we are going to be working hard to make sure that all children develop and embed their reading skills. We want the children to read for pleasure and become lifelong readers. The children will take a photograph of their reading book and this will be posted on Seesaw. All children are expected to write a comment on Seesaw every school day about what they have read.

Home learning will be set on Seesaw. Activities will be linked to the class learning and all children will need to complete the activities that have been set. There will be a range of activities for the children to complete to keep them engaged.



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We have amazing new bespoke writing and maths books for every child in school, which we know the children are super proud of. We are going to send these home each Wednesday so that the children can share with you what they have been learning. We invite you to make positive comments in the appropriate place in the book. Parental engagement, and the children seeing us working together as a team around them really does raise their aspirations and increase their motivation - however, it is essential that the children bring their books back to school the next day! The same goes for Seesaw - they love seeing your 'likes' and comments come in during the day, and it really does motivate them!

Our theme for this term is Social Justice. You can see more about what each class will be covering on the curriculum overview that will arrive along with this letter.

You have already been sent information about school uniform, so I won't repeat that here, but key information is that children will take part in 30 minutes of physical activity (DPA) every day, so ideally, trainer type shoes are preferable (however these do need to be quite waterproof to cope with our changeable weather). If you would prefer your child to change their shoes for DPA, please send them with a pair (named) in their bag.

PE this term will be cricket on a Tuesday, please send children into school in their PE kit.

Wild Tribe (outdoor learning) will be on alternate Thursdays. Please can you make sure that children's arms and legs are covered for those sessions. It would also be very helpful if the children could bring a pair of (named) wellies to keep in school so that we can make the most of our wonderful grounds.

We would love to welcome volunteers back into the school. If you are interested in helping out, please come and chat to us. We would really appreciate any support and time that you are able to offer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to phone/message and we will get back to you as soon as we can. We are all really looking forward to the adventures we have planned this year.

Best wishes,

Mrs Gemma Fidler - School Improvement Lead
and the Upper Years Mini School Staff Team - Miss Amy Gale, Mrs Louise Gagg and Mrs Rhiannon Kent