



## St. Helen's Church of England School Newsletter | 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear St. Helen's families,

Thank you all so much for your wonderful donations for the cake sale today. We will let you know how much we have raised for Macmillan next week.

I am very pleased to announce two new members of the St. Helen's staff team.

Mrs Val Howard joined us today as our SEN Intervention Officer. Mrs Howard will be working with children across the school.

We have also appointed a new school administrator, Mrs Liz Proberts who will be joining us soon. Until then can I please thank you for your patience and ask that you bear with us for a little while longer.

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.

After listening to parent feedback, from now on we will be providing a fortnightly newsletter for your enjoyment!

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



### **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 except in the case of an emergency.

### **Term Dates**

22<sup>nd</sup> October - non pupil day  
1<sup>st</sup> 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 have been developing and using their subitising skills when looking at quantities of objects and working on their critical thinking skills to 'see and say' the amount, without having to count. In Reception, Callen was very resourceful in using squares of paper to make different shaped number block patterns for 3. Chelsea created a whole line of different groups of three using all of our different maths manipulatives. In Year 1 some of the children were challenging themselves to subitise beyond 10.

**Character:** The children in Reception have been developing their performance skills through learning and performing some different action rhymes. Year 1 children have been drawing upon the virtue of wisdom to remember their BSL learning from last year.

**Community:** In both classes the children have been thinking about how to look after their resources and keep their classrooms and learning areas tidy. In Reception this week Paige, Rory, Rome and Bethan have shown service to our class community by volunteering to tidy up and put everything back in its proper place. The children in both classes have also been very generous in donating food for our school Harvest Festival which has been donated to Harbour, our local charity.

**Innovation:** Chelsea was very resourceful in problem solving when she accidentally cut the ears off her paper bunny creation. She managed to fix it with Sellotape – well done Chelsea! Year 1 have been using IXL to practise their maths skills.

## Middle Mini School News

**Academic:** We have been so impressed with the way the children have applied themselves to their autumn term baseline assessments. They have undertaken short tests in maths, reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar and have shown great maturity and focus. These assessments enable us to identify gaps and plan strategically to ensure all children make the progress of which they are capable.

**Character:** I really enjoyed leading a session to develop Critical Thinking this week. We debated the "Positive, negative and interesting" (or High, Low, Buffalo!) of some really big questions and the insightful ideas that the children came up with were extremely interesting.

**Community:** A big thank you to all who donated to our Harvest Festival. We rallied as a community after a power surge took the electricity out at the church and we were pleased to welcome Mr Elks to lead the service at school. I'm sure the members of the community who use the services of the charity Harbour will be extremely grateful.

**Innovation:** Year 3 and 4 have been learning how to devise a fair test, considering controls and variables to find answers to the question "Do plants need soil to grow?". They used their knowledge organisers to think about all of the things that would need to be taken into consideration.

## Upper Mini School News

**Academic:** Year 5&6 have started their new English units of learning this week. There has been some wonderful descriptive writing, with a high standard of presentation. In maths, Year 6 have been refining their formal methods for addition and subtraction.

**Character:** The lunchtime colouring club is a great success, the girls in Year 5 are dedicated to making it a fun and inviting space to be creative. Thank you for being so resourceful.

**Community:** An enormous thank you to Sophie and Barnaby in Year 6 for leading the Harvest festival. Thank you to all the children for the very generous donations. Also, a lovely group of Year 6 children have taken it upon themselves to look after the school library. In Collective Worship this week, they shared some top tips about how to look after the library and the books.

**Innovation:** This week, the Year 5 children have been learning some new vocabulary in their coding lessons. They have learned the terms to move and turn objects using Manga High.

### 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

[bekahtanton@googlemail.com](mailto:bekahtanton@googlemail.com)

### Community coffee morning sessions:

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

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





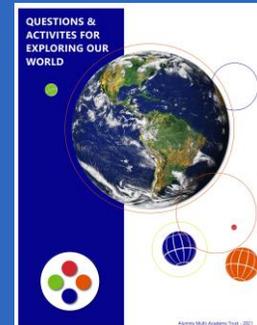
To read about teaching to **promote oracy** and tips and support for parents

[please click here.](#)



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

[please click here.](#)



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.