



St. Helen's Church of England School Newsletter | 12th November 2021

Dear families,

Our first full week back at school is complete and what a lovely week it has been.

As always, I'm sure you will have been kept up to date with day to day life at school via Seesaw and you will hopefully have seen lots of smiling faces from our fantastic children (and staff!)

We are so glad to have Mrs Drew back from isolation – she has been missed terribly but Mrs Fidler and the Reception team have done a phenomenal job of keeping C360 alive and thriving for our youngest pupils so a big thanks to them.

On that note, I'd like to welcome Miss Nicole Luongo and Miss Louise Williams to the team. Nicole and Louise join us as SEND TAs and are already having a big impact.

We are also thrilled to welcome back Ms Wood – our library (and the whole school community of course!) have missed her tremendously.

As always, our four cornerstones underpin life at St Helen's and here are some of the highlights for each.

COMMUNITY:

Thanks to Mrs Akam, chair of our LSC who is generously giving up her time and talents to listen to readers – having volunteers in really does raise the profile of reading and helps us with our goal of having every child reading for pleasure.



Just before Christmas, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Mrs Collins and Mr Bassett from the Rotary Club – they asked us to write a wish list and we were happy to oblige. We are looking forward to getting some goodies including yet more new book stock and some cooking equipment. A massive thanks to the Rotary Club for their support.

Jack in Year 5 has taken it upon himself to raise money for a defibrillator for school and is meeting with members of the student leadership teams for Health and Wellbeing and Enterprise, Innovation and Entrepreneurship to make a plan – what a great initiative and one we are so glad to support.

CHARACTER:

CONGRATULATIONS also go to the fantastic netball team who showed great resilience to draw against Torrington Bluecoats after taking an early lead. Mrs Fidler was so proud of the way the whole squad have played throughout the tournament. There's a huge training squad (about 30 children from across Year 5 and 6!) which gives us plenty of hope for the future of netball at St Helen's.



Another huge well done must go to Oliver W in Year 2 who has been at home isolating and has completed every piece of home learning. Mrs Brookes is so proud of you and says you will be ready to hit the ground running when you get back!

The student leadership team have begun their recruitment drive to build their teams, standing up confidently to pitch their vision in front of the whole school on Thursday. They are truly Inspiring Change Makers!

ACADEMIC:



I have loved being out and about in the classrooms listening to readers and teaching SPaG and French this week. It is so lovely to see the children making such great progress, and to chat with them about what they love about learning. Our new French teaching programme,



Language Angels is giving more teachers more confidence to teach French and is increasing the children's enthusiasm for learning a foreign language, which is such a vital skill as well as promoting global mindedness.

Thanks to Mrs Fidler's determination and dedication, we have lots of new book stock, and Mrs Fidler, Ms Howard and a team of librarians have been busy covering them in sticky backed plastic so they stay looking new for longer. They are already in great demand, which is fantastic!



We all got to experience a very specific art from this week, when M&M Productions came and performed the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". It was so much fun, and soooo loud, and we all had a great time, getting into the swing of this great tradition. The performance, set design and audio visual effects were super impressive and very inspiring.

INNOVATION:

We'd like to remind you about Oliver's (Y5) super idea about collecting Christmas jumpers to sell at next year's Christmas Fayre. This, we hope, will save waste and money, meaning these underused items get to enjoy plenty of Christmases. What a fantastic idea, Oliver!

As part of our PSHE topic, "Being our Best" and firmly linked to our Character Development Approach, we would also like to welcome all members of the school to take part in a career's fair on Thursday 17th February at 1:45pm. No matter your line of work, we would love you to come to school and set up a stall to show the children a little bit about what you do. You might be able to bring some of the equipment you use, or just have a chat about what your job entails. It will mainly be aimed at the older children but the younger ones will have chance to come and look at the stalls too. No job is too small or too unusual. We really want the children to get a good awareness of all the possible careers out there.

Wishing you all a really fantastic weekend,

Bex Northcott and the St Helen's Team



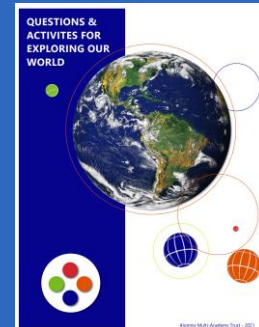
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