



## St. Helen's Church of England School Newsletter | 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Friday!

Apologies for this being late this week – there were a lot of exciting things happening today which I wanted to be sure to include!

Here are just a few of the highlights in each of the four cornerstones of our incredible Curriculum 360.

### Community

What about Year 4 as an example of community? They have independently scripted, rehearsed, stage managed and performed an Easter play, telling the story of Jesus' last days in Jerusalem. They even raised the money to hire the hall for the rehearsals and performance. It was an incredible show and I was so proud of them. They sold cakes at half time to raise money to support those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. However, as much as we are proud of and inspired by the independence, motivation and aspiration of these amazing 8 and 9 year olds, we absolutely need to acknowledge the enormous effort and impact of the parents, without whom none of this would have happened. As one of our lovely parents told me via Seesaw, "we have a heck of a tight little community here at St Helen's." Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for making this school into a family that nurtures and supports our amazing children.

Thanks also to the super members of our Local School Committee (formerly Governors) who have carried out visits over the past few weeks and who gathered for a meeting this morning. Your continued input and support is an absolutely vital part of our ongoing school improvement plan. We currently have vacancies for parent members and would love to receive nominations or applications. (Rumour has it they also go to the Thatched Inn for pre-meeting meetings!) If you are concerned about time commitments or what it means to be on the LSC, please speak to one of us - we would love to have you on board!



### Dates

#### Contact details:

01237 475276

[Sthelens.sch@alumnismat.org](mailto:Sthelens.sch@alumnismat.org)

[www.ash-sch.org](http://www.ash-sch.org)

#### Inclusion Team contact details:

James Creek - 07596 476 145

#### Key dates:

Easter Bingo 7<sup>th</sup> April

End of Spring Term Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Back to School Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April

## Character

A huge well done to an Inspiring Change Maker in Y3 who decided that she couldn't stand by and do nothing while the people of Ukraine suffer, so decided to hold a bake sale. So far, this has raised over £250! That's phenomenal and will make a big difference to someone in desperate need.

Thanks also to the children who played TAG rugby at the festival at GTS this week. Some of them were representing the school at sport for the first time and they showed exceptional respect, communication and courtesy. I was so proud.

To the Year 6s who absolutely smashed the residential at Georgeham, well done for your courage and resilience. Going away for 4 nights is a big step when COVID has meant you haven't had the residential experiences that would normally have led up to this but Mrs Fidler and Miss Gale had nothing but praise for the way you faced up to challenges. My enormous thanks to both of them also for giving up every minute, day and night, of that week to make sure that Year 6 had the best experience possible. I'm really looking forward to going with Mrs Gagg and the Year 5s in a few weeks (and I really hope they sleep as well as the Year 6s did!)

## Academic

We are so proud of all the great progress the children have made this year so far. We are approaching the final third of the academic year and I think it's fair to say we are noticing some real changes. We have recently completed our Spring assessment cycle and have been so impressed with the motivation and determination of the children. We measure progress in so many ways, not just with tests, and whether your child has made a huge leap in maths, massively improved their spelling scores, improved their reading age or made small steps progress on individual targets, please know that we truly value the efforts that they (and you!) put in. An enormous thanks absolutely has to go to the staff team here at St Helen's for putting their heart and soul into ensuring the best outcomes for our children.

We have been busily working away on foundation subjects recently, and are happy to tell you that thanks to the very lovely Mrs Ainscough, our new curriculum progression documents are now available on the website:

<https://ash-sch.org/curriculum-progression/>

## Digital and Innovation

There's nothing more creative than bringing new life into the world and no-one more digital than Mr Kent, which is my roundabout way of dedicating this part of the newsletter to the lovely Mrs and Mr Kent who are going to be welcoming their new baby very soon. Mrs Kent is going off on her little "holiday" (Sorry - couldn't resist!) next Friday and will be missed of course, but I'm sure you will all join us in wishing the whole family well at such an exciting time. While she is off on maternity leave with Telfer and Baby Number 2, Mrs Fidler will be teaching Class 5. If you haven't already, you might like to have a go at our "Guess the KId for Edukid" quiz, to raise money for a charity very close to their hearts.

And finally, my apologies for the lack of pictures and links... my laptop is not playing fair this evening. I will attach a couple of relevant flyers.

Thanks so much for reading,

Have a wonderful weekend,

Bex Northcott