



St. Helen's Church of England School Newsletter | 3rd March 2023

Dear families,

Welcome back to Spring 2 – I hope you all had a great half term (which seems like an age ago!) and are enjoying the somewhat cold sunshine.

Here is a round-up of what we have been up to, organised as always under the four cornerstones of our Curriculum 360.

Community:

You may have seen the letter from Mr Kent asking for class representatives for our PTA, Friends of St Helen's. Over the years, FOSH have raised a fortune to benefit the children directly and we really don't want to lose this fantastic resource. If you haven't already replied, please could you do so. We don't need very much of your time and it really does make the world of difference.

We have a couple of upcoming events including our Spring Fling Disco with Phat-Dog on Thursday 9th March and our Easter Bingo on Thursday 30th March.

The Big Sheep kindly welcomed our Reception class for their first real outing, as part of their enquiry *How do Living Things Change?*

Finally, we are excited to welcome a new Rector, Jules Harris, to the Mission Community. We are looking forward to welcoming her to the team at St Helen's.



Key Dates

- 9th March - Spring Fling Disco
- 9th March – Y6 Netball tournament
- 9th March – Ground Force Y4
- 16th March – Ground Force Y3
- 23rd March – Ground Force Y5
- 27th and 28th March – Parent Consultation
- 29th March – Reception trip to Exmoor Zoo
- 30th March – Easter Bingo
- 31st March – Break up for Easter

Contact Details

sthelens.sch@alumnismat.org



Character:

We are so thrilled to be able to share that we recently achieved our Character Quality Plus Mark from the Association of Character Education.

I will attach the entire report alongside this newsletter but here are a couple of quotes that really stood out:

'It is relatively rare to experience a Trust which is based on a set of clearly understood objectives and values which are shared and understood by everyone working in the Trust'

'The assessors were very impressed with the manner in which leaders have linked the Trust's Church of England Religious foundation with their stated values and virtue-led education. Teachers, support staff and most importantly pupils were able to articulate with confidence and clarity the seamless blend of Gospel Values and virtue-led education, and their understanding of how this enhanced the spiritual quality of their lives was most impressive.'

I am so proud of the entire team and grateful for the support of the Trust in helping us to achieve this impressive result. Only around 50 other schools in the country have done so!

Academic:

The last few weeks have been all about books! We had a fantastic visit from Giles King-Smith (son of the late great Dick King-Smith) who told some stories of his father's life, read to the children from some of his classic books and even brought Dick's rabbit, Wilfred, to visit. The children really enjoyed meeting to him.

This was followed by World Book Day, which was as fabulous as always. We had a parade of costumes, a fantastic potato character competition and a book swap. We were very grateful to Asda for the donations of prizes.

We took some of the children down to Kenwith Castle Residential Care Home which really brightened up the day for the residents. The children talked about their costumes and read to some of the ladies.

We were really proud of them and we have arranged to build this into our enrichment programme next half term to allow all the children the opportunity to be Inspiring Volunteers.

Finally, we will be putting out sign-up sheets for Parent Consultations, which will take place on 27th and 28th March.

Digital and Innovation:

If you haven't already been, you absolutely must get yourself down to the Burton Art Gallery! As part of our last enquiry, lots of the children produced incredible art work and it is all on display in the schools' exhibition which is on until 24th March. We are so proud of all the fantastic work the children put in, using a range of media.

