

# St Helen's Church of England Primary School Newsletter



## Term 1 October 2025

Thank you for such a wonderful first term back this academic year. It has certainly been full of fun, exciting and engaging learning for all our pupils.

### Car Parking

## **FINAL WARNING FOR THE CAR PARK FROM THE MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE**

We have worked incredibly hard to secure additional parking to make drop offs and picks easier and safer. Due to persistent, inconsiderate parking from multiple parents, we have been issued our final warning from the Memorial Hall Committee and if there are any more incidents of improper parking or use of the car park, we will lose the privilege of access for school drop offs and pick ups.

- As part of the agreement for using this space, **parking on grassy areas is strictly not permitted.**
- The gates will open at **approximately 8:30am** and close **promptly at 9:00am** each morning.
- In the afternoon gates will open at approximately 3pm and close at 3:30pm.
- We must not use the car park even if it is unlocked at any other time.

### Important Dates

Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October	Half-Term Break
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Term 2 begins
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent-Teacher Meetings 3:30 – 5:00
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent-Teacher Meetings 3:30 – 6:00
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Remembrance Service at church
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 Anglo Saxon Workshop in school
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 Stone Age Workshop in school
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	School Disco – 3:10 – 4pm KS1 4:30 – 6pm KS2
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Astrodome visit in school
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 Lion King dress up day
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 2 Royal Engineers museum trip
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	School Christmas Fayre 2:45pm – 4pm
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Year 5 Carol service Rochester Cathedral
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Nativity 2pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Nativity 2pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carols 2pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carols 2pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Christmas Parties
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle Service at church
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day and End of Term 2

## The Reading Cabin



The reading cabin has officially been opened. I would like to thank Enfinium for their generous donation which has made this possible.

Thank you so much for all of the support we have had from all of our school community in creating our reading cabin. We have now scanned nearly 2,500 books for the children to choose from. The Reading Cabin will be open after school for your children every Wednesday in Term 2. A parent agreement will be sent out before the end of term via Google Form, please complete this so that your child has permission to borrow books from the Reading Cabin. If you still need to collect your child's Library Cabin Card, they are now in the School Office. Your child will only need their Library Card to borrow books after school. The children will also have a library slot in school, and if you have given permission, they will be able to borrow a book to bring home during this session. The children can currently borrow 2 books at a time and the loan period is for 2 weeks. Miss Scanlon will also send out guidance on how you can access our library book catalogue online so you can see what we have available to borrow. We are so excited to open our Reading Cabin doors next term!

## Arbor

We have started moving across to using Arbor for our communications which will replace the School Gateway. Breakfast club and After school club bookings will now take place on here. It is important that all parents sign up to Arbor as this is how school information will be shared with you. You will also be able to see your child's contact details and attendance.

### Breakfast Club and After School Club

Breakfast Club is open every weekday during term time, excluding Staff Development Days, from 07:45 to 08:40. Your children can be dropped off at any time between these times and the Breakfast Club staff will then take them to their classroom at the end of the session.

7:45am - 8:40am - £2.50 per day, which includes a breakfast of cereals, fruit, and a variety of bread including crumpets, pancakes and brioche.

From 8:15am - free to all pupils.

After School Club runs every weekday during term time, excluding Staff Development Days, from 15:10 to 18:00. Children will be taken by staff from their classrooms to the Club at the end of the school day. Children can be collected from the After School Club at any time.

3:10pm - 4:15pm £4.50

3:10pm - 6pm £10.00 (this includes a hot snack)

If you have not notified us that you use a voucher scheme, Arbour will not let you book on without payment as we have to change your child's settings to authorise this. Sessions must be paid for at the time of booking or Childcare Vouchers/Tax-Free Childcare. If using CCV/Tax-Free Childcare, please email [childcare@sthelens.medway.sch.uk](mailto:childcare@sthelens.medway.sch.uk) to notify us of your payment and which voucher provider you have used.

## What have the children been up to this term?

### EYFS

We are incredibly proud of how beautifully the children have settled into life at school during their first term in Reception. Our learning journey began with the theme 'All About Ourselves', where we explored who we are and what makes us unique. The children learnt each other's names, practised recognising their own, and created expressive self-portraits. We also delved into the topic of families—celebrating our own and discovering the wonderful differences and similarities between us. To round off the term, we enjoyed the traditional tale of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, which inspired us to follow a recipe and make our very own porridge! Willow Class have had a fantastic start to the year and we can't wait to dive into Term 2, where we'll be exploring the exciting world of Celebrations.

### Year 1

This term in Year 1 we have been learning all about dinosaurs. We explored different types of dinosaurs, their habitats, diets, and ideas about their extinction. Our exciting Dinosaur Day included making colourful masks, erupting our own volcano, and parading around as our favourite dinosaurs! We also became fossil hunters, just like Mary Anning, carefully digging through sand to uncover hidden fossils and learning about her incredible discoveries. In science, we've been investigating the five senses. We went on a sense hunt around the school, testing different smells, sights, and sounds, and discussing how our bodies help us understand the world around us.

### Year 2

In Year 2 this term, we have been exploring our topic of Polar Adventures. We have looked at a variety of habitats and how animals can adapt to their surroundings. We even had our very own mini beast hunt in school. We have discovered how climates vary across the globe and that sometimes, winter in the poles means no sunlight for days or even months. Our class book has been Not Quite Narwhal and we have enjoyed writing setting descriptions based on Kelp's adventures. We also wrote rhyming poems about penguins. To enhance our topic, we have been lucky enough to have our class name written on a plane heading to Antarctica with the British Antarctic Survey. BATS have been sending us updates on their preparation and journey. We have been interested to find out how many layers of clothing the scientists have to wear and how many different research stations are on Antarctica.



### **Year 3**

Year 3 have had a great start to the year and we are all looking forward to learning about the Stone Age in term 2.

This term we have created some amazing written work around the theme heroes and villains, describing settings, diary entries and poems. The children have programmed micro bits during our computing lessons and have produced flashing images and scrolling names. We have also been working on word documents, typing skills and learning more about what can be achieved using this document.

We all had a great day on Heroes and Villains Day, creating capes, masks and utility belts. The children worked hard and had such amazing imaginative ideas throughout the day.

The children have also enjoyed being outside in Forest School every Thursday, where they have been able to use see the wildlife around them and learn how to look after all of the creatures, we are lucky enough to have on our grounds.

Mrs Stott, Mrs Howell and I have enjoyed working with your children and are looking forward to term 2.

### **Year 4**

This term in Year 4, we have been learning all about mountains. The children have created some wonderful pieces of writing, including a well- constructed diary and try and a beautifully presented non-chronological report. In science, we have been investigating sound, and have completed many experiments. The class have enjoyed making panpipes to investigate how the length of the panpipes affect the pitch of the sound. We have enjoyed our first term in year 4 and are excited to learn about new topics in term 2!

### **Year 5**

This term, Sycamore Class have been learning about the Titanic. They had an incredible school trip to the 'Legend of the Titanic' immersive exhibition in London. The children were able to use virtual reality headsets to take a tour of the Titanic ship and experience the ship sinking - from the safety of dry land, as well as this, they saw props used in the film. In English, they have written balanced arguments to discuss who is responsible for the sinking of the ship, have created persuasive leaflets and written a recount of the school visit, as well as creating letters and postcards. In maths, the focus has been on place value, addition and subtraction. In science, Sycamore Class has been investigating forces, including making simple levers and investigating the most effective stream-lined planes. In RE, they have discussed how biblical ideas link love and forgiveness to world issues and have linked bible texts to Christian beliefs and actions. In art, they have painted Titanic pictures using watercolours and explored the differences in advertisements from the past compared to cruise ships today. We can't wait to learn all about space in Term 2.

### **Year 6**

This term Year 6 have been learning all about Shackleton's journey across Antarctica. They have produced some excellent non-chronological reports, animal fact-files and written brilliant formal letters applying to be a crew member aboard Endurance. All the children's writing this term has been written from the viewpoint of a particular crew member, whom they chose to research at the start of the term. They have created painted and drawn artwork around our topic along with creating a program for a 'microbit' to be used as a pedometer and designed a product for a client in DT. I think the children have loved this

topic and really engaged with all the work and were keen to find out what happened during every stage of the Transantarctic Expedition.

At the start of the term a large proportion of the children were very brave and decided to challenge themselves and give a speech to the school in an assembly as to why they would like to be House Captains and School Ambassadors. Every child in the school voted for their leaders and we now have 4 House Captains and 12 School Ambassadors, who are settling into their roles and doing a great job. We were immensely proud of all those children that gave a speech.

We look forward to Term 2 - having the children back for even more exciting learning and starting our new topic - Time Travel.

**Quick Reminder**

- Forest school sessions next term are for Year 4 and Year 5.
- Swimming will take place for Year 6

Wishing you all a fantastic half term break!

Warmest regards

**Mrs Kember**

Headteacher