



ST HELENS PRIMARY

Friday 19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another fantastic week at school with the children a pleasure to work with as usual.

Attendance has been spectacular with most children attending every session. As you know this represents figures for last week.

The Pioneers have impressed with writing (non-chronological reports) and fraction work. Improper fractions, equivalence, simplifying, lowest common denominators have been flying about on a daily basis. Galt, Sarah, Alex, George, Jack and Laura were keen to share their knowledge.

I was very impressed with my group's writing about animals in the rainforest. Well done Jasmine, Daisy, Hadleigh and Harry.

Discoverers continue to excel in many areas. William continues to impress with his literacy skills and so many children are presenting an excellent attitude to their learning.

The science experiments have been impressive with the room resembling a jungle (perhaps a slight exaggeration) following their planting sessions. They now recognise that water and light represent essential ingredients to successful growth whereas dark, hot or water-logged environments will be detrimental to good growth.

Adventurers have enjoyed being scientists this week. I know Mrs Rees particularly enjoyed her experienced of coming face to face with a real-life spider! Apparently it was the size of a hand according to the adults though I am pretty sure the occasional ones I see are more likely to be a few millimetres in diameter.

The weather has continued to provide an excellent working environment for the Explorers who combine the creative station, the new bakery, carpet area, sandpit, mud garden and many other areas to great effect.

**We look forward to another busy week before a break for Easter.
Well done everyone a great week.**

Please note that due to lockdown three, our main annual reports will be postponed until the end of the summer term when the staff will have worked with the children for a continuous during April, May and June.

Mr Wake

Explorers

Explorers have had another brilliant week. This week we have been gardening, preparing our vegetable patch to grow lots of lovely fruit and veg. We have big plans to grow a giant pumpkin and we have also planted lots of bulbs and renewed our wild flower garden. Fingers crossed we see lots of lovely flowers appearing this summer. Our school's new greenhouse has really come in handy too and we have expanded what we are growing this year with the use of the greenhouse. The children have had such fun gardening and investigating how things grow. Whilst gardening they also spotted lots of different bugs, we now have a pet ladybird called Spotty who lives in the soon-to-be flower garden. We also discussed how flowers are so important for the bees and discovered that bees have actually been around since the dinosaurs!

Inside the children have turned their role play into a Bakery. They have worked really hard to make signs, cakes, donuts to decorate the bakery with. They thoughtfully discussed and decided what they needed inside the bakery. They added phones to take orders, checked they had a mixer, bowls, spoons and so on. Also very importantly, a till and money so they can run their bakery properly. We have lots more exciting plans for the bakery next week too.

This week in Phonics we have been focusing on blending sounds and really listening to how we say words and sound them out carefully. We have seen some wonderful pieces of writing which has been great. In Maths we have been focusing on number, recognising numbers and looking each number as a physical quantity. We been looking at how many pennies we need for each item in the bakery and next week we plan to look at adding two different items together and finding out how many pennies we would then need.

Each week our explorers really impress us with their enthusiasm to learn and resilience in these unusual times. Great work Explorers!

Adventurers

This week we have focused on improving our knowledge of the continents and oceans around the world. Year 2 created great colour-coded world maps with a key for the continents. Year 1 focused on adding the continent names to the correct landmass on their world map. This is an area of learning that takes a lot of revisiting to embed so having a world map or globe for the children at home would be really beneficial.

In Maths, Year 2 have been focusing on adding 2 digit numbers using expanded column addition. All the children did very well, however I would like to mention that Alexis did really well and showed a super understanding of this method. Year 1 made jumps on a number line to add two 2-digit numbers. We were also able to do a little extra work on counting in 10s from any given number e.g. 34, 44, 54 etc. Taylor was the first to notice that the units stayed the same and the tens went up when he added ten to a 2-digit number.

In English the children enjoyed doing a spider hunt around the classroom, they were great at using prepositions to describe where the spiders were found. I am hoping that they found all the little

spiderlings and there will not be any jumping out at me over the next few weeks! We have also used labels and captions to add details to pictures of a spider body and the lifecycle of a spider. The week ended with a good debate "Should we like or dislike spiders?" Next week we will put together our learning to create a fact file about spiders (non-chronological report). We have listened to/taken part in an interactive didgeridoo music performance. The presentation encouraged the children to clap, sing and make didgeridoo sounds. They had a lot of fun with this and gave their opinions on whether they liked or disliked the music. Mrs Shenton has commented that many of the Year Two children have been excellent role models during PE and games lessons. Thank you to all the parents that are continuing with reading at home, this makes such a difference to your children's confidence and word reading. I have enjoyed listening to many of them read in phonics and guided reading sessions. Once again all of the children have been a pleasure to teach and we are looking forward to a final week of learning before the Easter holidays.

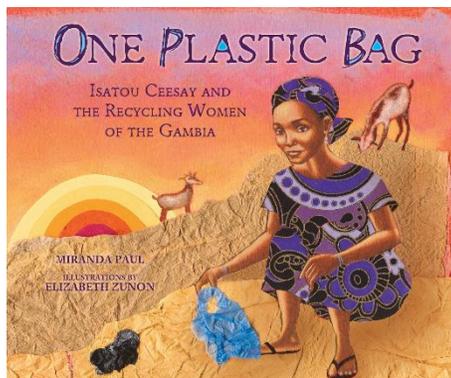
Discoverers

This week in Discoverers the time has flown by and here we are looking into the last week of the Spring Term.

In Literacy we have mainly been considering how to write playscripts. Firstly, we watched a short animation and then added our own dialogue between a little boy and an alien. Following this we focused on a scene in our book, Lob and transferred dialogue between Cornelius, a blind allotment holder and Lob himself into a playscript format. I was really impressed with how the children were independently able to add adverbs to indicate how the characters were feeling and acting. Some children also were able to add stage directions.

In Maths our focus has been on addition and subtraction and brushing up on number bonds and complements to 100 and 1000.

In Art we were looking at trees on Monday and enjoying some sketching "en plein air" as well as using some of our lessons to re-pot our pea and sunflower seeds. You may have noticed that for next Monday's art lesson I have asked the children to bring in an (perhaps) odd sock to make a sock bunny.



In guided reading we have begun looking at a new inspirational book called One Plastic Bag. a large majority of the class have felt quite strongly about the issue of plastic in the ocean so we have been creating posters with the slogan Plastic not Fantastic!

In Science this week we have been writing up our investigation into what conditions our mustard and cress seeds were able to germinate in. There were some interesting results from our cruelty to seeds! We were also entertained by the Science Magic Shows (find this on YouTube) and the children were intrigued and WOW'd by the science involved in the illusions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Pioneers

It has been a really lovely second week in Pioneers' Class since lockdown. I have been so impressed with the hard work and commitment to learning that all of the children have shown and they have settled well back into school.

For Maths, we have been adding fractions by trying to find the lowest common denominator. In English, we have been learning about: relative pronouns and clauses, colons, bullet points and commas and apostrophes for possession, in preparation for our independent writes next week.

We did our last life cycle in Science (incomplete metamorphosis of an insect) and had a really fun, messy Art lesson on Tuesday! The children created their own animals by using a range of resources. All the children had so much fun doing it and it was really lovely to see.

In R.E, we considered what the symbols might be for a selection of different crosses, which coincides with our Easter theme, 'The Symbol of the Cross' for Christians. For Topic, the children have been considering the similarities and differences between Brazil and the Isle of Wight and we have begun to research different jobs that we might like to do in PSHE.

Well done Daniel for using a really difficult relative pronoun (whose) to write a relative clause in English.

Well done Frankie for being so kind and supportive to other children in the class.

Well done Hadleigh for being able to add fractions with different denominators and for solving multi-step problems in Maths.

Well done Jacob for using his initiative to help the adults tidy up the classroom after Art.

Attendance week from: 08/03/21 to 12/03/2021

Class	Attendance	Late Arrivals	Minutes Lost Through Lateness	Unauthorised Absences	Authorised Absences
Explorers	100%	0	0	0	0
Adventurers	100%	0	0	0	0
Discoverers	99.1%	0	0	2	1
Pioneers	98.0%	0	0	4	0

Although we strive for 100%, our whole school attendance for this week was 99.3%, which is above the national expectation of 96%

If your child is too unwell to attend school please contact us to let us know. You can phone on 872442 or email us on admin@sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk If you let us know by phone please can you put the reason for your child's absence in writing when they return to school otherwise the absence will be marked as unauthorised. We are required to ask you for this in order to follow the Local Authority attendance procedures, and if we don't receive a letter or email we have to follow it up.



THIS WEEKS AWARDS



<u>Class</u>	<u>Worker of the Week</u>	<u>Star of The Week</u>
Explorers	Finn	Max
Adventurers	Emily	Clara
Adventurers	Sami	Bella
Discoverers	Nikola	Lottie
Discoverers	Samson	Elsie
Pioneers	Daniel	Frankie
Pioneers	Hadleigh	Jacob



We would like to wish a very 'Happy Birthday' to the following children and staff who celebrated their special day this week:

Mrs Jenvey

ISLE of WIGHT COUNCIL

FREE
COVID-19 TESTS

For people without symptoms

Free, twice weekly rapid response testing for COVID-19 is now available for [members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils](#).

Schools' supplies of lateral flow test kits are for school pupils and/or school staff only.

Wider households are encouraged to visit Newclose testing site to collect their test kits, get tested through a workplace scheme or book an appointment at a community testing site for a supervised asymptomatic test.

They can also order home test kits online if they cannot visit a test site for an appointment or collection.

The 'Shift IT' project promotes active sustainable travel to and from school. This is done by working closely with individual schools to develop bespoke and comprehensive programmes of exciting activities and events that work for the community they serve. The current Isle of Wight 'Shift IT' project is funded by the Isle of Wight Council as part of the DfT's Sustainable Travel Access Fund.



School Streets Survey - One of the things we are trying to help the council with at the moment is building up a picture of peoples experience at drop off and pick up times. Could I ask parents, staff, pupils and governors to complete the following short survey link. The survey takes 2 minutes to complete and is open until the end of March.

<https://forms.gle/X53Vt3megC4No2dP8>

School Dinner Menu (£2.15 per day or free to Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils)

		IOW SPRING MENU 2021						
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
WEEK ONE 4 Jan 25 Jan 22 Feb 15 Mar	Option 1	Macaroni Cheese	Pork Sausages, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken Tikka Curry with 50/50 Rice	Fish Fingers/Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips		
	Option 2	Soya Spaghetti Bolognaise	Vegetarian Sausages, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Vegetable Wellington with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Lentil & Basil Puff Pastry Whirl with Wedges	Cheese Frittata with Chips		
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Peas	Cauliflower Cabbage	Swede & Carrot Mash	Broccoli Carrots	Baked Beans Peas		
	Dessert	Marble Sponge with Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Apple, Cheese & Crackers Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Pineapple Cake Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Cocoa Cookie Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit		
WEEK TWO 11 Jan 1 Feb 1 Mar 22 Mar	Option 1	Sausage Roll with Wedges	Sweet & Sour Chicken with Rice	Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken & Red Pepper Pizza with Wedges	Fish in Batter with Chips		
	Option 2	Tomato & Vegetable Pasta	Five Bean Chilli with 50/50 Rice	Quorn Roast Fillet with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Lentil & Sweet Potato Curry with 50/50 Rice	Wholemeal Cheese & Tomato Quiche with Chips		
	Vegetables	Sweetcorn Baked Beans	Peas Carrots	Fresh Mixed Vegetables	Sweetcorn Broccoli	Baked Beans Peas		
	Dessert	Oaty Apple Crumble & Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Drizzle Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Pear & Ginger Slice Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Orange & Lemon Shortbread Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit		
WEEK THREE 18 Jan 8 Feb 8 Mar	Option 1	Cheese & Tomato French Bread Pizza	Beef Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce with 50/50 Rice	Roast Gammon, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Cottage Pie with Gravy	Fish Fingers with Chips		
	Option 2	Jacket Potato with BBQ Beans	Vegetable Hotpot	Potato & Courgette Stack with Roast Potatoes	Broccoli & Cheese Pasta Bake	Vegan Mexican Bean Roll with Chips		
	Vegetables	Coleslaw Mixed Salad	Sweetcorn Broccoli	Peas Cauliflower	Green Beans Carrots	Baked Beans Peas		
	Dessert	Oaty Cookie Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Banana Sponge & Custard Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Chocolate & Mandarin Brownie Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit	Peaches & Ice Cream Yoghurt / Fresh Fruit		

Available Daily

- Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings (where advertised)
- Bread freshly baked on site daily
- Daily salad selection

ALLERGY INFORMATION

If your child has an allergy or intolerance, please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance, you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of cross-contamination.

If your child would like the vegetarian option on a particular day, please can they let their teacher know so we can order enough portions from Bembridge kitchen.

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 26th March - School closes for the Easter Break
Monday 12th April - School reopens at 8.45am for the Summer Term
Friday 23rd April – ‘Flower Power’ Mufti Day
Monday 3rd May – School Closed Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 17th May – Sports for Champions athlete visit
Friday 28th May - School closes for half term
Monday 7th June - School reopens at 8.45am
Monday 28th June – Staff Development Day – school closed to children
Friday 23rd July - School closes for the Summer Break

Textile Bank

Don't forget that we have a textile bank where you can donate unwanted **clothes, belts, paired shoes, bags, hats, bedding and towels (in a tied bag)**. The donated items will be collected and weighed fortnightly and the school will receive 20p per kilo towards our funds. **Donated items (bagged please) should be left near to the front entrance of the school. Please let the office know you have left items!** ***Please do not donate duvets, pillows, cushions, household textiles, soiled rags as the recycling company will deduct the cost of disposing of these items from our overall total raised.***

Remember to look at the school website for the latest school updates and information at www.sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk

Friends of St Helens Primary (FOSH)

FOSH Wish List

We would like to thank everyone who has bought a lovely gift for our school from the **FOSH Amazon wish list**, your gift is hugely appreciated by all the staff and pupils. Unfortunately Amazon is not able to tell us who our kind donors are so we are unable to thank you personally, but rest assured, we are very grateful!

If you would like to buy a gift for the school, please follow the link for access to our amazon wish list and select the FOSH address (which is school's) when you check out.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1NM3IHB3UQ7V0?ref_=wl_share

FOSH Uniform Sale

Friends of St Helens now have an online store where you can purchase pre-loved uniform items. All items have been checked and laundered and orders will be sent home via your children.

You can find the shop on FOSH's website:

www.friendsofsthelens.org/shop

All profits go to help FOSH in their efforts to provide support, events and supplies for the children.