





Friday 26th January 2024

# **Dear Parents and Carers,**

This week has been another interesting week. Due to a variety of reasons, some staff have stepped up and offered their support when it has been needed. Miss Powell, Miss Gorman and Mrs Ferrier have added 'new strings to their bows' which has been appreciated.

After a number of Interviews this week, we have employed a new TA who will commence her role after half term.

We have also made arrangements for a temporary member of staff to support during the summer term. In addition, we have another adult who has offered her support on two days a week in Adventurers.

Although we are a small school, having a full complement of staff makes a huge difference.

On Monday we were joined by Mrs Lamb, our excellent governor who listened to readers from year 2. I know she loved the experience.

Thanks to all our volunteers, governors and staff for their continued efforts.

I understand the FOSH is able to continue with new members taking over the senior roles. This is great news as the FOSH have always been a major asset to the school and have provided a range of valuable experiences for our children over the years.

Although some clubs were postponed this week, others have continued which helps to provide the children with a range of extra-curricular opportunities.

Assembly was a great experience as usual with all the children deserving their certificates for an array of reasons.

In class Taylor enjoyed his final write in his latest learning journey and Barnaby loved 'corners' in the PE lesson.

Tessa loves her art and Jarryd his diary writing.

Adventurers enjoyed their computing day. IT and English combined as they completed an epic computer-driven story.

The Explorers have been counting the birds who visit our site as part of the birdwatch annual count. Tilly, Isabella, Betty, Ronnie and others agreed that blackbirds and pigeons are the most regular visitors.

In two weeks they visit Amazon World which I know they love. Who doesn't love animals!!

Next week swimming and clubs will continue with additional visitors including a Rural Life Workshop, nutritionist, school nurses, Mr Freestone (who will be sharing his Antarctica experiences) and a maths expert all adding to the experiences on offer.

# Have a great weekend

Mr Wake

#### Attendance week from: 15/01/2024 to 19/01/2024

Class	Attendance	Late Arrivals	Minutes Lost Through Lateness	Unauthorised Absences	Authorised Absences
Explorers	90.6%	0	0	2	10
Adventurers	88.3%	2	50	2	32
Discoverers	96%	1	95	1	9
Pioneers	89.6%	0	0	10	18

Although we strive for 100%, our whole school attendance for this week was 91% which is below 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.



<u>Class</u>	Worker of the Week	<u>Star of</u> <u>The Week</u>
Explorers	Jamie	Rowan
Adventurers	Noah	Luke
Adventurers	Alfred	Alena
Discoverers	Frazer	Zach
Discoverers	Thomas	Luke
Pioneers	Tessa	Blossom
Pioneers	Milly A	Josiah

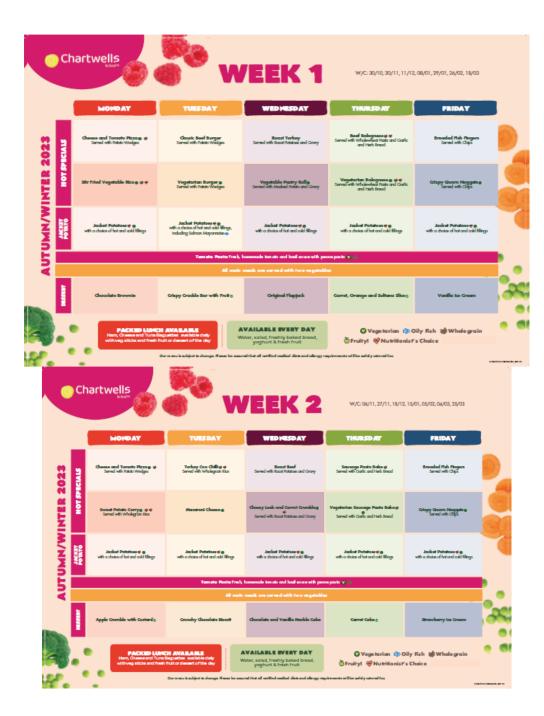
School Dinner Menu (£2.75) per day or free to Reception, Year 1 & 2 pupils)

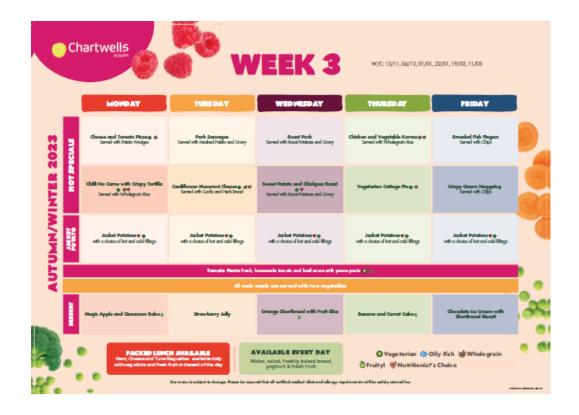
On <u>TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS only</u>, the children will be able to order baguettes - fillings cheese, tuna or ham.

FROM WEEK COMMENCING 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, BAGUETTE DAYS WILL BE TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. BAGUETTES WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE ON FRIDAYS.

# **Upcoming menu changes**







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 The Bay kitchen.

## **Dates for Your Diary**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January - Discoverers visit to Independent Arts/Newport Guildhall

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - FOSH Bingo 5-7pm

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Explorers trip to Amazon World

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February — School closes at 3.00pm for half term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February — School reopens at 8.45am for Spring term 2

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Adventurers trip to Wildheart Sanctuary

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March — Staff Development Day — school closed to children

Friday 15th/Saturday 16th March -St Helens Primary 50th Anniversary

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March — School closes at 3.00pm for Easter holidays

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April - School reopens at 8.45am for the Summer term

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May - May Bank Holiday - school closed

Monday 13th to Thursday 16th May - KS2 SATs

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Class Photos with Cardwell & Simons

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May - School closes at 3.00pm for half term

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - School reopens at 8.45am for Summer term 2

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June - RNLI Day

Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th June – Year 5/6 Residential trip

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July - School closes at 3.00pm for Summer holidays

#### **FOSH NEWS**

FOSH's AGM was held last night (Thursday 25th) and we want to take this opportunity to thank all those who were able to attend. Matt Searle (Hannah in year 5's dad) was elected Chair, Erin Warner (Amelia in year 1's mum) was elected Secretary and Joanne Doe (Miles in year 1's mum) was elected Treasurer. If you would like to join the committee or are able to help at any events, please get in touch with us via <a href="mailto:foshsthelens@gmail.com">foshsthelens@gmail.com</a> or speak to a FOSH member outside school. The more people involved, the more successful we can be!



#### Report covering period:

2nd March 2023-25th January 2024

The Friends of St Helens Primary School (FOSH) exists to support our small community school. We are a group of parents, carers and friends who organise fundraising and social events for the children and families of the school. We use our funds to provide additional support to the school and its pupils.

Meetings are held regularly throughout the school year to discuss and plan events and to approve spending requests from staff at the school. We try to include all our members in decision making and have a Whatsapp group set up for discussion with those members who are not able to attend meetings. Any parent or carer is welcome to join any meeting and we try to ensure that the wider school community is aware of upcoming meetings via the school newsletter, text messages and posters outside school.

This last year has been a successful one and we have raised funds in line with previous years. We have spent more money this year on requests from staff at school but have maintained a healthy surplus in our account. Money has been spent on school trips, books, outdoor equipment and the Winter Bail as well as refreshments for the children at sports day and Easter eggs for every child. We were thrilled to be able to give each class a £50 gift at the end of last term and have received thanks from the teachers. The extra money was greatly appreciated and has gone on craft activities and sensory equipment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported FOSH over the last year. Everyone on the committee has an important role to play and every family that supports an event is hugely appreciated. The children have benefited enormously from everyone's hard work and I am so proud of everything that we have achieved.

Over the last 5 years I have held the position of Chair four times and the role of Secretary once. I have found the experience of running FOSH to be hugely rewarding and I have immensely enjoyed my time in charge. I have worked with people who I would not normally get the opportunity to collaborate with and I have made some great friends. I believe the beauty of an organisation like ours is its diversity, with everyone coming to the table with something different to offer and I know that St Helens Primary School is richer for FOSH's existence. I wish the new officers my sincerest best wishes and hope that the group goes from strength to strength over the coming years.

Katherine Hall 25/01/24

# This Week's Class Updates

# **Explorers**

Another fantastic week in Explorers!

We have been looking at different animals and their habitats. The children have been discussing how we can improve our garden for animals to use when we're not there.

In phonics this week we have done the sounds 'oa, oo, oo and ar' and have revised the tricky words 'my' and 'are'. The children have loved playing blending games on the interactive whiteboard as well as some board games. In maths we have been focusing on our counting skills, using instructions, rhymes and games to help us practise different methods of counting.



This week has been the Big Bird Watch. The children have enjoyed discussing different birds we may see in our gardens. On Thursday we went out on the field and tallied all the birds we could see for half an hour, we then came back to class and shared our recordings with each other to create an average to submit to the RSPB. On Friday we then each chose a bird from yesterday to draw and colour before writing some great descriptions about our chosen birds! This afternoon we have been making bird feeders out of cheerios and pipe cleaners for the gardens!

We have sent a letter home about our upcoming trip to Amazon world on Wednesday 7th February, which will link nicely to our class discussions about animals and their habitats.

The children are very excited!

#### **Adventurers**

The children have had a wonderful week. Starting their computing animation project, using clocks to help them to tell the time and finishing off their wolf trap instructions. Which they then enjoyed a full

Genparative Test: Do bananas make us run faster:

LO: I can run a fair test to see if bananas make people faster.

Yes, It will make them faster.

It will give you more energy

It is healthy

No. It wen't make them faster.

It is healthy

No. It wen't make them faster.

It is healthy

No. It wen't make them faster.

It is just fruit energy

It is healthy

No. They contain slow release energy.

It is healthy

No. They contain slow release energy.

computing day to edit, type & publish beautifully. It was a wild and wonderful Thursday for everyone involved. Who knew 5-7 year olds would need a whole day to create such brilliant masterpieces.



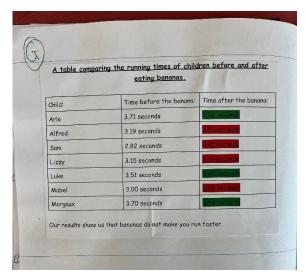
thought us to class some as to they They

In

and

time

not make you faster, but they're apples would.



science they made predictions on if they bananas might help run faster. With the coming up with balanced reasons why they thought might/might not. then ran a comparative test timed the same children. They discovered that this around, bananas did curious as to if

In history the class explored the biggest achievements of Florence Nightingale and designed her a medal to accompany this.

Pretty much everyone received 5/5 again on their spelling tests, it's really starting to show out who is practising their spellings each week!! Well done. The children that repeatedly do not bring in their books and are not showing improvements will begin to miss part of their lunch break to work with Miss Gorman on the spellings they have not done on a Friday. This is for the children's tricky word progression as it is so important they have these words secured as they move up in the school. It's also not something we enjoy doing!

Please can we remind children that toys from home are not permitted at school as we do not take responsibility for things that get damaged or lost and we'd hate to see kids upset.

It would also be lovely for parents to have quick chats with their kids about being silly with their water bottles in school. We are continuously giving reminders about being gentle with their things and we've lost count of the water bottles that have broken so far this term.

Have wonderful weekends!

# **Discoverers**

This week in science we did an experiment if people with longer femurs can jump further than people with shorter femurs I

learnt that people with longer femurs does not make a difference to a jump. Today in maths we did partitioning by using 3 and 4 digit addition. After we did our final write of the Stone Age Boy we typed it up in neat on the computer. In hand writing we practised ascenders and descenders. In Art we have been learning about space and elements.

Made by Logan and Barnaby.







On Tuesday this week

Pioneers had a great time this week creating their Antarctic characters out of specialised modelling clay and creating stop-go animated stories. The children have all displayed a real talent for this and have worked in groups of three to create some super stories. Over the next couple of weeks we will be editing and hopefully adding a musical soundtrack. I hope to show you more next week.



A story from Pioneers class shortlisted for IW Story Festival Following a visit to school in October 2023 by Ian Dickens (Charles Dickens', great , great grandson) the children in Year 5 submitted stories (based on our last book of the Autumn Term Wolf Wilder) as part of the forthcoming IW Story Festival

I am pleased to tell you that Millie Sanders in Year 5 has been shortlisted. She is one of 12 children out of 105 entries from 12 schools across the Isle of Wight.

A panel of Dickens descendants (including a book editor from a leading Publishing house, an actor and two published authors) read all the stories. They created a shortlist of 12 and the Island's High Sheriff Dawn Haig-Thomas and Elspeth Giddings (chair of the IW Story Festival) will select the top three.



The event, which will be held at at Quay Arts, Newport, at midday (12 noon) on Friday 16th February, will be when Millie will learn whether her story was highly commended (and receive a £10 book token), was placed third (£25 in book tokens) placed second (£50 book tokens) or is the overall winner (£100 of book tokens and their height in books for the school library.

The announcement and prize giving will be held in Quay Arts theatre and pupils, their family and teachers will all be very welcome.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwu17v77jOU

Here is her story which had a limit of 500 words. The Lost Wolf By Amelia Sanders Age 10 St Helens Primary School Over 100 years ago there was a boy called Charlie Sins. He had brown hair and blue eyes. He was very poor and he lived with his mum. She was called Hayley. They did not have lots of money but they could afford to rent a small cottage deep in the woods in the middle of the Isle of Wight.

It was winter time, the year 1862, the forest was cold and it was covered in thick snow. Charlie liked to play with his wolf friends. His favourite wolf was called Shadow. They always played together. He had known Shadow since she was a pup and reared her, as her mum was killed by Queen Victoria's hunters, sadly.

One early morning, Charlie made his breakfast, he heard Shadow howling. Charlie went and looked outside he saw hunters footprints in the snow, he followed the footprints to a tall tower in the woods. Charlie went inside the tower, he found a gun and a cage, he thought the hunters might kill Shadow. Charlie went to the local gun shop and bought a gun and went back to his cottage. Bullets were not sold at the local gun shop, so he made his way back to the cottage and had to get some from the kitchen drawer. After that, he went to find Shadow but he couldn't find her anywhere. He looked around the forest and went to the tower again but she was nowhere to be seen. Charlie felt tired and fell asleep in the tower, it got very dark.

"Mum, I'm here". Mum headed toward the sound of his voice. Charlie found mum and they fell into each other's arms,

"Mum the hunters have taken Shadow, I have to find her", he raised his voice higher, "Please help me". They looked all over the forest but she was nowhere to be seen. They were devastated.

A few days later Charlie saw a ticket in the frosty snow, it was a circus ticket. He thought he would like to go as he was very upset over losing Shadow. Next day, they headed to the circus. When the circus began he saw Shadow, she had a chain around her neck, she was directly in the middle of the circus ring. Charlie ran towards Shadow, Shadow saw Charlie and howled, He freed her and they ran out of the circus, mum followed, the circus owner was very angry. He shook his fists in the air, but Charlie kept running, until he and Shadow reached home.

#### **Textile Bank**

Don't forget that we have a textile bank where you can donate unwanted clothes, belts, paired shoes, bags, hats, (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, curtains, blankets 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 <a href="https://www.sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk">www.sthelenspri.iow.sch.uk</a>

### **Measles Outbreak**

You will have seen the news regarding the rise in cases of measles in London and the large outbreaks in the West Midlands.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has now declared a national incident in order to focus actions to limit the spread. Further outbreaks of measles will spread to other towns and cities unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination uptake in areas at greatest risk. Children who get measles can be very poorly and some will suffer life changing complications.

To support this incident the Department of Education (DfE) has published What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school guidance for parents and for schools.

UKHSA have stated that measles is not currently circulating in the south-east, there are cases in London and a sustained outbreak in the West Midlands (specifically Coventry and Birmingham but now in all local authority areas in the region) but at the moment in the SE, rashes are more than likely to be for other reasons (particularly in children). However being prepared is important.





# **Daisy Bus Bingo!**

There will be fundraising bingo at The Vine Inn, St Helens on March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

£5 for 5 games

Come along and support this invaluable service provided by Wessex Cancer Trust.



### Supporting Parent Relationships with Separating better app

Separating parents living on the Isle of Wight are among the first in the country to have access to a new app designed to help them self-manage their separation.

Separating better has been created by the UK's leading relationship research and innovation charity OnePlusOne, with funding from the Department for Works and Pensions. It features tools to help with many practical elements of separation such as budgeting and legal arrangements. It also offers parents a template to create their own parenting plans to help them agree how to co-parent their children effectively.

An in-app quiz helps parents to understand where they are emotionally in their separation journey and a series of *Work it out* videos help parents learn communication skills which they can use to coparent effectively and keep their children's best interests at the heart of their decision-making.

#### How to get started:

- 1. Download the FREE app here
- 2. Take the emotion readiness quiz
- 3. Access all of the app features for FREE as you progress through your separation journey

Only two areas in the country will have access to this app ahead of its national launch in spring 2024, and OnePlusOne are keen to hear the views of parents who use it. Download the app for more information about how to offer feedback.

Parents living on the Island can also access a number of other free digital resources created by OnePlusOne. These provide support for a range of parental relationship issues, including becoming parents, coping with stress, debt and relationships and learning to argue better. To find out more visit: <a href="https://familyinfohub.iow.gov.uk/oneplusone">https://familyinfohub.iow.gov.uk/oneplusone</a>

For further information about Separating better, please email <a href="mailto:supporting.parents@iow.gov.uk">supporting.parents@iow.gov.uk</a>

Adult Community Learning are pleased to launch their new spring programme of workshops and courses ranging from, English, maths, ICT, Art, Craft, and Wellbeing, plus a wide range of FREE short online courses.

On Sunday 10 March between 10.30am and 12.30pm, we will be celebrating International Women's Day with a morning of workshops. These workshops on Brush Lettering, Macrame Bracelets and Springtime Wreaths are open to adults 19+ with one accompanied child over 10yrs and cost £10 per adult and £5 per child. Pease note that only adult bookings and payments can be done on our website, so please e-mail or call us if you would also like to book for a child.

If you are interested in developing your skills further, perhaps to retrain or return to work, why not book a careers appointment with our information, advice, and guidance professional? She will tailor the appointment to your needs and can offer you help with CV writing, covering letters, application forms or support you with career changes, redundancy, education, and training.

Our ICT suite is also open every Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm (term time only), for anyone wishing to access online learning or get support from a tutor.

For more information and to book, head over to our website <a href="www.iow.gov.uk/ACLcourses">www.iow.gov.uk/ACLcourses</a>, call our office on 01983 817280 or pop into The Learning Centre, Westridge, Ryde.





A great opportunity to ignite the spark, to understand the importance of learning STEM and become familiar with the great opportunities in Technologies and Engineering.

CECAMM College of Engineering have a Open Day tomorrow, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10am-2pm, at

their site in Whippingham. They have invited a host of local, national and international employers to share information about their industries and what skills they are looking for in young engineers.

Some of the employers you will have a chance to meet include:

BAE Systems GKN Aerospace Johnson Electric, Parlex RNLI DDC Electronics

They hope to see you there!

