



Welcome to the first half termly newsletter of 2012!

Dear Parents / Carers,

I can't quite believe that half term is nearly here, and what an excellent start to 2012 it has been. I never cease to be amazed by the children of St. Helen's interest and motivation in learning, their respect and care for one another and their imagination and ideas for the development of their school.

This half term has seen the start of a restructuring of the school library and reading scheme system, the organising of both day and residential trips for the future, the development of the school website and much more!



There was a great response to our questionnaire about communication—thank you. Your comments have been analysed and as a result of parental feedback, we will continue to send correspondence from school by means of a letter and also website updates. Texts will continue to be sent as necessary but emails will be used less frequently.

Parent/teacher consultations will be taking place in the week beginning 27 February 2012. Please sign up to make an appointment with your child's class teacher.

Appointment booking sheets are displayed on your child's classroom door. As a school we value the opportunity to meet with you and share information regarding your child's progress, please ensure you sign up, or ask a friend to do so for you.

Please continue to read with your child on a daily basis and support them with homework tasks. All research shows that children who receive regular support at home, make better progress in school.

I wish you all a very happy and restful half term.

Congratulations



To all of the children in the school for their fantastic 'sea themed' artwork which can be viewed at Burton Art Gallery until mid February – please do find time to visit!

Miss Mitchell and Mrs Ford were presented with a certificate from the gallery on behalf of the school.

A special well done to our school football team who won five out of six matches in their latest tournament, some of which were against schools considerably larger than St. Helen's – a fantastic effort!

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Thank you

Thank you to all of our volunteers who kindly give up their time to come into school to support the children in different aspects of their learning, to run music, craft and sports activities and to catalogue the books in the new library. We really do appreciate all that you do to aid and enrich the curriculum for the children.

A very special thank you goes to Samantha Hinson who generously donated some of

her books to the school library. If you have any good quality,

unwanted books, please do send them in and help us to boost our school library stock.

If you know anyone who has any free time and would like to come into school on a regular basis and support with a specific activity, or just to provide general support, please let the Admin staff know.



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Dates for your diary

(Please note these are subject to change)

13th-17th February – Half Term

20th February – Jigsaw Art Project – Year 5 (based in school)

22nd February – Ash Wednesday service – St Helens Church – all welcome

27th February – 2nd March – Parent/Teacher consultation week

6th March – KS2 Eden Project trip

6th March – KS1 trip to Exmoor Zoo

9th March – Allsorts 3:30-5:30pm

16th March – Non-School Uniform Day – Donation of chocolate please

22nd March – Bideford Learning Community Singing Festival

23rd March – Easter Fayre

28th March – School Open Afternoon

30th March – Break up for Easter

www.abbotsham-sthelens.devon.sch.uk

News from St. Helen's FPTA

'Our motivation continues to be for the children...'

Thanks!

A big 'thank you' to the school community for all the fantastic support over the last year, particularly in the run up to Christmas!

The Christmas Fayre, held in school for the first time, was a great success and was very well attended.

The Christmas disco was a hit with the children, who were delighted that the committee had answered their plea to have a 'disco in the dark'!

Christmas market stalls were held at local farmers' markets, and we are very grateful to all who supported this venture in any way.

Funds raised...

October Cake Sale **£128.91**

WWII Afternoon Tea **£62.45**

Christmas Fayre **£650.01**

Christmas Dinner Raffle **£165.65**

(thanks to F. Heard Quality Meats)

Snowflakes / Crackers **£25.90**

Christmas Markets **£619.97**



Forthcoming events

16th March – AGM

16th March – Non-School Uniform (as above)

23rd March – Easter Fayre (as above)

28th March – Open Afternoon *

27th April – Family Quiz

30th May – Diamond Jubilee Celebrations *

*Further information to follow