



Newsletter

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Message from Mr McCoy

I can't believe we are at the end of week 2. It has been lovely to have all of the Reception children with us all day this week, they are loving spending time in their new learning environment. Mr Dagnall and I enjoyed discussing our Bleak Hill Values with the children this week during Collective Worship, make sure to ask the children what my favourite word is. Some of our Year 6 children have had the opportunity to take part in Bikeability this week and it has been great to see them enjoying themselves, the rest of our Year 6 children will get the opportunity in the coming weeks.

Next week sees our first Friends of Bleak Hill meeting take place, it would be great to see some new faces. We are meeting at school on Wednesday 20th September at 6.30pm. Have a great weekend!

Future communications to parents from class teachers

Teachers have uploaded a year ahead PowerPoint for parents to view on each year group page on the school website. Please take the time to read this information about your child's year ahead.

Teachers will be communicating any class pictures or events via their password protected gallery on their year group page. (passwords were sent earlier this week to parents to access the galleries)

If you wish to discuss anything with your child's class teacher please either speak to them at drop off/pick up to arrange an appointment or email bleakhillparents@sthelens.org.uk

Merit Award - Children who appreciate the school community

	R.O.T.W	W.O.T.W	M.O.T.W	Bronze	Silver	Gold
RHE	David D	Scarlett S	George D	Harriet B	Jessica S	Jack T
RHU	Jessica C	James D	Louie S	Mia P	Oliver McD	Indie F-G
RR	Edward C	Caleb T	Lucy J	Daniel C	Hollie G	Finan H
1A	Isla N	Ella W	Arthur D	Felicity B	Roman G	Zara A
1CS	Alex M	Ruby W	Leo R	Bobby H	Hannah C	Harriet L
1M	Ben M	Albie P-S	Kimberly R	Ben B	Miya L	Frahzer N
2G	Sadie M	Sienna B	Lucas C	Harry B	Pippa I	Max B
2J	Thea H	Grace C	Oliver H	Martha B	Charlie G	Jude D
2W	Joe T	Mason P	Evan W	Edie F	Alfie W	Harrison J
3D	Elliot K	Gerard C	Nancy A	Nicole M	Hugo L	Emily A
3H	Olivia C	Martha M	Regan T	Louie R	Molly McW	Ava B
3M	Fifi N-W	Imogen D	Regan L	Lottie B	Jude M	Jamie O'B
4C	Darcey T	Andriana C	Oliver W	Amelia B	Luke B	Phoebe C
4MC	Lydia C	Sophia M-L	Devon M-S	Joseph S	Camron F	Edith K-G
4MO	Teddy R-G	Hawley A	Emily L	Jacob H	Rosie K	Una-Blu Q-D
5B	Amelie P	Finley D	Niamh B	Thomas B	Elliott C	Isabelle K
5W	Max R	Thomas O'B	Lilly W	Annabelle K	Charlotte T	Oscar C
6D	Daniel K	Stanley W	Theo F	Athelia R	Joshua N	Isla B
6W	Diya S	Max N	Seren R	Alex D	Imogen A	Millie W

What's on next week

18.09.2023	Before School	During School	After School
Monday		Y2 & Y6 PE	
Tuesday	Football Y3 & 4 - Ian McMinn (external provider) Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y4 & Y5 PE Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider)	Young Voices Y5 & 6 - Mrs Burrows Exit via main reception at 4.15pm
Wednesday	Dance Y2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Karen Elliott (external provider) Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1, Y3 & Y6 PE Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider)	Gymnastics Y1 & 2 - Future Gym (external provider) Exit via main reception at 4.15pm
Thursday	Football Y1 & 2 - Ian McMinn (external provider) Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1, Y2 & Y5 PE Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider)	Athletics Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - Future Gym (external provider) Exit via main reception at 4.20pm
Friday	Gymnastics Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - Future Gym (external provider) Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y3 & Y4 PE Y6 - Bikeability (groups confirmed via school spider) 6D Swimming	

Friends of Bleak Hill



FOBH AGM and Committee Meeting

The next meeting is taking place on Wednesday 20th September in school at 6.30pm.

New members very welcome to attend!

EasyFundraising

Sign up to support Friends of Bleak Hill - St Helens on #easyfundraising, they will give you a £5 shopping voucher once you have raised your first £5 - PLUS we will get a bonus £5 donation, it's win, win! It's simple to join and you can raise FREE donations whenever you shop online with over 5,200 retailers.



Sign up here: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-bleak-hill-st-helens/?invite=7NZFK9&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=ew5sharebox



COME TO
the BOOK FAIR!

AND EARN FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL



Illustration from Dog Man © Dav Pilkey; When Cookie Crumbled © Tom Knight, 2023

Book Fair Tuesday 26th September - Thursday 28th September 2023

Our Scholastic School Book Fair is held in the school hall and will be open between the hours 8.30 - 9.00am and 3.10 - 3.45pm each day in the school hall.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Apply for a Blue Peter Book badge



Introducing the exciting new Book badge, designed by one of the UK's best known illustrators, Sir Quentin Blake; who you might know from bringing to life characters such as Roald Dahl's BFG and Matilda! To earn your badge, just share your love of books with us by answering the questions below! You can apply using our online form or by post.

Please visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge?>

Is my child too ill for school?

Find out when it's best to keep your sick child at home and when it's OK to send them to school.

Please visit for help and guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Polish Heritage
at the Smithy
Free Entry



*Polskie Dziedzictwo w
Smithy Heritage Centre
Wstęp wolny*

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th September, 12noon-5pm

Join us for a weekend of local history for all the family, inspired by our exhibition about Stefan Skura, a Polish blacksmith who made a new life for himself in St Helens after World War II. Learn more about Polish culture, taste Polish treats, and try free traditional crafts too!



Saturday 16th September: find out what life was like for allied soldiers in World War II with our field kitchen living history display. Make Polish floral wreaths and pisanki eggs.

Sunday 17th September: Merseyside Polonia and John Paul II Polish Saturday School in Liverpool will hold special storytelling sessions about Wojtek the Bear with themed crafts. Bring along your own favourite toy and join in with our Teddy Bears Picnic!



Enjoy delicious refreshments in our tearoom. Please note, it is cash only.
Smithy Heritage Centre is step-free throughout with accessible toilets and baby change facilities. On-site parking is limited.

This event is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority as the lead authority.



On Sunday 17th September, *The Great Eccleston Bake-off* is back for the 8th time! Amateur bakers of all ages can enter, with prizes and trophies to be won! The cakes are blind-tasted by a panel of judges from St Helens WI to ensure fairness, then a Winner and Runner Up are selected. There is also an award for Best Decorated Cake, to be voted for by visitors. Download an entry form and rules at smithyheritagecentre.org.uk or get one from the Smithy.

All Day. Every Day.



Attendance Matters

Attendance	
Whole School	98.1%
Reception	99.3%
Year 1	98.3%
Year 2	98.6%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	97.7%
Year 5	96.5%
Year 6	98.5%



Attendance Update

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our **96% target** this will help us to succeed!

Our attendance for 5-8 Sept was:

98.1%

Our attendance for the year so far is: **98.1%**

Please see the additional information on Is my child too ill for school.

All illness should be reported to the school office either via Spider, Email or phone on the first day of absence by 9am.

LITTLE REMINDERS OF HOW TO BE KIND ONLINE

ONLINE ABUSE CAN HAVE A SEVERE IMPACT ON PEOPLE'S LIVES AND IS OFTEN TARGETED AT THE MOST VULNERABLE. CYBERBULLYING HAS BEEN SHOWN TO HAVE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPACT. IN ORDER FOR US TO DEVELOP EMPATHY FOR OTHERS WE SOMETIMES NEED TO MOVE AWAY FROM FULFILLING OUR OWN NEEDS AND THINK ABOUT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. THIS IS SOMETIMES MORE CHALLENGING ONLINE BECAUSE WE CANNOT SEE THE PERSON, CONNECT WITH HOW THEY FEEL NOR INTERACT FACE TO FACE.

THIS GUIDE WILL HELP YOU TO BE MORE CAREFUL ONLINE AND IS SUITABLE FOR ANY ENVIRONMENT I.E. GAMING, MESSAGING AND SOCIAL MEDIA. IT WILL HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOWING KINDNESS AND HOW TO DEVELOP EMPATHY ONLINE.

TOP TIPS FOR EVERYBODY

#WAKEUPWEDNESDAY

UNDERSTAND WHAT 'EMPATHY' IS

EMPATHY IS THE SKILL OF RECOGNISING, UNDERSTANDING AND CARING ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON'S FEELINGS AND TAKING ACTION TO HELP. THIS IS TRICKIER ONLINE BECAUSE RECOGNISING AND IMAGINING HOW ANOTHER PERSON FEELS IS HARD WHEN WE ARE NOT WITH THEM FACE TO FACE. WHEN WE TRY AND UNDERSTAND HOW SOMEONE FEELS THROUGH WORDS ALONE, IT CAN LEAD TO CONFUSION OR A MISUNDERSTANDING.



FEEL, SEE AND UNDERSTAND

IF WE IMAGINE OURSELVES IN THE SITUATION OF ANOTHER PERSON, WE TAKE ANOTHER STEP DOWN THE PATH OF EMPATHY. IT DOESN'T MEAN AGREEING WITH THE OTHER PERSON, BUT IT MEANS **UNDERSTANDING** HOW THEY FEEL. IF YOU FEEL YOURSELF BECOMING DETACHED AND UNCARING PERHAPS DEVELOP A MENTAL PICTURE OF THEM, SO YOU CAN IMAGINE THEM AS REAL PERSON AND NOT JUST A BUNCH OF WORDS. IF YOU KNOW THE PERSON, CONSIDER A VIDEO CHAT OR VIDEO CALL.

DEVELOP SELF EMPATHY

ALTHOUGH WE TEND TO SHOW THE BEST OF OUR LIVES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, THE REALITY IS WE ARE NOT ALL PERFECT. HAVING **EMPATHY** FOR OTHERS MEANS WE NEED TO ALSO HAVE SELF EMPATHY. IF WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE NOT ALL PERFECT, INCLUDING OURSELVES, WE CAN FIND KINDNESS.

★ OFFER HELP ★

ACCORDING TO DR DAN SEIGEL, A CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY, BEING KIND IS REALLY ABOUT RESPECTING EACH OTHER'S VULNERABILITY AND WANTING TO HELP. SO, WHEN SOMEONE IS SHARING THAT THEY ARE STRUGGLING OR FINDING LIFE HARD, OFFER HELP, EVEN IF THE HELP IS A **LISTENING** EAR OR SAYING, 'I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU WOULD FEEL THAT WAY, I'M HERE FOR YOU'.

TRY TO ADD VALUE

CONSIDER, BEFORE YOU COMMENT ON A POST OR IMAGE, HOW CAN I HELP THIS PERSON TO LOWER THEIR SADNESS? HOW CAN I ADD SOMETHING TO **IMPROVE** THEIR DISTRESS AND HAPPINESS? SHOWING OTHER PEOPLE'S PAIN AS ENTERTAINMENT AS A WAY TO GET NOTICED OR MORE LIKES DOES NOT ADD VALUE.



BE RESPONSIBLE

THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU ACT. CONSIDER, ARE YOU ACTING ON ANGER, FRUSTRATION OR IN A MOMENT OF JUDGING A SITUATION WITHOUT KNOWING THE **TRUTH**? ONLINE, IT IS EASY NOT TO HAVE ALL THE FACTS AND REACT TO A SITUATION WHICH IS BEING PORTRAYED.



UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF YOUR ACTIONS WORDS

COMMENTING ONLINE SOMETIMES MEANS THAT WE DON'T ACTUALLY 'SEE' THE IMPACT OF OUR COMMENTS AND WORDS. THIS MEANS IT CAN BE **EASIER** TO DETACH FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR ACTIONS. UNKIND COMMENTS DO HAVE CONSEQUENCES AND CAN ADD TO SOMEONE'S DISTRESS AND FEELING ABOUT THEMSELVES.

DISASSOCIATE FROM PACK MENTALITY

ONLINE, IT IS EASY TO GET CAUGHT UP WITH POSTING **NEGATIVE** COMMENTS BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE SEEMS TO BE. GET COMFORTABLE WITH STANDING OUT, AND NOT GETTING CAUGHT UP POSTING NEGATIVELY BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE IS. EVEN IF THIS MEANS STANDING ALONE AND REMINDING OTHER PEOPLE THAT THEIR BEHAVIOUR IS UNKIND. YOUR COURAGE COULD SAVE A LIFE.

#BEKIND



MEET OUR EXPERT

THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN WRITTEN BY ANNA BATEMAN. ANNA IS PASSIONATE ABOUT PLACING PREVENTION AT THE HEART OF EVERY SCHOOL, INTEGRATING MENTAL WELLBEING WITHIN THE CURRICULUM, SCHOOL CULTURE AND SYSTEMS. SHE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION, ADVISING THEM ON THEIR MENTAL HEALTH GREEN PAPER.



For further info, check out these online resources too

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Out of School Club – September 2023 onwards

The Governing Body have agreed that from the 5th September 2023 all out of school club bookings must be paid in advance of the place being taken. There will be no option to reserve and pay later. This is in line with many other schools across the borough.

What this means for you:

Debit/Credit Card Payments: On booking a session you will be required to make payment via your debit/credit card at the time of booking. Alternatively, parents may choose to add credit via the club top up on their child (ren) account. You will then be able to use this credit when making bookings.

Childcare Vouchers: In order to book sessions, parents will need to ensure that their child(ren) account is in credit. In order to do this we are asking parents to send additional voucher payments to ensure your child(ren) is in credit for September 2023. This will mean your child(ren) account will be in credit when returning in September. We must stress that your child(ren) account will need to be in credit to book places using childcare vouchers and if this is not the case you will be required to pay by debit/credit card at the time of booking.

The image displays two screenshots of the schoolmoney app interface. The left screenshot shows the 'Basket' screen. At the top, there is a 'Basket' header. Below it, a user profile icon is followed by a text box containing 'Your child's name will be displayed here'. A 'Club Top Up' button is visible, set to £50.00, with a red 'X' icon to its right. A callout box with a blue arrow points to the button, stating: 'You can overwrite this to suit an amount you wish to add to your child's account'. Below this, a payment summary box shows 'Dinner Credit: £0.00', 'Club Credit: £0.00', and 'Total To Pay: £50.00'. A green 'Make Payment' button is present, along with logos for VISA, Mastercard, and TRU//ST. The right screenshot shows the 'Club Bookings' screen. It features a 'Club Bookings' header. A user profile icon is followed by a text box containing 'NB - This is what credit balance will look like', with a blue arrow pointing to a credit balance of £4.50. Below this, a 'Club Top Up' button is set to £10.00, with a green '+' icon to its right. Further down, there are several club booking entries, each with an expandable '+' icon. The entries include 'Afterschool Club - WC: Mon 22 May 2023', 'Breakfast Club - WC: Mon 22 May 2023', and another 'Afterschool Club - WC: Mon 22 May 2023' entry. A second callout box with a blue arrow points to a credit balance of £41.00.

Emergency On the Day Bookings: Parents will need to contact the school office to book emergency childcare places. If your child(ren) account is not in credit, the office will process payment via the phone to secure your child(ren) booking, subject to a place being available.

Please note:

- If you choose to collect to your child(ren) early from club the full cost of the session booked will still stand.
- If you collect your child(ren) later than the session booked, the additional charge will be processed by Out of School Club Supervisor on collection.