



St. Helena's Church of England Primary School

"It is our responsibility to learn and achieve our dreams as a family"

Upcoming dates

Monday 27th January 2025

Young Voices at Sheffield

Thursday 6th February 2025

Number Day– Dress up in Digits

Thursday 13th February 2025

School Disco

Friday 14th February 2025

Last Day of Term

Monday 24th February 2025

School Open Term 4

Friday 4th April 2025

Easter Service

Our School Vision

Opening minds, widening horizons, developing a better world.

We seek to reveal and develop the talents of everyone, so that we may flourish and become the valued and valuable person God intended us to be. We work towards every member of our school community being happy, confident, committed learners, reaching their full academic potential. We strive to open minds, widen horizons and develop a better world. We do this by providing a foundation of strong moral and social values, ensuring all can play an active, responsible role within the community.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10

Wow, we are already halfway through this term – doesn't time fly when you're having fun! It's speeding by for many reasons, but the main one is the wonderful children we have here at St Helena's. A huge thank you to all of you for ensuring the children come to school ready to learn each day – we know it's not always an easy task, but it makes a world of difference.

We're delighted to share that over 70% of our pupils have an attendance rate of 95% or better. As you know, 95% is the expectation, so well done to everyone for helping achieve this important goal.

We are also thrilled to share the excitement for some members of our KS2 choir, who will have the incredible opportunity to attend Young Voices next Monday in Sheffield. This is a truly special experience, and we are so proud of our talented singers who will represent St Helena's. We can't wait to hear all about it!

Finally, we're excited to announce that we now have spaces available in our Little Explorers nursery for September 2025. With a waiting list in place for the past year, this is a fantastic opportunity for friends and family to secure a spot. Let's aim for a full nursery in September – please spread the word and help us achieve this!

Thank you for your continued support.



Ed Anderson

Headteacher



Office Opening Times.

Please note the office hours are:

8:30am until 3:15pm

There is a little 'School Bag' hanging by the hatch for any paperwork.

Thank you

EMAILS



We kindly request that all correspondence with staff members at St. Helena's be directed to admin@st-helenascofe.lincs.sch.uk in the first instance. Recently, there have been instances of parents emailing teachers and the headteacher directly. To ensure a smooth and efficient communication process, we ask that all emails go through our admin team.

Our admin inbox is monitored Monday to Friday, and any necessary information will be promptly forwarded to the relevant staff members. This approach helps us maintain proper work-life balance for our team, ensuring they can focus fully on their responsibilities during school hours.



If your child is due to start school in September 2025, please be reminded that the initial closing date for Reception applications was **15th January 2025**.

However, late applications and any changes can still be made up until **10th February 2025**.

You can submit your application online via the **Parent Portal**, which will remain open until approximately **28th January 2025**. After this date, it's best to apply by phone by contacting the admissions team on **01522 782030**.

We encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

Important information regarding school transport for children starting secondary school or primary school in September 2025



If your child is starting primary school or transferring to secondary school in September 2025, they may be eligible for school transport. If you think your child is eligible, please apply for transport as soon as you have your offer of a school place (3rd March for secondary school or 16th April for primary). Early transport applications are encouraged to ensure that transport is in place in time for the start of the September term. Applications can be made online at the website below or a telephone application can be made by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782020.

Please do not apply until you have a formal offer of a school place.

For more information about the home to school transport policy and online applications please go to www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport.

Queries can be emailed to schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

NSPCC Number Day

Thursday 6th
February 2025

Let's celebrate all things number while raising money to support our vital services like **'Speak out Stay safe'** and **'Childline'**.

We will play numerical games and explore number activities whilst learning vital life skills.

Please come to school **'Dressed up in Digits'**! T-shirts with numbers, dots and spots to count, number inspired hats - the possibilities are endless!



£1 donation welcomed



School Association Events:

School Disco– Thursday 13th February

Spring Outdoor Film Night – Date TBC

5th July 2025 – Summer Fair



After School Clubs still have spaces available.

The following clubs are running this term:

Monday Goal Ball Y5 & Y6 with JB Sports (maximum 12)


Tuesday Choir continues with Miss Wickland

Wednesday Boccia Y3 & Y4

Thursday Chess continues with Mr Anderson

Friday Cricket Skills Y1 & Y2





Friday Celebration Assemblies – Updates

We are excited to share some updates about our Friday Celebration Assemblies! We are delighted to welcome Father Chris, who is now joining us for these special events. Each week, a Year 6 pupil carries out a Bible reading, followed by a 5-minute talk from Father Chris reflecting on the reading.

This academic year, we have made a slight adjustment to our award ceremonies. Parents and guardians will not be invited to Bronze Award presentations due to hall capacity limitations, as we now have nearly 140 children in the main body of the school. However, parents and guardians are still warmly invited to attend assemblies for Silver and Gold Awards.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

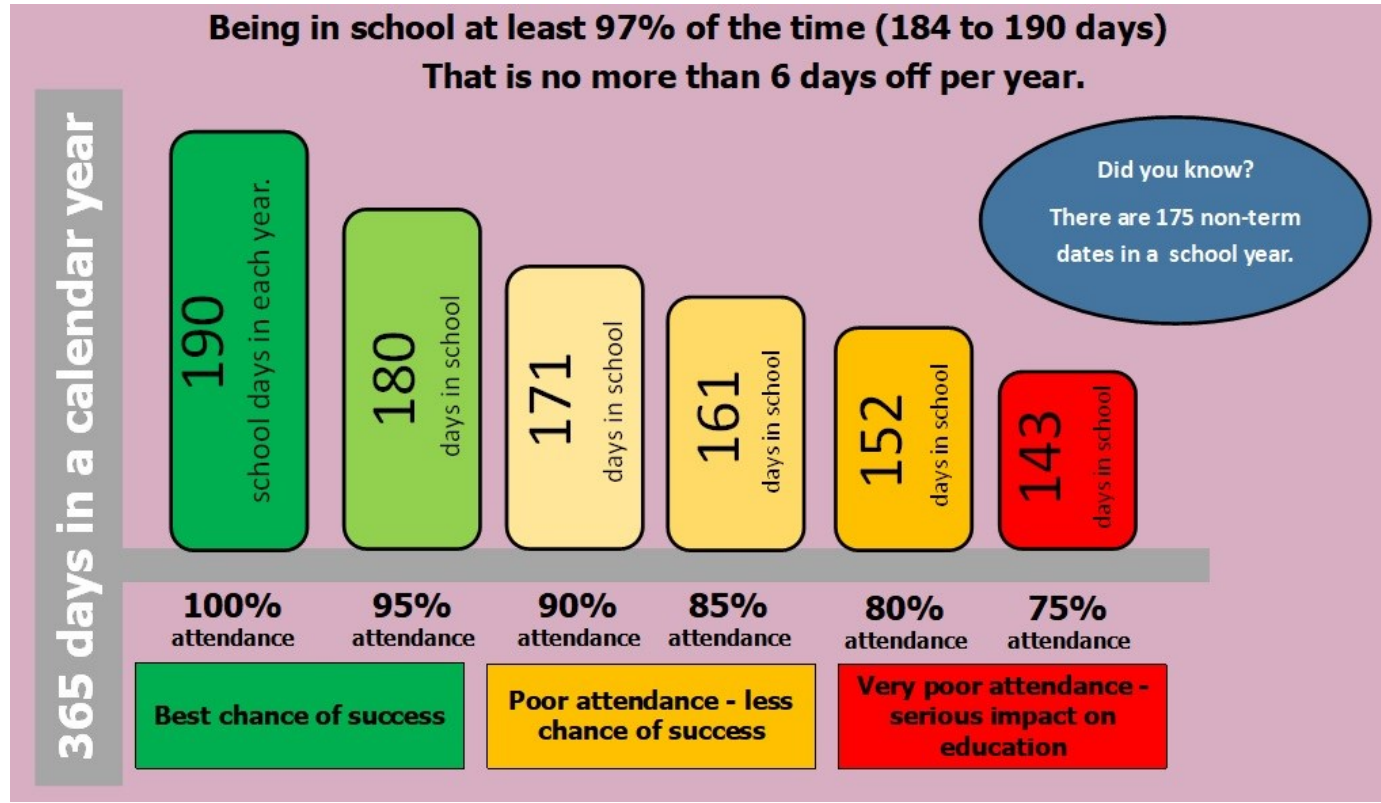


Little Explorers Nursery

Places available for September!

Call today to book a visit and meet the team.

Phone: 01507 462367
www.st-helenascofe.lincs.sch.uk



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

8 "NO TECH" ZONES

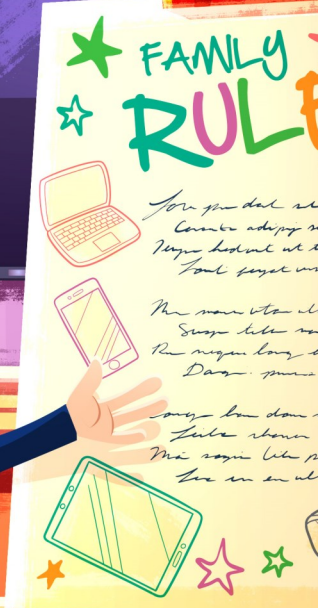
Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



BOSTON BRILLIANCE

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Friday 14th and Saturday 15th
February 2025

Boston Town Centre, 5:00pm - 9:30pm

FREE to attend



Light switch-on at 5:30pm.

Scan the QR code for more information



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PROJECTION
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