

ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

# ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

**November 2019**

Dear Parents and Carers

This month has seen lots of learning and development and progress in so many areas, academic, social and personal. It was wonderful to hold our first Learning Showcase for parents, carers and grandparents. The children were so proud to have the opportunity to share their books, their artwork and their classrooms. There was a real warmth across the school as adults listened, looked and praised their children for their efforts, attitudes, improvements and progress. We look forward to welcoming you again in the spring.



This month we share: Our Outdoor Learning Day **page 2 and 3**; contributions towards Global Worship and Community Kindness **page 4 - 6**; Y3 Quarry Visit **page 7**; Festival of Literature **page 8**; Outdoor Track **page 9**; Parent Voice **page 10**; Celebration Worship **page 11**; Community and Governor News **page 12-15**

December is an exciting month in school. The hope and joy of advent and the build up to the magic of Christmas is a very special time. There are lots of events and activities in school and we hope you can join us for performances, Church services, the music concert and Celebration Worship. As adults we can become preoccupied with Christmas preparations and sometimes lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Children too will get tired and excited (in equal measure!) – support each other to enjoy and experience the festive season with love and joy!

Kind regards

*Mrs P Cohen*

Headteacher

- 02.12.19 **No clubs for the remainder of term**
- 03.12.19 Christingle Service in Church 4pm for families who wish to join us
- 04.12.19 Y2 Synagogue Visit
- 09.12.19 **Sign up for Spring Term Clubs this week**
- 10.12.19 YR Eye Tests
- 11.12.19 Y1&2 Christmas Performance 2:30pm
- 12.12.19 Y1&2 Christmas Performance 5:30pm
- 13.12.19 Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Fair
- 16.12.19 Christmas Craft Day
- 17.12.19 Christmas Service 9:30am – St Aldhelm's Church, led by YR & Y5; Christmas Lunch
- 18.12.19 Winter Music Concert 9:15am
- 19.12.19 Celebration Worship 2:30pm
- 20.12.19 Class Christmas Parties
- End of Term 2 - Christmas Holiday

## 06.01.20 INSET DAY

- 07.01.20 **Term 3 starts** for children
- 09.01.20 Maths Problem Solving Day
- 13.01.20 Y3 Egyptian Workshop
- Clubs start this week – Session 1**
- 29.01.20 Y5&6 Performance 5:30pm
- 30.01.20 Y5&6 Performance 5:30pm
- 31.01.20 Celebration Worship 2:30pm
- 05.02.20 Spring Music Concert 9:15am
- 10.02.20 Safer Internet Week
- 12.02.20 KS1 Film Night
- 13.02.20 Y5 Enrichment Taster Day - Whitstone
- 14.02.20 **End of Term 3**
- 24.02.20 **Term 4**
- 28.02.20 Celebration Worship 2:30pm
- 11.03.20 Y5 Kilve Residential (11-13th March 2020)
- 18.03.20 Y3&4 Spring Performance 2:30pm
- 19.03.20 Y3&4 Spring Performance 5:30pm
- 30.03.20 Parent Consultations 3:30-6:30pm
- 01.04.20 Easter Service 9:30am – St Aldhelm's Church, led by Y2,3 & 6
- 02.04.20 Parent Consultations 3:30-6pm
- 03.04.20 Celebration Worship; **End of Term 4**



# Outdoor Learning Day



On October 17<sup>th</sup>, teachers planned and led learning in a variety of subject areas in our wonderful outdoor environment:

- Reception and Year 1 children used our school forest school area for an Autumn scavenger hunt
- Year 2 explored problem solving in maths around the school playground and field
- Year 3 set off to the site of the well spring in the village to investigate soil
- Year 4 went on a walk through the village, using their senses to fully appreciate what was all around them
- Year 5 went across the glebe land to the woodland area to apply numerous maths skills to build shelters, show amazing collaboration and revealed some budding engineers and architects in the making
- Year 6 created natural art pictures in the school grounds







Thank you to our brilliant teaching staff for organising this opportunity and for the fantastic parental support contributed - we are so lucky to have such a rich and beautiful local environment to explore and enjoy. There is clear evidence that the outdoors inspire, motivate and generate deeper learning.





# GLOBAL WORSHIP

This week is our second Global Worship week, this time with a focus on Christingle and the important work of the Children's Society. On Monday and Tuesday, each child will make a Christingle with help from members of our church community. We will explore the meaning of the different components of the Christingle, celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, and the new life and hope he brings.

On Tuesday 3rd December at 4pm we will hold our Christingle Service at St Aldhelm's Church which will be led jointly by members of St Aldhelm's School and the families and leaders of St Aldhelm's Messy Church. This aims to be a relaxed service designed for families to come to worship together and to celebrate Jesus, the light of the world with fun hymns, readings led by families, prayers and the all - important lighting of the Christingles (and eating them afterwards!).

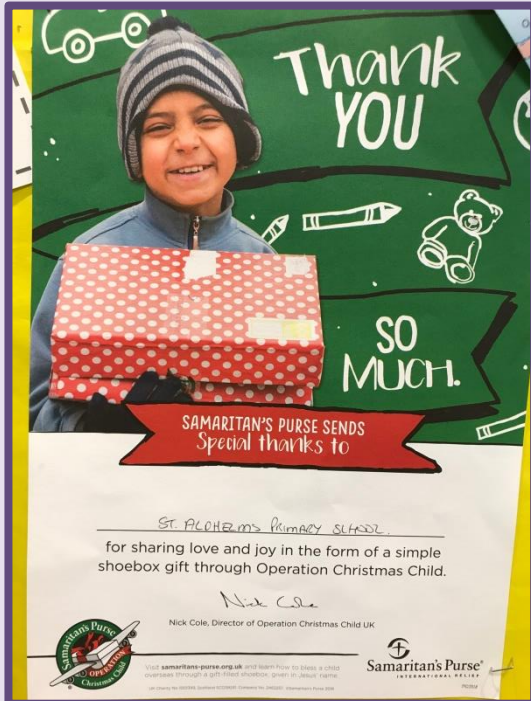
On Monday and Tuesday, each child will bring home a candle collector, where monetary donations can be placed for the Children's Society. Please bring these along to the Christingle Service or hand them in to the School Office. Any donations, however small, are welcome.

So that all members of After School Club can take part, Mrs Harris, Miss Allsop and all of the After School Club children will attend the service, along with all teaching staff. Please can any parents who pick up before 4.45pm, pick their children up from the church. We will be back at school at 4.45 so normal After School Club pick up from the back gate can resume then.



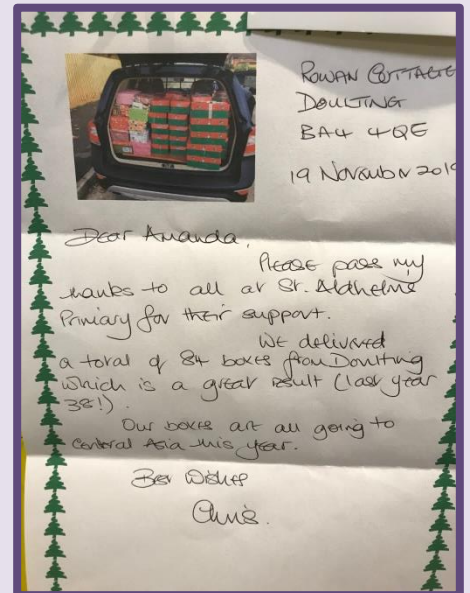


# GLOBAL WORSHIP UPDATE:



St Aldhelm's Primary School can feel very proud of their contribution towards the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal this year. It was wonderful to see children bring in their boxes of goodies to send to someone far less fortunate than themselves.

Thank you to all families who supported this project. Please see the letter from Chris Greaves from St Aldhelm's Church who collected the boxes, delivered them to the depot in Bristol, to then be sent on to children around the world.



## Community Kindness



Thank you all for contributing to our Harvest time donations to the Salvation Army in Shepton Mallet. The wonderful collection of tins, packets and jars were delivered to the charity for distribution amongst those most in need in our local area.

Year 1 and Year 4 gave us much to think about and reflect on as they led the Harvest service this year. They helped us all to stop in our busy lives and be thankful for the wonderful harvest, the work that goes into the food process and how harvest traditions vary across the world.





# More Community Kindness

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, our Kindness Ambassadors welcomed, hosted and served villagers with a two course lunch, cooked by our kitchen staff. The children were amazing, sharing and learning from our older community members. It was a wonderful demonstration of the children's kindness and their respect for others. The villagers couldn't speak highly enough of the children "The children are a real credit to their parents and to this school". We look forward to inviting the villagers to another lunch in the spring.





# YEAR 3 QUARRY VISIT

Since the last newsletter, Year 3 Owls visited Doultong Stone Quarry as part of their learning linked to 'Sheeptown to Shepton'.



Years 3 learnt about the importance of safety at the quarry and were dressed in the appropriate clothing for our visit. We all enjoyed wearing our hard hats!

We would all like to thank Mr Pulsford for accompanying us on our adventure- we hope you also had a fantastic day!



Year 3 couldn't believe the size of the chainsaw they use to cut the stone!



Back at school, we had a 'Then and Now' session with the education team from the Quarry! We had a look at how mining used to be done and then explored the technological advances that have changed the way the job is done! We also saw maps of Doultong quarry 'Then and Now' and were amazed at how much it has grown!





## Wells Festival of Literature

### Year 6 meet bestselling author Maz Evans

Organisers of the Wells Festival of Literature invited Year 6 to hear the author, Maz Evans, talk about her work earlier this month. The talk was inspiring and motivating, giving year 6 the opportunity to hear about the hard yet exciting work that goes into writing and publishing a story. Many children purchased copies of the book at a special price and met Maz for a book signing. We are currently studying the book in our guided reading sessions.





# Opening Ceremony for the Outdoor Track



Last week we officially opened our new all-purpose outdoor track. Jamie, one of our running club members and cross country racers, cut the ribbon and led the way onto the track. Each class had the opportunity for a lap and parents joined in too.

Children will benefit from using the track at playtimes and lunchtimes, in PE sessions and clubs, for exercise, well-being and mindfulness. Each of these occasions will support and promote active and healthy children during the school day.



## KS2 RUNNING CLUB AND CROSS COUNTRY RACES

Well done to all the children in our running club who have taken part in races this term. We have had good results in both the lower and upper school races which contribute to our overall team points. Thank you to Mrs Burgess and all parents and grandparents for all their help and support at the event, and to Nathan who runs our Running Club.

If you are interested in joining the club, please sign up next term. We would love the club to grow!





# Parent Voice – October 2019

A second Parent Voice session was held at school last month to provide an opportunity for parents to share their views on school matters. The following topics were discussed:

## Things parents feel we are doing well...

- ClassDojo platform  
A chorus of 'I love it!' "In Reception so much was put on Tapestry and this is great because this follows on." "KS1 messages can communicate small queries which are dealt with straight away."
- Parents had heard about the new behaviour rules (ready, respectful, safe) from their children. A copy of the policy would be good for information.
- Great to see so many photos of children at school in the newsletter, on ClassDojo and on Tapestry  
→ Behaviour policy to be sent out to parents. **This was sent out by email on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

## Things parents feel we could improve...

- Playground at lunchtime – are issues passed on to teachers?  
The observation slips that we use between lunchtime staff and teachers were discussed but this does need some work around consistency. Parents were happy to know this process is in place.

**Website** is in process and will be ready to launch before the Christmas break. At the last parent voice – people wanted to see more photos of the children and an up to date calendar. They would also like to know that up to date policies will be on website. All of these points will be on the new website.

**Parent Governor Vacancies** There are two vacancies and we do need and value parent representation.

- Letter sent out to parents with role and responsibilities information and an application form. A current governor (who is also a parent) was at Parent Voice and shared rewards are immense especially if your children are in school. **Two parents have subsequently been elected.**

## Other areas

- It would be good to know what the focus areas are in class so we could help out a bit more to support at home. Welcome letters from the Class Welcome Meetings and the class sections of the website provide information about class learning in core areas and enquiry projects. There is also an overview of the whole year.
- In the mornings it gets a bit congested by Year 2 and Year 3. This could cause an accident. Can parents wait in the playground, not on corner and ensure there is a clear path through for those joining other classes.
- Celebration Worship changes. From previous feedback, some parents could never come so we have scheduled some Celebration Worship to take place on a Thursday, not always a Friday. Other days may be considered in future. In Monday class worship children can share outside awards. This will enable us to value the children and what they achieve more appropriately and fully.
- "Parents need to be ready, respectful, safe in church." Reminder to parents to stand to sing, needs some parents to lead by example. Nice to see a good split of children leading throughout the year.
- The School Development Plan and the School Evaluation Form are two important school documents that share what we offer as a school, what works well and things to celebrate, and things to improve. The Parent View is very important and feeds into these documents. Parents feel there are so many positives and that these need to be shared. "Parents should big up the things they love and feel able to vocalise these and concerns should be raised by parents to the school as soon as possible."
- Communicate to parents that external celebration awards can be brought on Mondays.
- Library Summer Reading Challenge – will be shared in October's Celebration Assembly
- Carry out a questionnaire in the Spring Term
- Parent Voice to be held on a different day at a different time on future occasions





A big well done to all the children who received certificates in this month's Celebration Assembly! ☺





# St. Aldhelm's Community News

## New Caretaker at St Aldhelm's

We are really pleased to share that we have appointed a new caretaker to the school. Richard Hall has started his new role with us last week.



Job Vacancy at St.Aldhelm's:

### School Cleaner

**Five days a week (Mon-Fri)  
3:30-6pm term-time only plus  
some deep clean time in holidays  
£9.18 per hour**

Please see Mrs Barton or the  
school office if you are interested.

*Job Opportunity*



Children enjoyed supporting Children in Need 2019. Although this wasn't an event we raised money for this year, classes talked about the charity and the good work that they do. It's always a good opportunity to stop and reflect on our lives, what we have and what we can do to help those in need.



**BBC**

# Children in Need

Thank you for supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for 2019 as we did last year. We haven't received the total we raised but will let you in due course.





## St. Aldhelm's Governors

Another busy Autumn Term has brought changes to the Governing Board. You may have picked up that we started the term with co-chairs but ill-health meant that Patricia Hellier had to stand down. We are grateful to Wendi Davis for taking on the role of Safeguarding Governor in her place.

Last term, we outlined some of the roles and responsibilities of governors. You might like to see a few recent examples of the positive impact of our work on the children's learning and well-being:

- Governors have agreed to support the funding of new IT equipment in the Spring Term when the school's current contract runs out. Children and teaching staff will benefit from this investment in better technology.
- As part of the school's communication improvement and from responses of a parent survey, it was agreed to invest in a new, more user-friendly website. This will have the capacity to showcase the school more effectively and should be up and running before the end of term.
- The allocation of part of the Sports Grant to develop the new all-weather running track was supported by governors as part of the school's focus on healthy living.

Governors continue to support and challenge the school through regular visits, focused on different curriculum areas. It is a privilege to see the high quality teaching in action and to spend time with teachers and support staff who are so dedicated and keen to enable all the children in their care to be the best they can be. With Mrs Cohen, they deserve our thanks and appreciation for all that they do, especially as we move into December with all the extra demands of plays, carol services and parties.

## The Board of Governors

### **Sue Bloomfield, Chair of Governors, Chair of Pay & Performance Panel**

I've been a governor at St Aldhelm's for four years now, most of that time as Chair. My background is in education, most recently working in the Education Department at the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Investing in our children and their future has never been more important. So as governors we use our skills and experience to work strategically with Mrs Cohen as she leads our professional and dedicated staff team. We aim to make our school the best it can be for all our children.

### **Adam Underwood, Vice-Chair**

I am a Doultong resident with a keen interest in helping St Aldhelm's to be successful for all children that pass through the school. I also run a local business and bring business awareness and financial skills to the governing board in order to strengthen the school.

### **Chris Capon-Leyton, Chair of Finance Committee**

I was elected as a Foundation Governor in 2016 and currently serve as the Chairman of the Finance and Premises committee. I have lived in Doultong since 2008 and find the village an ideal environment to bring up my young family, with the school underpinning this. My twins have recently joined the school. Professionally I am a co-director of a successful e-commerce agency based in Bristol, which helps to bring a range of knowledge and experience to the governor's position - primarily in terms of finance and strategy. I hope that these serve the governing board, Mrs Cohen and the excellent staff in their ambitions to continue the excellent development of St Aldhelm's.



### **Wendi Davis, Co-opted Governor, Safeguarding**

I have had a connection with St Aldhelm's School for around 20 years, first as the church's youth worker running lunch time clubs, then as a parent and now as a governor. I've always had the privilege of having a job where I can work with children, young people and their families, sometimes in a school setting, sometimes within a safeguarding setting and usually within a church setting!

### **Alison Mann**

I am a foundation governor at St Aldhelm's. I live in the village of Doultong and have a son, Joshua, who attends the school. I am the link governor for SEND within the school and regularly meet up with Mrs Newman to discuss and monitor SEND in the school setting.

Outside of these roles I work as a Vet Nurse in a busy veterinary teaching hospital and can often be seen walking my dog Odie around the village!

### **Ann Crowcombe, Local Authority Governor**

I am a former teacher and marketing manager. At present I am a Doultong Parish Councillor and an associate trustee of SOS Africa. I have lived in Doultong Parish for over forty years. My role within the governing body centres at present around Early Years and Maths. I also fundraise for the school.

### **Amanda Phillips**

My role within the Governing Body is currently as a Foundation Governor as I have links with St Aldhelm's Church and attend with my family. Having worked at the school for the past eleven years as a Class Teacher and Deputy Head, I have extensive knowledge of the school, the children and their families as well as the community of our school. I feel incredibly proud of our school and the positive impact we have on the amazing children in our care. My roles within the Governing Body are currently as a member of Church School Ethos Group as well as a Training Governor overseeing induction of new governors.

### **Rachel Manship, Staff Governor, Admissions Panel Chair**

I have worked at the school since 2007, I started when my son began in Reception class. I am employed as an HLTA and work across all the classes which enables me to get to know the children. It is a real pleasure to be able to support them and watch as they develop over the years they are here.

### **Victoria Heales, Parent Governor**

I'm new to St Aldhelm's as my eldest child has just joined the reception class in September. I'm really looking forward to working with the Governors and building a relationship with the school, the staff and the families that make up our community. My background is in Human Resources and Operations Management and I'm excited to utilise these experiences within this new role.

### **Liam Dutton, Parent Governor**

I have always lived in the local area and now live in Shepton Mallet with my wife Kim and our three (not so) little ones. I am very committed to the continued success of St Aldhelm's providing quality educational support for local children. I have known the school for many years through the education of our children and have always been impressed by the sensational work of the staff team, PTA and all involved with St Aldhelm's. I enjoy walking and travelling; our family have a special affinity with Iceland, and we hope to see the Northern Lights some time in the future. I have worked in the care sector for 17 years, giving me the chance to meet some amazing characters and special people along the way.

**Foundation Governors, recommended by local churches and appointed by the Diocese: Sue Bloomfield, Adam Underwood, Chris Leyton, Ali Mann, Amanda Phillips**



## Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

The PTA are pleased to share that the Christmas cards, tea towels and mugs sold raised £145.

We also raised £186.33 to go towards the library furniture, through our mufti day.

We hope you'll be able to join us for the Christmas Fayre. It is worth mentioning that there will also be lots of outside stalls so do bring enough money☺

It's that time of the year again when we ask parents to contribute to filling our Christmas Hampers. These hampers will again be raffle prizes at the school Christmas Fayre. Each class will be collecting the following items:

- Rec Drinks (please bring alcohol to the school office)
- Year 1 Pamper items
- Year 2 Children's night in
- Year 3 Sweet tooth
- Year 4 Movie night
- Year 5 Stationery
- Year 6 Cream tea

We will again be running the sweetie jar tombola stall and would also welcome jars (any size) filled with sweets. Please bring these into class. The class who brings in the most jars wins a prize!



## St. Aldhelm's Church News

**Christingle Service** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 4pm

**Carols by Candlelight** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 6pm

**Crib & Christingle Service** Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm

**Christmas Day Family Service** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 11am

**You are all welcome to our services. All services will be held in St Aldhelm's Church**

## *Next Messy Church*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019, 4 – 6 pm at St. Aldhelm's Church**

**This is an event for parents, carers and children of all ages. Do come along and join us!**

**All children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.**

**A contribution for the pot would be much appreciated but is in no way obligatory.**

**If you would like to come or would like more details, please**

**contact Janice Minchin by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January on 01749 880627**

