

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

# ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

## February and March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Spring is here! The sun and the showers, the spring flowers and lambs and the blossom on the trees gives us all the boost we need at the end of a long winter. I hope you can make the most of exploring outside, whether in the garden, walking close to home or visiting places, during the Easter break. It's a good time to appreciate and be grateful.

At this midpoint in the year, it's also a good time to reflect. After end of term assessments and reviews, we can all see the learning and progress that has taken place. I know teachers enjoyed sharing lots of positive news about your children in parent consultations last week. The children have been working really hard and are feeling proud of what they are now able to do and have achieved. It was wonderful to share successes and achievements in Celebration Worship today.

We have enjoyed the performances that children have participated in this term. Children have blown us away with their talents, in our Music Festival, Spring Music Concert, at the Make the Sunshine 'Once Upon a Dance' Show, at Cross Country Races and for our Easter Church Service. We are so proud of you and love to see these talents develop and start to shine. Keep it up – the sky's the limit!

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our highlights and celebrating your child's individual successes and achievements. Please read on for [Celebrating Learning Behaviours](#) p2; [Writing Reflection Learning Showcase](#) p3&4; [Music at St Aldhelm's](#) p5-7; [Once Upon a Dance](#) p8; [Falcon Poetry](#) p9; [Book Week](#) p10-12; [Author Visit](#) p13; [Forest School](#) p14; [Swimming](#) p15; [Easter Service](#) p16; [Talking Mental Health](#) p17; [Governor Message](#) p18

I wish to thank Magpies and Owls for leading a beautiful Easter Service yesterday and sharing the important story and message of Easter with us all. We wish you all a Happy Easter and a good break. Term 5 starts on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April for everyone.

Kind regards  
*Pippa Cohen*  
Headteacher



### TERM DATES for 2022-2023:

17.04.23	Term 5 starts for all children
21.04.23	Y1 Lyme Regis Trip
28.04.23	National Weight & Height check for YR & Y6 Pupils
<b>01.05.23</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
May	Y2 End of KS1 Assessment month
<b>08.05.23</b>	<b>Bank Holiday (King's Coronation on 6<sup>th</sup> May)</b>
09.05.23	Y6 SATs Week (Tuesday-Friday)
16.05.23	Photographer in for Y6 leavers and class group photos
19.05.23	Road safety talks for all classes
20.05.23	The St Aldhelm Gathering, Sherborne
23.05.23	Enquiry Learning Showcase 2:45pm
26.05.23	Celebration Worship 9:10am End of Term 5

### Half Term 27<sup>th</sup> May- 4<sup>th</sup> June

05.06.23	Term 6 starts for all children
08.06.23	Y2 Synagogue trip
15.06.23	YR Carymoor Trip
<b>23.06.23</b>	<b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b>
30.06.23	Y6 Lego Land Trip
10.07.23	Reflection Learning Showcase 2:45pm
18.07.23	Celebration Worship 9:10am
20.07.23	Leavers Service in Church
21.07.23	End of Term 6







A big well done to all the children who received certificates in Term 4 for their progress, success and achievement with their learning behaviours ☺



And congratulations for achievements and successes in sports and other performances too!





# Writing Reflection Learning Showcase

## Robins



It was wonderful to see so many Robin Class family members join us for the writing showcase. The children enjoyed sharing some of their writing opportunities linked to our recent traditional tale topic 'The Gingerbread Man'. Writing in Reception takes many forms and doesn't only involve paper and pencils. Playdough, trays of flour and puppets also allow us to practice letter formation and mark making as well as provide opportunities for developing communication and language skills; these are an important focus in the early years. Thank you for embracing all of the activities, it was lovely to see some of the younger siblings showing such enthusiasm too!

## Nightingales



Practising correct  
letter formation.



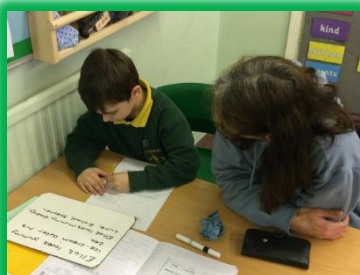
Creating a narrative by  
recording answers to  
questions about Mary Anning.



Practising tricky words



## Magpies





# Writing Reflection Learning Showcase

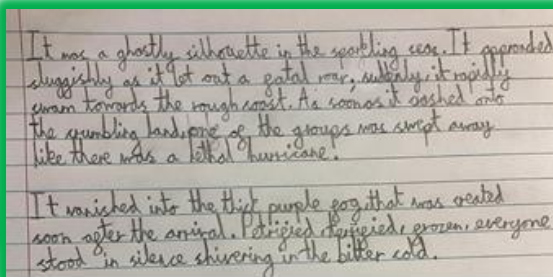
## Owls



## Kingfishers



## Falcons



In Falcons, we created a paired write from a choice of two images. Parents/Grandparents and children worked together to use a range of descriptive devices and punctuation skills we have been developing this year. A few quotes:

"Wow! The words they use are amazing." "I can really see how your writing has improved."  
"Using the Chromebook has really helped you. I have loved reading your work."



# Learning Music at St Aldhelm's

This year, we have become a Charanga Musical School. We have introduced a new programme, called Charanga, for the delivery of our music curriculum across the whole school, from Reception to Year 6.



"We know some notes on recorder and glockenspiels now" Y2



Each class explores the aspects of music through listening, appraising, creating, exploring and performing a variety of genres of music. Charanga is an integrated, practical, exploratory and child-led approach to musical learning.



"I like how we learn different parts at different points and then pull it together near the end" Y6



"It's been good to play instruments and use Chromebooks in our music lessons" Y4



"I like the warm ups because they've helped me find the pulse of the music. I can find it in lots of songs now" Y5





# Music Festival at St Aldhelm's



"I liked listening to everyone's songs" "I loved it because our hats were back to front for the rap" YR



"Next time, we could do it with our recorders because it'll sound even better" Y2



"I was excited to perform as I wanted others to hear us!" Y5  
"I LOVE THE SONG, I even sing it at home" Y4



Every term, each class has a focus song and we have held Music Festivals to showcase their performances. Having done little singing during the couple of years before this one and no performing in front of others, we have been building skills, expectations and resilience to perform to each other.

"We kept our steady beat. People said our rhythm was good" Y1



"I think we were good at keeping it in time but it took practice" Y3 child



"I liked the Adele song because it was different to other songs we've done. It's a ballad and a lot softer" Y6

The progress has been tremendous, from very nervous and unsure to greater confidence and improving performance skills. We look forward to another Music Festival in the Summer Term and hopefully we will be able to open up to a bigger audience in the future...

"I now enjoy singing in front of others. Singing as an ensemble makes you want to perform even better" Y5



# Spring Music Concert at St Aldhelm's

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, we had the first Music Concert since 2019. It was a wonderful opportunity for children who have been learning a musical instrument with our specialist music teachers, to prepare and perform a chosen piece of music.



The children showed courage to perform in front of the whole school and their parents. Their commitment to practice and their resilience and enthusiasm translated into pride and a great sense of achievement.



Our specialist teachers, James, Becky and Helen, come into school each week to give lessons. They work away behind the scenes, sharing their talent and love of music, enabling children to learn a musical instrument. Thank you, teachers, and well done to all our children learning an instrument. Some children haven't been learning long and weren't ready to perform this time but we know they've been working hard too. We look forward to future concerts and celebrating more musical progress next time.

## 'Once Upon a Dance'



Owls were lucky enough to take part in a Make the Sunshine performance of 'Once Upon a Dance'.

Owls worked incredibly hard in the build up to this performance and showed incredible resilience and determination learning a complex dance routine. All their hard work paid off and they performed fantastically to a large audience at St Paul's Junior School. Although Owls were very nervous before they performed, they had a great sense of achievement afterwards and were very proud of themselves. An amazing job – Well Done Owls!! ☺



In Falcons, we have been thinking about **SALVATION** and the importance of the **RESURRECTION**. Through our reflections, the children created poems; some of these tell the story whilst others focus on the meaning and feelings behind these

## Holy Week

Flowers! Flowers! Come and celebrate,  
welcome the one and only  
Palm leaves! Palm leaves!  
Come join us for Palm Sunday!



Bread! Bread! Eat the body  
Last supper of His,  
Wine! Wine! Drink the blood,  
Come and join us for Maundy Thursday!



Trial! Trial! Come and watch it,  
Let's atone our sins,  
Death! Death! "Stop it now!",  
Come and join us for Good Friday!



weeping! weeping! women weeping  
"Where is He the one and only",  
Rolled! Rolled! Where is He,  
Come and join us for Holy Saturday!



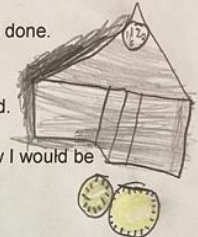
Found! Found! He is Found!,  
By His disciples,  
Resurrection! Resurrection! As he's here,  
Come and join us for Easter Sunday!

Conclusion! Conclusion!  
As a conclusion,  
Salvation! Atonement! Has been resolved,  
Come To Celebrate Holy week!

Salvation is forgiveness,  
Salvation is being saved,  
Salvation is faith,  
Salvation is saving,  
Salvation is redemption,  
Salvation is deliverance,  
Resurrection is from the dead,  
Resurrection is rising,  
Atonement is forgiving sin,  
Atonement is doing right.

When I went to Jerusalem my disciples and I were praised.  
People looked happy when they saw me but people gambled in my holy church.  
I sent them far, far from church and all was right and done.  
I forgive. I forgive mankind. I forgive you.

The Lord gave me a sign that I would die for mankind.  
Sins would be forgiven for many.  
When my disciples heard what would happen, I knew I would be betrayed.  
I forgive. I forgive mankind. I forgive you.



I left the meeting and a person kissed me.  
I was arrested.  
I remembered what my father said so I would die upon a cross.  
I forgive. I forgive mankind. I forgive you.



I had a crown of thorns on my head.  
Forced to carry the thing I would die on up the steep hill.  
I watched the ending of my human corpse.  
I forgive. I forgive mankind. I forgive you.

The Lord was pleased with what I had done.  
He sent me back to tell the people all is right and there is no wrong.  
I rolled away the rock and set off for my disciples.  
I forgive. I forgive mankind. I forgive you.



They came to the tomb and I appeared.  
I helped them find the fish.  
They all looked shocked and stunned and I made them feel hope.  
I forgive. I forgive mankind. I forgive you.

I showed myself to the people.  
They sang and blessed me.  
Praise the Holy One.  
I forgive. I forgive mankind. I forgive you.  
I forgive.

A fantastic poem using

Salvation is: Forgiveness

Salvation is: Faith

Salvation is: Generous

Salvation is: Considerate

Salvation is: Brave

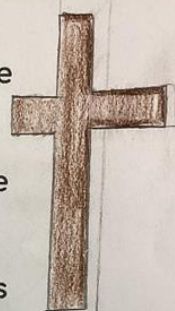
Salvation is: Noble

Salvation is: Responsible

Salvation is: Holy

Salvation is: Right

Salvation is: Forgiveness



Falcons would like to wish you all a Happy Easter





# St Aldhelm's Book Week

Book Crew opening the  
Reading Shed



I liked listening to different stories and  
reading different stories that my Y2  
chose that I wouldn't have.

Sophie – Y4 Kingfishers

Sharing books with other  
classes



Discovering new authors



Someone read Beast Quest to  
me. I loved it!

Elliot Y2 Magpies





## Taking part in the St Aldhelm's Vocabulary Parade

Next, I could use the word tropical for a poem of my own.

Ruby Y2 Magpies



## Learning and using new vocabulary



I got better at similes and different metaphors to compare different things and how to use descriptive language.

Logan Y3 Owls

I learned what nature and neon mean. I did not know those words before!

Sophie Y2 Magpies

Poets try and choose words that sound good together.

Isabelle Y2 Magpies

## Writing poems for the Somerset poetry competition

I learned how to get better at writing poems and thinking about the words I can use.

Ellis Y6 Falcons

I know what a stanza is and have been able to use this to describe poetry.

Oscar Y6 Falcons

I learnt to think of more thoughtful rhymes – like every other rhyme so it flows.

Nancy Y5 Kingfisher





## Class bird poetry recital

Now I can say a poem  
without *looking at it*.

Harry Y2 Magpies

I now know what a  
Kennings poem is.

Maddie Y6 Falcons

I really liked performing  
the poem that I really  
learned well.

Shavir Y1 Nightingales



Daytime-dreamer,  
Night-schemer.  
Moonlight-glider,  
Daylight-hider.  
Silent-swooper,  
Branch-hooter.  
Night-caller,  
Mouse-mauler.  
Rodent-taker,  
Pellet-maker.  
Churchyard-screacher,  
Super creature!

Annie Fisher

## Sharing our poems with the same inspiration



03.05.23  
S.L.F. Select language that shows awareness of purpose  
Earth is...  
Earth is mainly navy blue.  
Earth is 72% made of water.  
Earth is old.  
Earth is spherical.  
Earth is fascinating.  
Earth is our planet.  
Earth is full of 8 billion people.  
Earth is over-populated.  
Earth is special.  
Earth is dying.  
Earth is losing trees.  
Earth is a merry-go-round.  
Earth is solid.  
Earth is pear-white.  
Earth is navy blue.  
Earth is emerald green.  
Earth is vibrant.  
Earth is important.  
Earth is magnificent.  
Earth is splendid.  
Earth is wonderful.  
Earth is where we live.

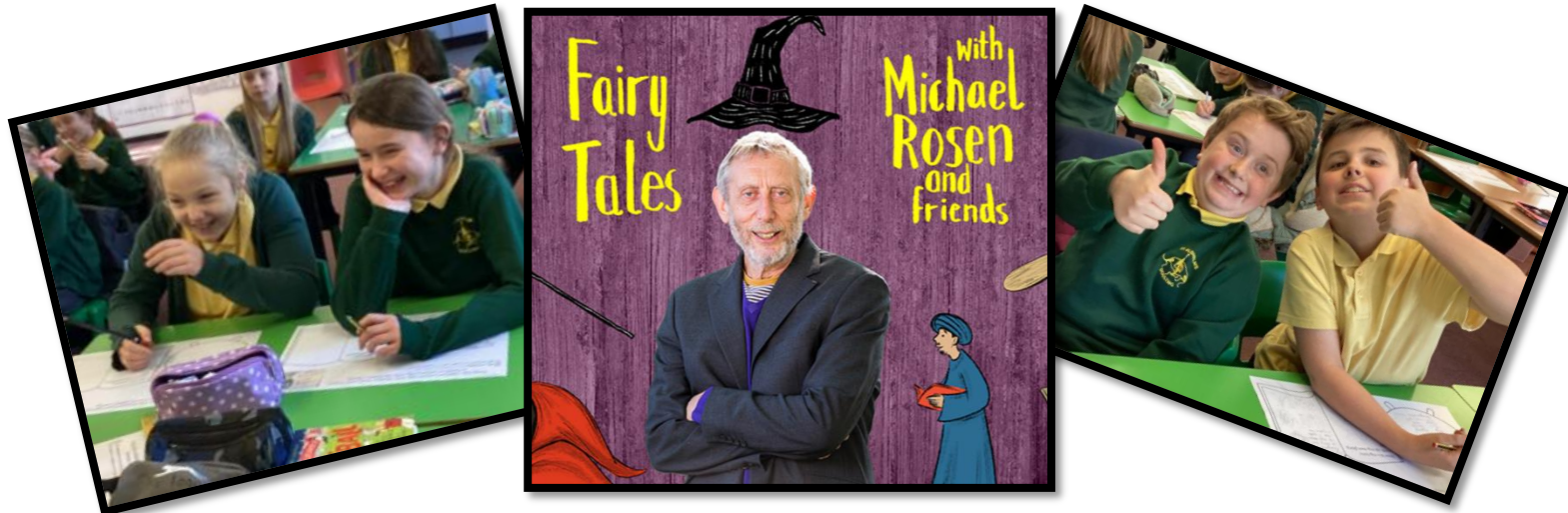


by Naomi B



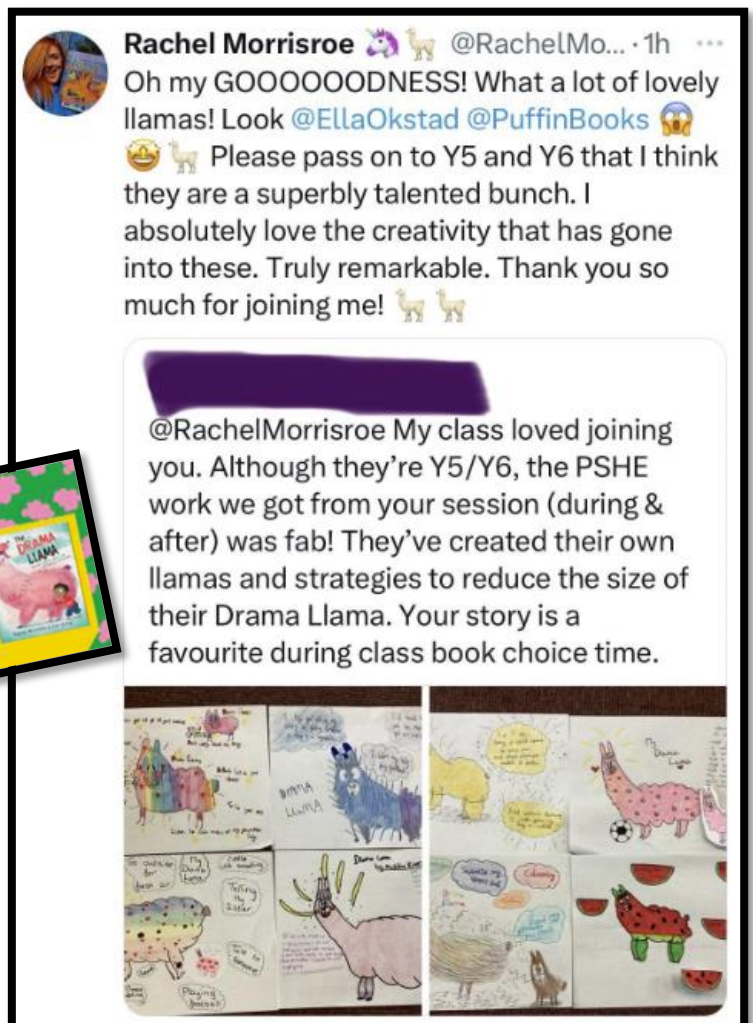
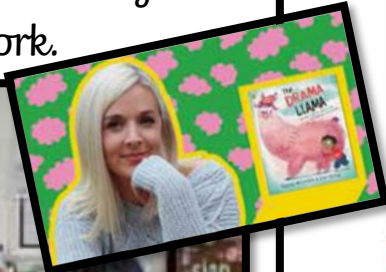
## VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISITS

In Year 5 and 6, Mrs Newman organised for the children to be visited (virtually) by two authors. This allowed the children the opportunity to hear about the process of writing and inspire them with their own.

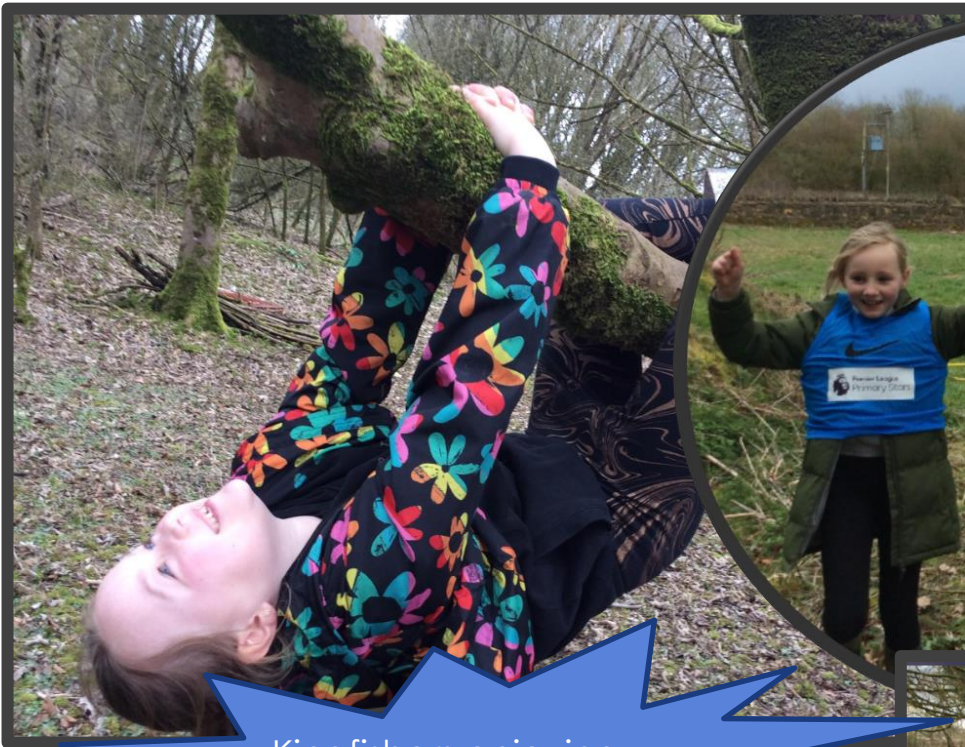


Michael Rosen did not disappoint when sharing his humour and vast experience. We all learnt the main ingredients needed for a fairy tale, so that we could cook up our own. These were shared with him and The British Library as part of their competition.

We were visited by Rachel Morrisroe, who read her story and then set us some brilliant activities. The children learnt and discussed about strategies to reduce our worries and learnt how to draw a llama. She was very impressed with their work.







Kingfishers enjoying  
Forest School







## Swimming

Year 4, 5 and 6 have had an exciting term of swimming lessons at the Dragonfly Leisure Centre in Midsomer Norton.

Miss Juden is so proud of each child who has made such great progress in such a short space of time.

To celebrate the super work, the children enjoyed a 'fun swim' to finish with floats, water football and games!







## Easter Church Service – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

It was lovely to see so many families join us on Thursday for our Easter service led by Magpies and Owls. The children did a fantastic retelling of the Easter story through poetry, art and acting. All children performed confidently in front of our audience and sang beautifully.  
Well done Magpies and Owls!







# Talking Mental Health



## Mindfulness

By teaching children meditation and mindfulness skills we help them increase their well-being and enable them to meet the stresses of the world with presence, self-compassion, and openness. The benefits of mindfulness for children may include:

1. Increased focus, attention, self-control, classroom participation, compassion.
2. Improved academic performance, ability to resolve conflict, overall well-being.
3. Decreased levels of stress, anxiety and disruptive behaviour.

### Appreciation Practice: Three Good Things

#### Leading the game:

1. Ask your child: "Do you ever feel disappointed by something or someone?"
2. Ask: "How did that make you feel?"  
*Acknowledge their feelings and, if appropriate, talk about them.*
3. Say something like: "I bet even when you're feeling disappointed there are good things happening in your life, too. Let's name three good things together."

#### Tips for naming three good things:

1. Remind your child that the point of this game *isn't* to pretend they're not upset when they feel upset. It's to remember that they can feel two things at once: they can feel grateful for good things while feeling sad, hurt, or disappointed by challenges.
2. If children have trouble thinking of three good things on their own, help them discover some through discussion.
3. When children understand that this game is not about sweeping their feelings under the rug, the phrase "three good things" can become a playful response to the minor gripes that show up in family life.
4. To develop a habit of thankfulness, play *Three Good Things* around the dinner table, before bedtime, and at other times when the family is together.



# A message from our School Governors

I am delighted to have recently been appointed as Local Authority (LA) Governor at St Aldhelm's and I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself.

I applied for the position of Governor after my son started at St Aldhelm's in the Autumn term. I have worked at Mendip District Council in a number of senior management roles for over twenty years, most recently as the Assistant Chief Executive.

I have comprehensive experience in budget management, contract management and operational services as well as Local Authority governance processes and I am excited to offer these skills and hopefully compliment the vast array that the board already possesses.

Recent decisions taken by the board, which were communicated in the last newsletter, will now see St Aldhelm's enter into the process of becoming part of the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Whilst the work required to embed this change should not be underestimated, I and my fellow Governors, are willing and keen to support Mrs Cohen and the school as we navigate this change. One which will not only improve the ability to collaborate but will also see our school grow in strength and resilience. Information associated to becoming an Academy is available on the school's website and I would encourage you to have a look and feedback any questions or concerns to Mrs Cohen or the Governing Board.

In addition to supporting this change, I have also been offered the opportunity work more closely with Mrs Philips and Mrs Juden to support the provision of Mathematics as the Maths Link Governor. As with other key subjects, Governors individually support subjects across the curriculum, working on a one-to-one basis with the lead staff member. Mathematics has been without a Link Governor for a short time, whilst Governor recruitment took place, and I am excited to work with Mrs Philips and Mrs Juden to ensure that the governing board is kept apprised of the subject's provision within the school.

After attending my first ever meeting, I am enthused by the welcome and support offered to me and I very much look forward to working with Mrs Cohen, the staff and the board of Governors to ensure the very best for our children and the wider community that the school serves, in what is sure to continue to be challenging yet exciting times.

*Haylee Wilkins*

Local Authority Governor



*We wish all our families and friends  
a very Happy Easter!*