

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

# ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you all for joining us to finish our Term 5 with an enjoyable celebration for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We thoroughly enjoyed sharing this momentous and historic occasion with you and hope you enjoyed your celebrations over the bank holiday weekend too. The occasion has provided an opportunity to reflect on a phenomenal 70 years of the Queen's reign. It has also given us a chance to reflect on the year to date and how far the children at St Aldhelm's have developed and progressed. Our final term will allow us to consolidate and bring the year's learning to a close. We also look ahead to welcoming our new Reception children to visit and begin their school transition with us and at the other end of the school, we support and prepare our Y6 children for their transition from primary to secondary schools. There's no question that this will be another busy and exciting term.

The Year 4, 5 and 6 residential to Great Wood was a great success. We were all so proud of the children for their attitudes and approach to all the activities, the demonstration and application of skills and most importantly, their sense of adventure, teamwork and fun. A big thank you to Mrs Newman and Miss Juden for leading the trip and all the planning and work that goes into such a visit. We know the experience will have created lots of happy memories for the children.

Please read on for Celebration Certificates Term 5 [page 2](#); Whispering Willows Theatre Company Visit [page 3](#); Great Wood Residential [page 4&5](#); Jubilee Celebrations [pages 6](#); New Play Equipment [page 7&8](#); Y2 History Detectives [page 9](#); St Aldhelm's Church Art Exhibition [page 10](#); Rugby Tots [page 11](#); Supporting Mental Health [page 12](#); Message from Governors and Community News [page 13&14](#).

We look forward to many of you joining us for end of year events in July.

Kind regards  
*Pippa Cohen*  
Headteacher

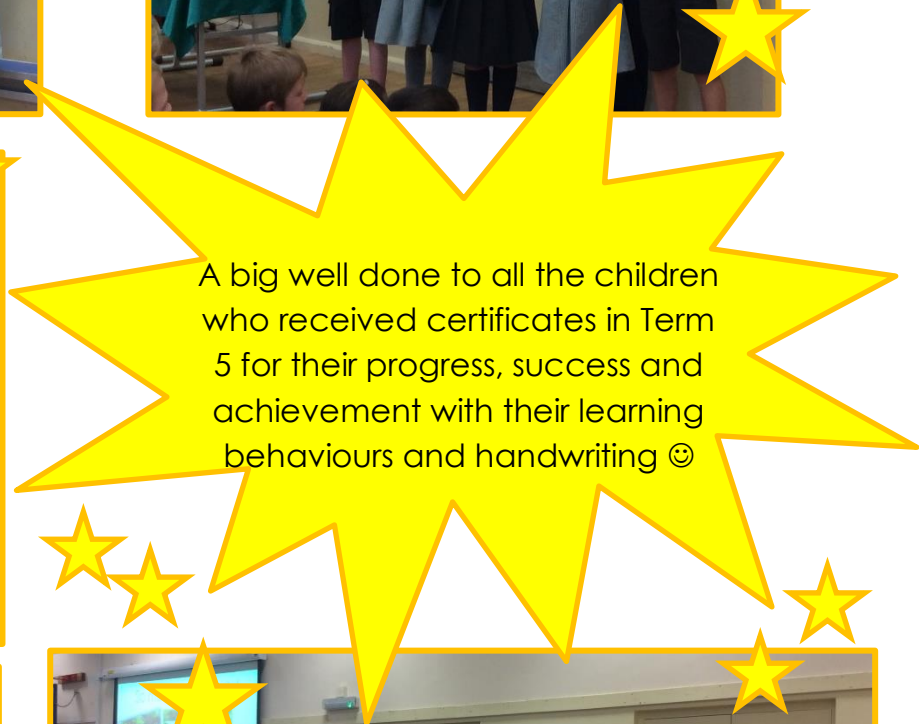
## School Dates:

### Term 6

21.06.22	Y2 Synagogue Trip Session with Cricket Coach YR,1 &2 <a href="#">New Reception Children 1<sup>st</sup> visit</a>
22.06.22	Session with Cricket Coach Y3,4,5&6
23.06.22	Thales Primary Glider Challenge Kingfishers & Falcons
<b>24.06.22</b>	<b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b>
28.06.22	<a href="#">New Reception Children 2<sup>nd</sup> visit</a>
05.07.22	<a href="#">New Reception Children 3<sup>rd</sup> visit - Teddy Bear Picnic</a>
05.07.22	Y3 Class Trip - tbc
06.07.22	Y6 Transition Day (Whitstone, Ansford Academy, The Blue School) & Moving Up Day
07.07.22	Sports Day – timings to follow
08.07.22	Reports Out
12.07.22	Session with Cricket Coach YR,1 &2 Learning Showcase 2:30pm Y3 Owls Dress Rehearsal for '374 Ways to Save the World' 4-6pm at St Paul's Junior School, Shepton Mallet
13.07.22	Session with Cricket Coach Y3,4,5&6 Whitstone School Sports Day for Y6
15.07.22	Y3 Owls Performance in '374 Ways to Save the World' 5pm & 6:45pm
18.07.22	Last Y6 Swimming Session
21.07.22	Leavers Celebration Worship
22.07.22	Celebration Worship End of Term 6
<b>25.07.22</b>	<b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b>
<b>26.07.22</b>	<b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b>

## Summer Holidays

<b>01.09.22</b>	<b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b>
<b>02.09.22</b>	<b>INSET DAY – school closed to children</b>
<b>05.09.22</b>	<b>Term 1 Starts</b>





# Whispering Willows Performance

By the Wassail Theatre



Last term St Aldhelm's were lucky enough to see a live performance from the Wassail Theatre Company. The performance was about a Willow farm in Somerset focussing on the cycle of planting, harvesting, and weaving. The characters in the performance teach each other about the ways of the willow.



The story continues, and the performance depicts the threat of World War Two, with an even bigger enemy arriving... **PLASTIC!!** ***Can they find a new use for their willow before it's too late...?***



Our St Aldhelm's Art Ambassadors with performers Clive Duncan & Georgia Wall







## Year 4, 5 and 6 Trip to Great Wood Centre



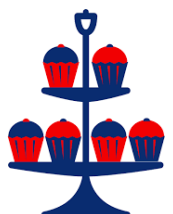








# Our Jubilee Celebrations





# Our New Play Equipment



In Tuesday's Whole School Worship this week, we officially opened our new play equipment. Our oldest Y6, Thomas, and our youngest YR, Damien, cut the ribbon and the equipment was declared ready to use.

We have loved exploring and testing it – climbing, scrambling, stretching, balancing, reaching and crawling! See what we had to say about it...



"It's the best!  
Thank you!"

"WE LOVE IT!  
It's amazing"



# Our New Play Equipment

"I love the net and how it's all joined together"



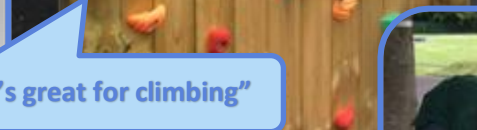
"We can be a monkey or a koala"



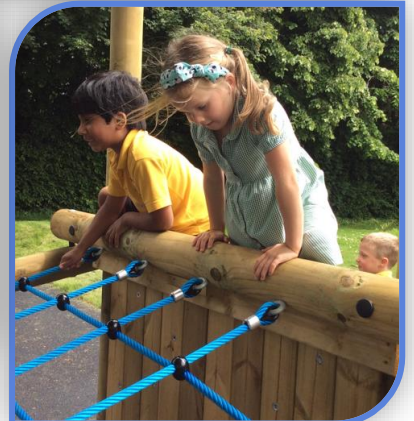
"It's better than the old one"



"It's great for climbing"




"There's lots to do – it's fun!"






# Year 2 History Detectives



As part of Year 2 Magpies Enquiry project into 'What toys and games did you play with when you were 7 years old?' we were joined by Sharon from the South West Heritage Trust.

She brought along an amazing selection of toys and games including some from Victorian times and encouraged the children to think about who would own them and what we could tell about them as History Detectives.



All of the children rotated around three activities: looking at the moving pictures of a Zoetrope and then making their own thermatrope moving picture; exploring old and new toys and games as well as dressing up and role playing too. The hobby horses, hoop and stick and mangle proved to be very popular!

The children also created questions to ask their family members to find out more and then used their results for their history learning back in school.



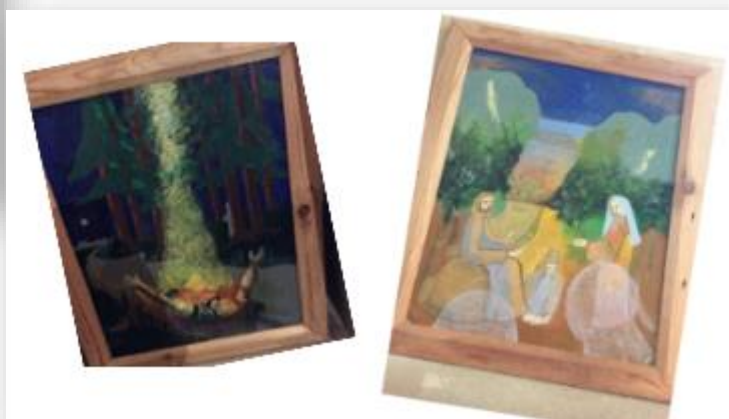


# Art Exhibition at St Aldhelm's Church

We were very fortunate that Reverend Gill Sakakini, Pioneer Priest in the Arts, guided us around a temporary exhibition called Stations of the Resurrection in St Aldhelm's Church.



The 19 paintings by US artist Richard Caemmerer, depicted Jesus' appearances after the resurrection. The children were able to reflect and apply their knowledge of the Salvation story.



Enormous thanks to Gill and also to Chris Pulsford for leading, inspiring, guiding and supporting us with this exciting project.







Robins, Nightingales and Magpies enjoyed a Rugby Tots tastier session this week. The children enjoyed learning how to catch, pass, kick, run with the ball and play as part of a team.

Please contact the school office if your child would be interested in taking part in a Rugby Tots after school club in September. If we have enough interest in the club, this would be available to current Reception and Year 1 children. As this will be run by Rugby Tots coaches there would be an approximate charge of £15 for a six-week term. There would be 16 spaces available on a first come, first serve basis.



"I was genuinely blown away by your pupils. They are very polite, engaging and energetic, and the brief interaction I had with them made my week. I know plenty of them took away new experiences and skills. I'm only sorry we couldn't run a more extended class this time."

Gareth Turnbull, Rugby Tots Coach





# Your Mental Health



## Be Kind to Yourself

It's so important not to be too hard on yourself and to be your own best friend. Remember, if you wouldn't say it to or about your best friend then don't say it about yourself. Having a negative internal voice can really bring you down.

Finding time to do activities that you enjoy such as art, poetry or sport, can really help you get more out of life and think less about your problems. Doing these activities is NOT time-wasting as they are an important part of keeping your life in balance. Why not try some of these:

**Joyful June 2022**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1. Decide to look for what's good every day this month	2. Say positive things in your conversations with others	3. Re-frame a worry and try to find a helpful way to think about it	4. Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it	5. Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down		
6. Get out into green space and feel the joy that nature brings	7. Do something healthy which makes you feel good	8. Find joy in music: sing, play, dance, listen or share	9. Ask a friend what made them happy recently	10. Bring joy to others by doing something kind for them	11. Eat good food that makes you happy and really savour it	12. Write a gratitude letter to thank someone
13. Take a light-hearted approach. Choose to see the funny side	14. Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you	15. Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it	16. Speak to others in a warm and friendly way	17. Take time to notice things that you find beautiful	18. Look for something good in a difficult situation	19. Get outside and find the joy in being active
20. Rediscover and enjoy a fun childhood activity	21. Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement	22. Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh	23. Create a playlist of uplifting songs to listen to	24. Bring to mind a favourite memory you feel grateful for	25. Show your appreciation to people who are helping others	26. Make time to do something playful, just for the fun of it
27. Be kind to you. Do something that brings you joy	28. Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people	29. Share a friendly smile with people you see today	30. Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to it)			

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** **Happier · Kinder · Together**



Somerset County Council have launched a mobile health service for parents and young people in Somerset making it easier to get health and wellbeing advice. This is available Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

Health Visiting under 5's Parent Service – **07480 635514**

School Nursing 5 – 19 Parent Service – **07480 635515**

School Nursing 11 – 19 Young Peoples Service – **07480 635516**



# A message from our School Governors

## Governor Monitoring at St. Aldhelm's

Governor monitoring is a key role of the governing body with each governor taking responsibility for one or more subjects. I have monitored Maths for quite some time now.

Governing boards have a statutory responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the school and its curriculum, so governors need to know what progress is being made towards targets set out in the School Development Plan (SDP). Visiting the classroom and other Link Monitoring Visits can help to support this process. Ofsted inspection assumes that governors know the strengths and weaknesses of the school. This depends on governors assessing performance data presented to them by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and through Monitoring Visits in the context of an understanding of what happens in the school.

It is also important to Ofsted that the Governing Board makes an impact on school improvement and visiting school to see it in operation, and to be aware of standards and progress are important aspects of this crucial role.

As governors, we are not qualified to assess standards, but we do need to visit classrooms while lessons are in progress in order to:

- Appreciate and understand the work of the staff (teachers and support staff) and how the pupils are learning;
- Be aware of the response of pupils to their work and check that the pupils are aware of what they are learning;
- Be aware of resource issues;
- Be able to ask appropriate questions and hold sensible discussions with the professionals;
- Understand as fully as possible the meaning of the results of monitoring reported to them.

We are not inspectors and are not present in a lesson to make judgements about the professional expertise of the teachers. That remains a task for the head and/or other education professionals.

I have found monitoring Maths both encouraging and rewarding; I have learnt so much about both the children and staff. Above all, I have been impressed by the thoroughness of the staff and the whole school approach. The Lead ensures that all staff are up to speed; all sharing the same techniques and language. In the face of rising costs and traditionally tight budgets, the combination of the school and governors' knowledge, experience and financial prudence, ensures that St Aldhelm's is meeting the financial challenges and is continuing to post a well-informed budget that achieves its aim of helping to deliver the school's ambitions.

*Ann Crowcombe*

Local Authority Governor

## St Aldhelm's Community News

### Congratulations Winners!

We are delighted to share that Arya and Florence's artwork was chosen as winning pieces to appear in the new book 'The Town that Saved its Library'. Well done to everyone who took part in the competition and especially to Arya and Florence for their winning artwork.

We look forward to seeing your contributions published in the new book all about our local Shepton Mallet library.





# St Aldhelm's Lunchtime Team

I am delighted to formally introduce our Lunchtime Team that has gone from strength to strength during the course of this year. Following successful recruitment, we have a full team of Midday Supervisory Assistants who care for and supervise the children during the lunchtime, to join our now established kitchen team. Thank you, lunchtime team, for making our lunchtimes better ☺



Miss Webb, Mrs Langwith, Mrs Bates, Mrs Allsop, Miss Dingle, Miss Harcourt, Mrs Pitman  
Mrs Philpott joins us for two days each week too



## ALL THE WORLD'S OUR PLAYGROUND

THEATRE :: CIRCUS  
INSTALLTIONS  
WALKABOUT ACTS

A FREE FESTIVAL  
CREATED AND  
PROGRAMMED BY  
CHILDREN IN  
SHEPTON MALLET

**SATURDAY 16TH  
JULY 2022**



Don't miss this FREE family festival!  
With walkabout theatre, dancing in the  
streets and a range of amazing theatre  
shows.

**EVENT: 10AM - 4PM SHEPTON  
MALLET**

All events are free but some require booking  
For full programme and tickets visit  
[makethesunshine.co.uk](http://makethesunshine.co.uk) or  
[@makethesunshinecic](https://twitter.com/makethesunshinecic)

Events take place in the beautiful grounds of St  
Paul's Junior School, Shepton Mallet Town  
Centre and venues across Shepton Mallet.














## Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

*A big thank you to  
the PTA for their  
support in setting up  
and running the tea  
and cakes for our  
Jubilee Celebrations.*



## Vacancies at St Aldhelm's Primary School

Learning Support Assistant for 1:1  
provision – please see website for details