

ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHELYNCH PARK, DOULTING, SHEPTON MALLET, SOMERSET, BA4 4PL

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

May 31st 2019

Dear Parents

I would like to say a huge well done to all children who have completed statutory tests in May, to the staff who have prepared for and carried them out and to parents for your support in ensuring your child has been ready and in school to do their best. I know everyone has done their very best and that is all we can ever ask for. Children in all other year groups will take part in assessments during June. This information will form final teacher assessment judgements which will be shared in your child's end of year report.

In this month's newsletter, read on for Celebration Assembly news on achievements and Spring Term attendance [page 2](#); a Kindness Project update [page 3](#); Summer Art Day [page 4](#); Beacon Hill Wood Outdoor learning day [page 5-6](#); our Governor News [page 8-9](#)

We welcome parents to come into school on Thursday 13th June for a Parent Voice session. We hope to further develop relations with parents and hear your views on a variety of school topics. We also hope many parents will be able to join us for sports and celebration events in July. We also look forward to welcoming our new families in June and July, whose children will join us for Sprite sessions.

We are very happy to announce our new Year 3 teacher appointment for September. Miss Claire Juden is excited to be joining us for our Moving Up Morning in July and her full time employment from September. We thank and are very grateful to Mrs Wakeman and Mrs Stevenson who have and continue to provide a fantastic learning experience in Year 3.

Look out in next month's newsletter when we will share our visit and involvement with our local railway in Cranmore.



East Somerset Railway

Cranmore Railway Station, Cranmore, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 4QP
Telephone Number: 01749 880417
E-mail: info@eastsomersetrailway.com

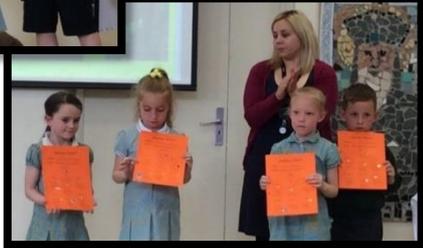
Kind regards
Mrs P Cohen
Headteacher

Key Dates:

- 03.06.19 Start of Term 6
- Healthy Minds and Bodies Week
- 05.06.19 East Somerset Railway Visit
- 06.06.19 Parents Evening for New Reception 6-7pm
- 10.06.19 Y1 Phonic Screening Week
- 11.06.19 Primary Sports Day for Y2 at All Hallows School
- 12.06.19 New YR Sprite Sessions 1 and 2
- 13.06.19 Maths Problem Solving Day
- Parent Voice 9-9:45am School Hall
- 14.06.19 Y5 and Y6 First Aid Training
- 17.06.19 Y4 Summer Musical Extravaganza Rehearsal & evening performance
- 18.06.19 Kindness Ambassadors Day at Whitstone
- Y5 Viking Day
- 19.06.19 Budden's Camp for Year 6 19th-21st June 2019
- 20.06.19 Celebration Assembly 2:30pm
- 21.06.19 Paddleboat Theatre Company performance for children at school
- Public Performance 3:45-4:45pm
- St Paul's School, Shepton Mallet
- 24.06.19 Enterprise Fortnight begins
- Y6 Pilgrim Day, Wells Cathedral
- 26.06.19 New YR Sprite Sessions 3 and 4
- 27.06.19 Whole School Science Day
- 28.06.19 INSET Day**
- 03.07.19 Whitstone, Wells Blue and Ansford Y6 Transfer Day
- Whole School Art Day
- 04.07.19 Whitstone Y6 Transfer day
- 08.07.19 The Planet Games Sports Event
- 09.07.19 Traditional Sports Day Races – Parents welcome
- 11.07.19 Moving-Up Morning – children transition into their new classes
- New YR Sprite Teddy Bears' Picnic
- 13.07.19 Doultling Village Fete 12-4pm
- 18.07.19 Year 6 Leavers' Church Service - Y6 Parents welcome
- Celebration Assembly 2:30pm
- 23.07.19 Leavers' Assembly - Y6 Parents welcome
- End of Term 6



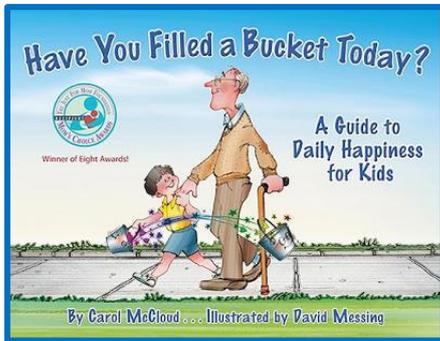
A big well done to all the children who received certificates in May's Celebration Assembly! ☺



Our School Kindness Project

As part of our Community Learning Partnership link, we have been developing our school Kindness Project. The project aims to support our children's social and emotional skills, which is a very valuable part of their learning.

Since launching the Project, we have been meeting weekly in our House Worship groups to promote kindness in our school. The children have been able to take part in assemblies, discuss, draw and respond to stimuli about giving and receiving kindness.



This term our whole school will be reading **Have you filled a Bucket Today?** The book is a daily happiness guide for children.



Children across the year groups will be contributing to our whole school **Kindness Tree** display in our library area. This will be a reference point for the children to reflect on ideas about ways they can carry out acts of kindness.

Two children from each class have been chosen as **School Kindness Ambassadors**. The children will be ready at playtimes to help anybody at the 'buddy bench' find somebody to play with and promote kindness in play. Seven of the elected Kindness Ambassadors will be accompanying Miss Wood to Whitstone School on Tuesday 18th June. Children will work together with other children from schools in our local partnership to brainstorm more ideas for the project and to design Kindness Rocks.



They will share their ideas with the rest of our children who will then have the opportunity in their own classes to make Kindness Rocks. The children can hide the stones around Shepton Mallet for other children and families to find. If your children find any of the kindness rocks, you can photograph and share your treasures on the **Shepton Rocks Facebook Page** by joining the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1000390083450029/>

Children can then re-hide the rocks somewhere new for other children to look for. We hope the children will find rocks from our school and schools in our partnership to share thoughts of kindness in a creative way!



Art Day 2019

During our last term this academic year, we are keen to make a link from our School Kindness Project to 'Kindness to our Planet'. This is something the cluster of schools in our Community Learning Partnership is excited to explore further and promote with all the children.



The Art day will be inspired by **Val Hunt** who has made small



sculptural pieces for a recent exhibition. The sculptures are of animals and plants on the edge of extinction or already extinct. They have been made from throwaway materials. The art reminds us about recycling and draws the viewers' attention to why the creatures are endangered.

We would like the children to start bringing in materials for our art day on Wednesday 3rd July. Any packaging (washed if needed), old bottle tops and wrapping paper would be useful. Please do not bring in any glass or metal items.



We will look forward to sharing our creations with you later in the term.

KS2 Outdoor Learning Day

The children had a fantastic outdoor learning day. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying nature and appreciating their surroundings.



The children showed excellent team work, working in mixed age groups to build innovative and creative habitats for the bugs in the area.



Out in the woods, the children became real life scientists. They used quadrats to collect data about bluebell growing patterns. They made excellent cross curricular links to maths; working out fractions and percentages.

Back in school, the theme of nature continued throughout. Children created some fantastic artwork inspired by James Tremain and with watercolours. As well as writing some creative and thoughtful poetry.



All the staff were extremely impressed with the care and consideration the children showed towards the local area by picking up any litter they spotted.

We wish to say a huge thank you to Mary Newman for all her knowledge of and dedication to the area. We also wish to thank the parent helpers and staff on the day - without them this day would not have been possible.

Science in Year 1

In year 1 we have been learning about different groups of animals.

We know about Mammals, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, Fish and Insects. Following the life cycle of our tadpoles in class and hatching chicks has helped us to understand the differences between these groups. We have been very excited about the arrival of our fluffy friends!



We have been learning

about the different features that help us to categorise animals as well as knowing ways to look after them.



Our tadpoles and chicks need very special care!

Governor News Summer 2019

An insight into Governors' roles

As you may know, governors have been looking at how we can further improve communication and understanding between everyone involved with our school. The **ultimate aim** is to provide our children with the most supportive and nurturing environment possible to enable them to do their best and enjoy 'Life in all its fullness' while they are at St Aldhelm's and afterwards.

With this in mind we plan to share with you a little of what our responsibilities as governors involve so that you have an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes'. Please let us know whether you find this helpful and if there are specific areas you would like to know about. Staldhelmschair@educ.somerset.co.uk

The Full Governing Board meets 8 times a year. Between these meetings, smaller working parties follow through on specific tasks. The following explains the work done by some of these groups:

Admissions Committee: Alison Mann

The Governing Board is the Admissions Authority in a VA school. It decides the admissions criteria for the school. These are published on the school website. The administrative process is mostly delegated to the Local Authority, Somerset. Governors also delegate some parts of the process to the Admissions Committee.

This group works alongside the Local Authority when required during the normal admissions round for schools. When a school is oversubscribed, the committee meets with the Headteacher in order to allocate places based on agreed criteria. The committee also discusses any 'in year' applications with the Headteacher and decisions are made following strict guidelines. Parents have the right to appeal these decisions.

Church School Ethos Group: Amanda Phillips

The Church School Ethos Group aims to promote our school values, enhance children's education and develop links within the community. The group consists of Ex-Officio Governor Patricia Hellier, Foundation Governors Sue Bloomfield and Amanda Phillips and Associate Governor Joy Lees. We meet at least once a term and report back to the Full Governing Board meetings.

So far this year we have evaluated and discussed collective worship, class prayers and class worship to ensure that these enable our children to be reflective and develop their spirituality; undertaken a learning walk ensuring that at our school's Christian vision and values are clear and develop aspiration in all pupils and allow them to make positive choices.

As well as Ofsted inspections, Church Schools also have SIAMS inspections every five years. We were judged outstanding in 2016. There is a new Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework this year so we are beginning to familiarise ourselves with that and evaluate our school against it. The Diocese provides help and support with this process.

Communications Working Party: Adam Underwood

The communications working party consists of a small group of foundation governors and a parent governor. Our goal is to understand and help improve the way in which school and all stakeholders communicate with each other, pupils, parents, prospective parents, staff & the community.

Recently we released our 2019 survey which looked to understand better the preferred methods of communication and the ways that the school could improve. As requested, we shared the results in the school's April newsletter.

We have taken on board the comments of many parents and staff and we have approved a project to launch a new school website, this is due for September 2019 and we will be sending more details nearer the time.

Finance and Premises: Chris Capon-Leyton

With schools having to operate under tight budget constraints, the need for financial prudence is important to the overall wellbeing of the organisation. As a panel we work closely with the school's Headteacher and School Business Manager throughout the year to set a budget that covers the primary objectives of the School Development Plan.

The role of the Finance and Premise Committee is primarily to ensure the school is seeking value for money and ensuring that the budget forecasting, setting and decisions are robust and held up to scrutiny. The panel meets throughout the year to review the ongoing financial performance of the school and brings its findings to the Full Governing Board to inform its decisions.

The Importance of Drinking Water

We all know how important it is to keep hydrated, both for the body and for the mind to work most effectively. Please make sure your child has a water bottle each day filled with fresh water. We ask that children do not bring squash as this makes a sticky mess if it leaks and is not as thirst quenching or good for us.



Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

The Friends of St Aldhelm's are looking ahead to their contribution towards the Douling Village Fete which is to be held on Saturday 13th July. It was great to welcome some new faces to the PTA in May.

Please see a committee member or ask at the office if you would like to help with the preparations and/or help on the day ☺

Douling Village Fete ~ Saturday 13th July 2019

Douling Social Group Presents:



Saturday 15th June: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL
FILM: Mary Poppins Returns (PG)
Doors Open 7.00 pm, Show starts 7.30 pm.
Children are welcome with an accompanying adult.

In Depression-era London, a now-grown Jane and Michael Banks, along with Michael's three children, are visited by the enigmatic Mary Poppins following a personal loss. Through her unique magical skills, and with the aid of her friend Jack, she helps the family rediscover the joy and wonder missing in their lives. With Emily Blunt as Mary, Ben Whishaw and Emily Mortimer as the adult Banks children, and cameos from Meryl Streep and Dick Van Dyke.

Tickets £15 for 2 adults and 2 kids advance. Otherwise £5 advance, £6 on the door. Cash only. Advance tickets from: Jan (01749 880731), Nova (01749 880288), Mary (01749 880219) or Matt (07540 721970) Licensed Bar for drinks and snacks. Raffle (Prize donations are welcome) Bring a cushion.



St. Aldhelm's Church News

Singing for Fun Group

followed by

Strawberry Tea



Sunday 23rd June 2019, 3pm at St. Aldhelm's Church

**All proceeds in aid of church funds – It costs us £55 per day to keep our beautiful church open.
Do come along and join us. YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!**



Cream Tea