

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

April 30th 2019

Dear Parents

Well, here we are at the end of another month – time flies by when you're having fun (and are all very busy playing, creating and learning at school!).

The staff and children were delighted to welcome a theatre company into school for a phenomenal live performance, see [page 2-5](#) for pictures and details. We also enjoyed a creative and open-ended Maths Problem Solving morning on March 27th – see [page 6](#) to see how the children got on, Year 1's trip to Lyme Regis on [page 7&8](#) and the vet visit to Reception Robins on [page 9](#).

Thank you to all parents who completed the communications questionnaire before the holiday. We always value feedback, particularly feedback that is thoughtful and constructive with positive comments and suggestions to help move things forward. Please see [page 10&11](#) to see the results. We are planning to hold a Parent Voice session next term to further develop relations with parents and hear your views. The process to create a new website has begun. This will take time to build and it is hoped to be launched in September for the new academic year.

Please note that the photographer was due to come a take class photographs on 2nd May, however this has been changed to take place on the 21st May.

This summer term is a challenging time for all children who carry out activities and assessments to demonstrate the learning and progress they have made this year. We recognise particularly the national testing in Year 1, Year 2 and 6 and the hard work going on from both staff and children alike to ensure the best success. We do everything possible to minimise pressure and balance the curriculum with a range of exciting opportunities and activities in other subject areas. Please make sure you support your child by ensuring they eat, play and sleep well at home. Spend lots of time having fun and being outdoors. As always, give them plenty of time and love ☺

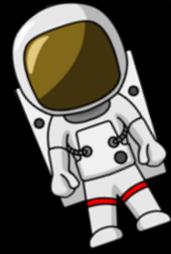
Kind regards
Mrs P Cohen
Headteacher

Key Dates:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 01.05.19 | KS1 (Y2) Assessments throughout May |
| 03.04.19 | Y5 Taster Day at Whitstone |
| 06.05.19 | Bank Holiday – school closed |
| 09.05.19 | Y2 Sports Festival at Whitstone |
| 10.05.19 | Y6 Cake Sale |
| 13.05.19 | KS2 (Y6) SATs Week |
| 16.05.19 | Y5 Group Growing Futures |
| 20.05.19 | No brass this week |
| 21.05.19 | Class Photographs new date |
| 22.05.19 | Beacon Hill Wood Y3-6 & Outdoor Learning Day YR-Y2 |
| 23.05.19 | Celebration Assembly 2:30pm |
| 24.05.19 | Y6 Lolly Sale
End of Term 5 |
| 03.06.19 | Start of Term 6
Healthy Minds and Bodies Week |
| 10.06.19 | Y1 Phonic Screening Week |
| 11.06.19 | Primary Sports Day for Y2 at All Hallows School |
| 13.06.19 | Maths Problem Solving Day |
| 19.06.19 | Budden's Camp for Year 6
19 th -21 st June 2019 |
| 20.06.19 | Celebration Assembly 2:30pm |
| 24.06.19 | Enterprise Fortnight begins
Y6 Pilgrim Day, Wells Cathedral |
| 27.06.19 | Whole School Science Day |
| 28.06.19 | INSET Day |
| 03.07.19 | Whitstone, Wells Blue and Ansford Y6 Transfer 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 class |
| 13.07.19 | Doultong 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 |



Rocket Girl



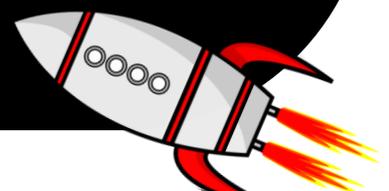
A Ditto Theatrical Performance

St Aldhelm's was privileged to host the Ditto theatre company last month, an award-winning theatre company, for an impressive performance of Rocket Girl. Children were immediately enthralled and drawn into the performance that used a range of tools including vivid storytelling, puppetry and movement. The children have explored some of the themes within their classrooms, including developing future aspirations and challenging stereotypes. This was an amazing opportunity to bring a story with a clear message to life and as well as engaging our children, it also inspired their inner storyteller.



Rocket Girl Synopsis:

The year is 1969 and the world is changing. Beehives and miniskirts are all the rage, everyone is listening to The Beatles and a bag of fish and chips would cost you 25p. And NASA has just put the first man on the moon. The world is transfixed and everyone is watching, including eight-year-old Maisie Robinson. From the very moment she saw man on the moon, Maisie knew that she was destined to be an astronaut. In her dreams she travelled beyond the earth's atmosphere and flew amongst the brightest of stars. But unknown to Maisie, people had other plans about her future. After all, girls don't do science, do they?



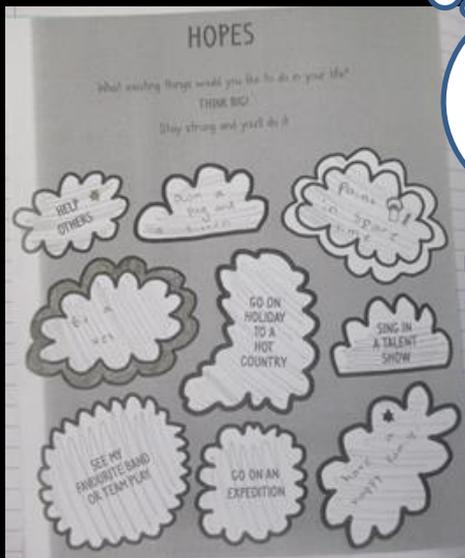


Year 6 – Blackbirds – Rocket Girl Performance

Year 6 class were fortunate to have a follow up workshop with the award-winning Ditto theatre company. The children had the opportunity to develop their creativity and to learn some theatre techniques with different kinds of puppets. The children quickly became absorbed and used their imaginations. Year 6 really enjoyed it and the theatre company said how impressed they were with the engagement and behaviour - well done year 6 for representing St Aldhelm's so positively. Year 6 were quick to identify some key themes that ran throughout the play, such as stereotypes, gender inequalities, bullying, ambitious aspirations and the importance of family.



Year 4's hopes and aspirations for the future



What's next for Rocket Girl . . . ?

Year 4's Rocket Girl reflections...

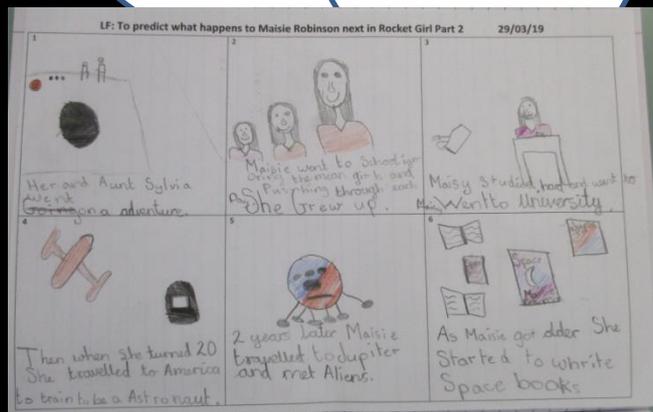
'Follow your dreams, no matter what gets in your way.'

'Don't give up on your dreams. I just want to say a really big thank you for inspiring us so much.'

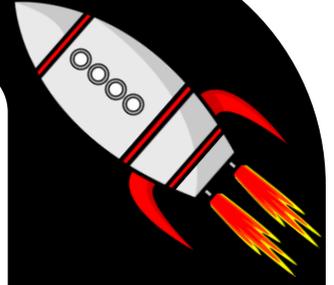
'Rocket girl is like me... some people say you can't do it, but I know I can be whatever I want to be.'

'It was amazing how much effort they put into the play just for our school.'

'It was so cool how they jumped on each other's backs'

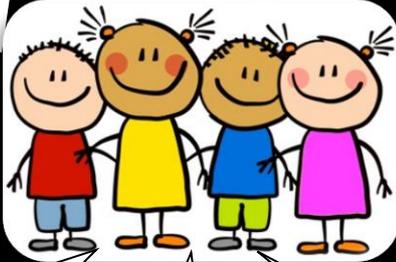
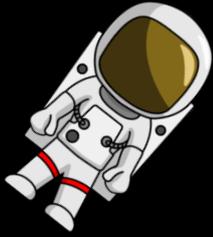


Year R and Year 1's Reflections ...



In class we reflected on what we want to be when we grow up! Lots of us want to be teachers, vets or farmers. (Y1)

We loved watching the lights pretending to be bugs! Especially all the different colours. (Y1)



We really enjoyed watching the Rocket Girl production. Our favourite part was watching Masie on the washing machine! (Y1)

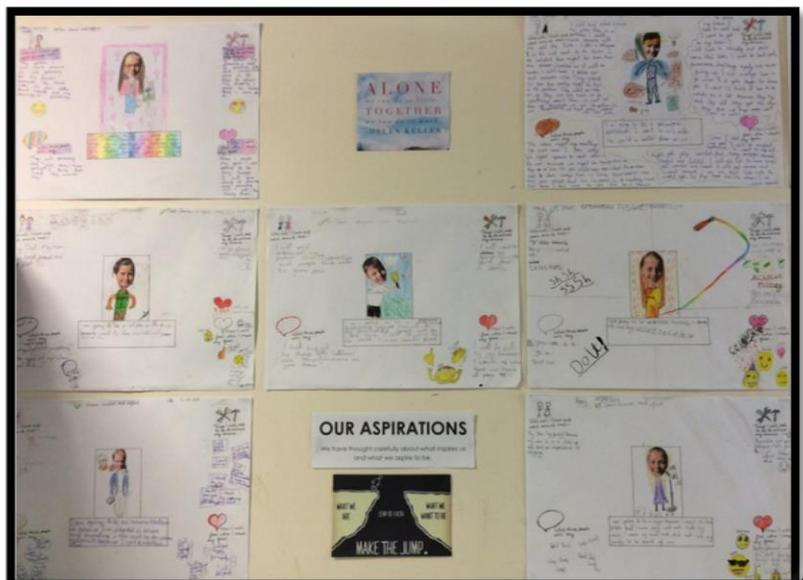
It made me feel excited!
Freddie (YR)

I liked it when Maisie the plastic girl came out.
Gracie O (YR)

I liked it when they did their teeth and went on adventures! Grace R (YR)

Year 5 Rocket Girl Follow-up Work

The children loved watching Rocket Girl and from this they were inspired to think about their aspirations. The children have created pieces of work that are on display in the Year 5 classroom as a reminder of their dreams.



What do you want to be when you grow up?

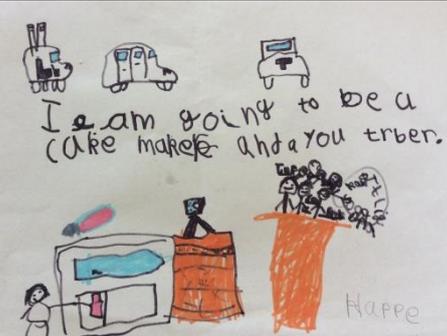
You can be anything that you want to be




RESPECT



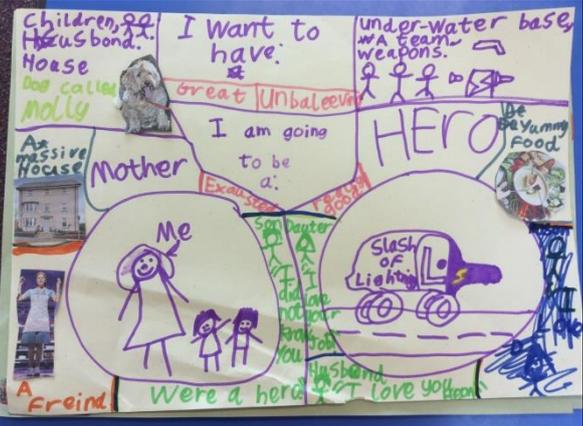

I am going to be a cake maker and a you tuber.



Happe

Year 2 Magpies thought about they wanted to be when they grow up using Dad's message of 'You can be anything that you want to be'. The responses were varied and very thoughtful. The children considered which people would be in their lives and what those people would think if the children reached their dream. Finally, Year 2 considered how they would feel if they reached their dreams.

Children, Husband, Horse, Nolly, As massive House, Mother, Me, A friend, I want to have: great Unbalance, I am going to be a: Exhausted, HERO, under-water base, with a beam weapons, Be Yummy Food, Husband, I love you both, Were a hero, Slush of Light, I can't do it, you do it, I can't do it, you do it, I can't do it, you do it.



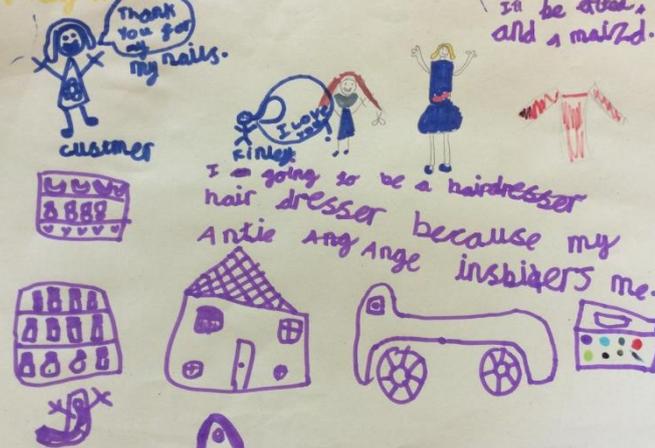
Thank you for my nails.

customer

I love hair!

so be excited and a maid.

I am going to be a hairdresser because my Antie and Ange inspired me.



I am going to be a horse rider.

If I get to be a horse rider I will be ~~MC~~ very very very happy.

I am please for my Isla.

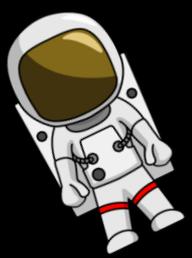
Mummy



I'm going to be a Lego Master, a movie maker and a Dinosaur hunter.

I'm going to be excited.

nanny's & Gramma's

Maths Problem Solving Day

Our whole school problem solving day for the Spring Term was focussed on developing skills in finding rules and patterns. The whole school, from Reception to Year 6, investigated the Sticky Triangles problem.

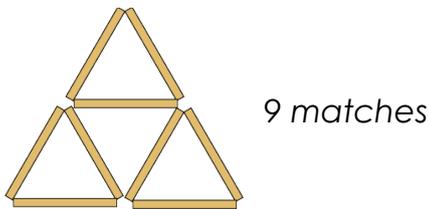
Sticky Triangles

I was exploring a puzzle in which headless match sticks had to be moved to make a different number of triangles.

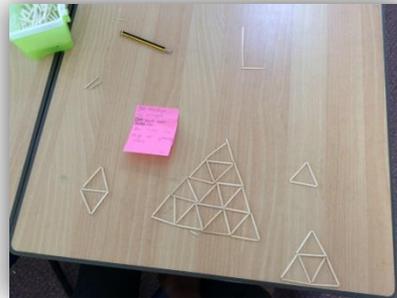
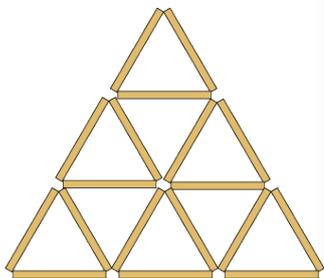
I made one small triangle



I made it into 4 small triangles by adding 6 matches.



I added another row and counted the number of small triangles and counted the matches.



I made a table of my results and continued adding rows. I found many patterns.

As with all of our maths problem solving, we encouraged the children to investigate in a way that they felt would work for them. The children made decisions over the materials to use - Ronnie "**The matchsticks make it easy to make a triangle,**" and then whether to record using triangular paper, Edie "**You can find a shape and make it then draw it**". After making the shapes in the initial problem, they looked for what was the same and different - Ellis "**The difference is the big one has got little ones in it**", as well as looking for patterns in the number of triangles and number of matches and then going on to make further shapes in the pattern.

The children were able to conjecture with ideas of how many matchsticks would be needed for each new pattern and tested their ideas to make general rules.

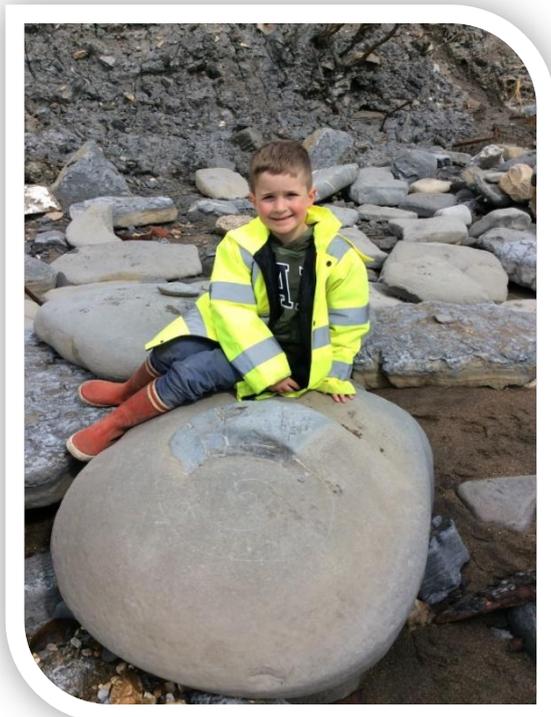
'I look forward to problem solving days; they genuinely are the best days ever!' ~ Will



Year One Trip to Lyme Regis

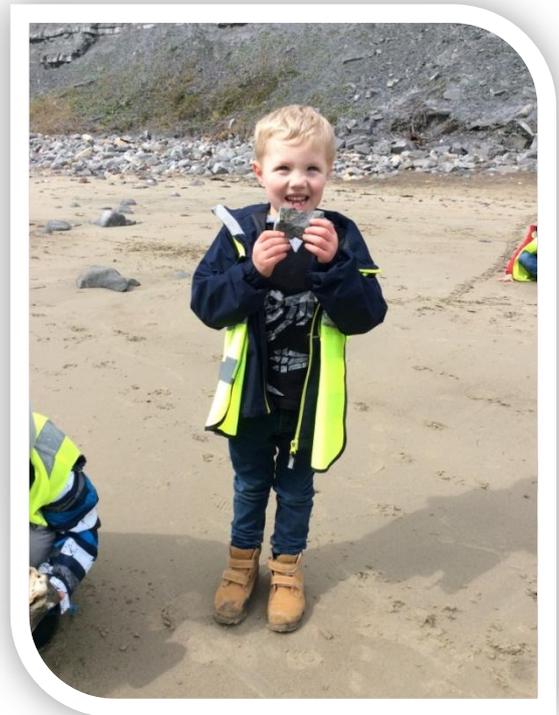
To round off our Spring Term Enquiry Project, Year One visited Mary Anning's home town of Lyme Regis.

The children met Richard the fossil guide at the Lyme Regis museum. He talked to us about the fossils Mary Anning found along the Jurassic coast and showed us some dinosaur fossils found by local palaeontologists.

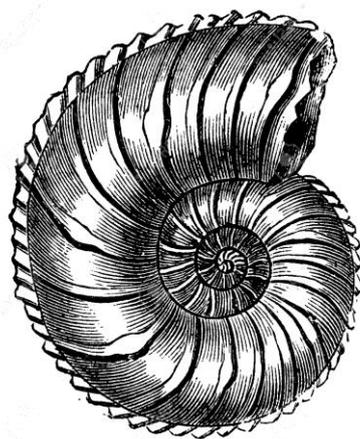
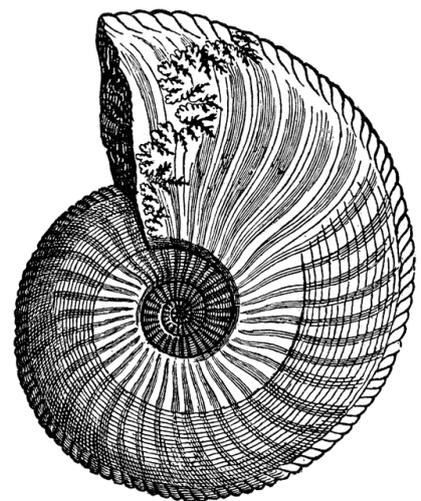


Year 1 enjoyed a walk along the sea front and a guided fossil walk on the beach with Richard where the children found some beautiful ammonites!





Our fossil guide then taught us about the different organisms from which fossils were formed. Then children shared the fossils they had found and after all their hard work fossil hunting enjoyed their packed lunches before the journey back to school! What a busy day!



Reception Robins Vet Visit



As part of our Vets and Pets project the children were delighted to have a visit from Greg the Vet from Shepton Mallet Veterinary Surgery, Mrs Vernoum a veterinary nurse and Mr Vernoum, a farmer. The children enjoyed learning about their roles and how they help to look after different animals and how to keep them healthy.



The children loved meeting Mr Vernoum's 4 day old lambs and Greg's dog, Misty. Thank you very much for visiting, the children have learnt such a lot!



A little plea for Reception ...

Reception children love the outdoors and are enjoying the resources in school. If any parent, family member or friend has a balance bike they no longer need, or any compost, and could donate to school, it would be very much appreciated. Please speak to a member of staff if you can help.

St Aldhelm's VA Church Primary Communication Questionnaire

67 Responses 06:04 Average time to complete Active Status

1. Background Information

Never Sometimes Always

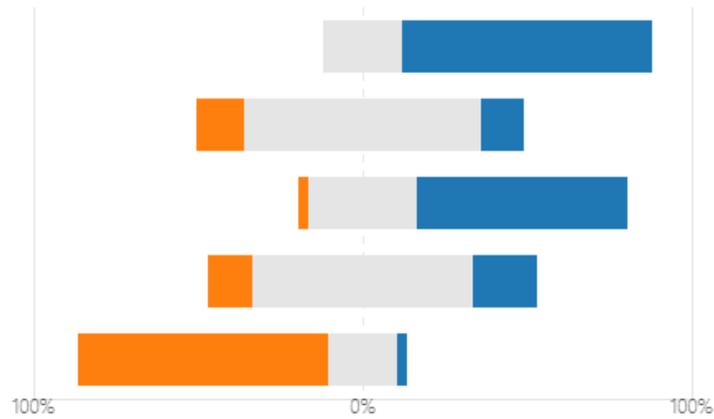
I use texting, instant messaging, or both to communicate with family, friends, and colleagues.

When they're available, I watch digital videos posted online.

I access the Internet from a mobile device such as a mobile phone.

I spend time interacting with businesses and community groups on Facebook.

I spend time following the updates of business and community groups on Twitter.



2. School Communication

Disagree Neutral Agree

Our school communicates important information in a timely and effective manner.

Our school regularly communicates student successes including academic, sporting or performing arts...

Our school markets itself well by publically sharing extra-curricular activities and after school clubs.

My child's teacher communicates effectively.

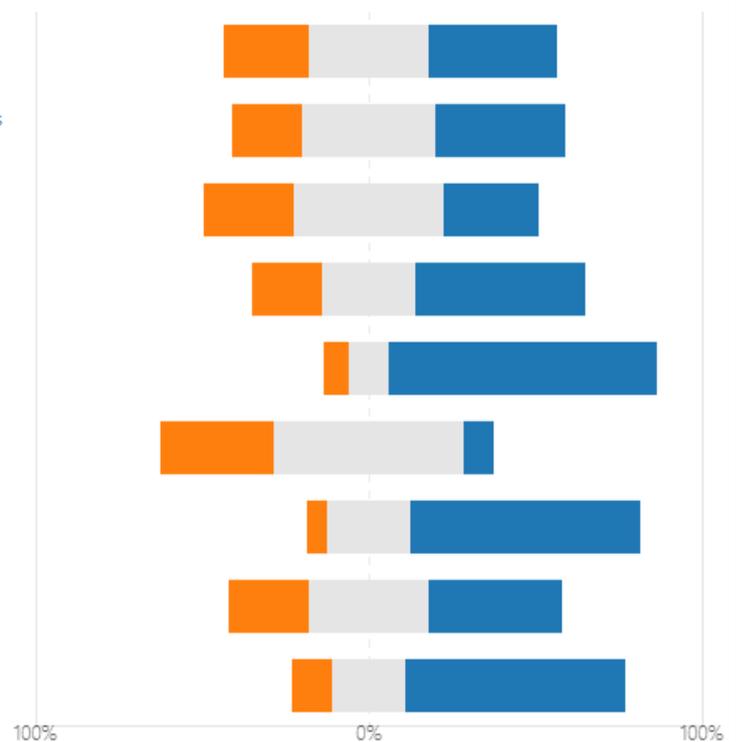
I can receive messages from our school in a variety of different ways (mobile phone, website, e-mail or in...

Our school's website is an engaging destination that I always look forward to exploring.

I would like to see more photos and videos of what happens at my child's school.

I am satisfied with the way I'm currently receiving messages from our school.

The messages sent from school are clear and easy to read



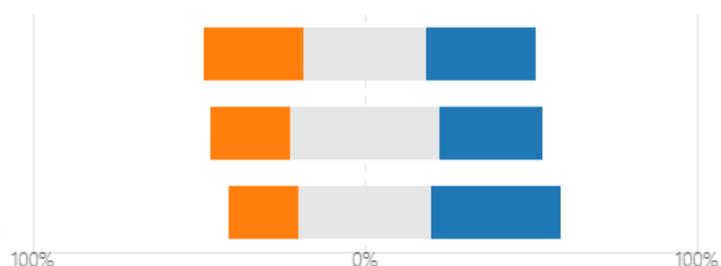
3. Transparency and Interaction

Disagree Neutral Agree

I am aware of the efforts that our school makes to collect and to act on feedback from parents.

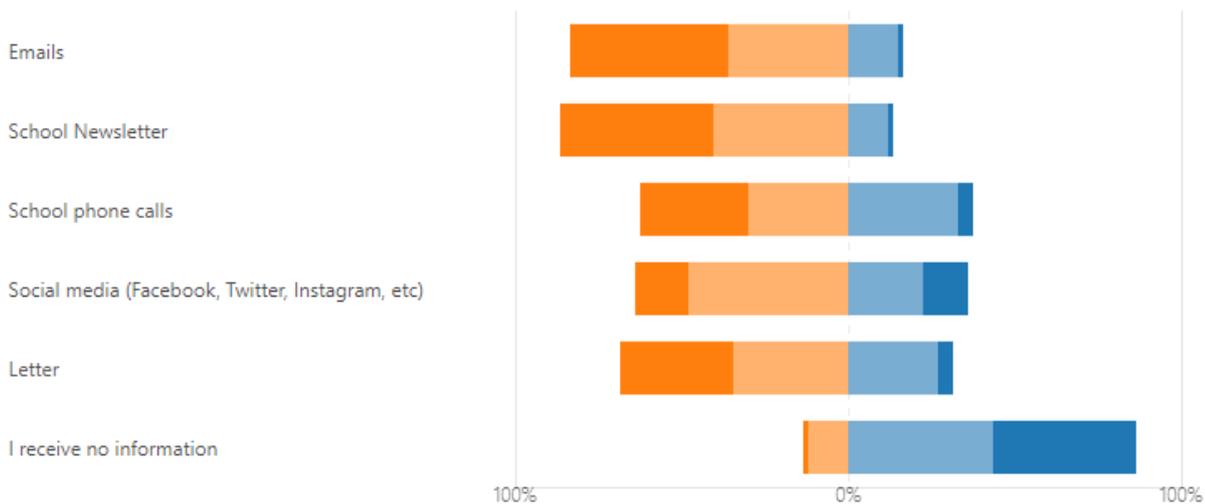
Our school respects and values constructive criticism.

Our school is open and honest in its interaction with parents, local community and other interested parties.



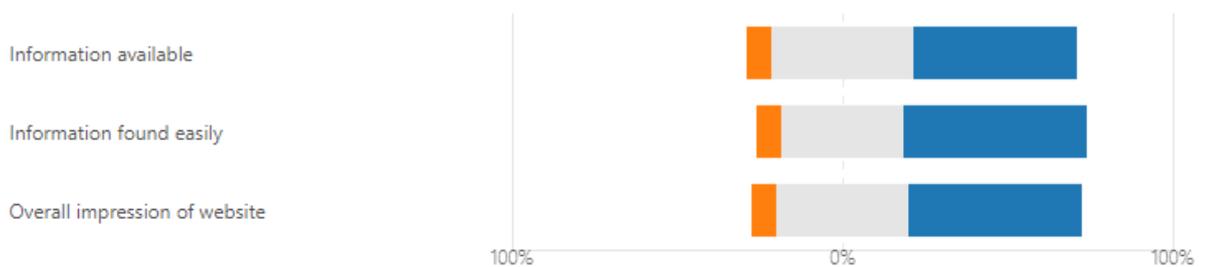
4. Personal preference of communication method

■ Almost Always
 ■ Often
 ■ Rarely
 ■ Never



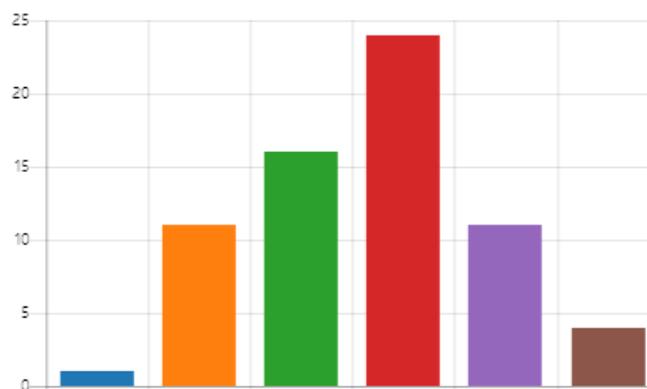
5. Please answer the following questions about St Aldhelm's website

■ Great
 ■ Good
 ■ Needs improvement



6. I visit St Aldhelm's website for information relating to school activities, events, and academic information:

● Daily 1
● Once or more a week 11
● 2-3 times a month 16
● 1-3 times a month 24
● Less than twice a year 11
● Never 4



The Communications Working Party will be looking in more detail at the information received and taking on board the feedback and comments given. For the full results please follow the link in the Newsletter notification email. We have the confirmation to go ahead with the build of our new website and feel strongly that this will make a big difference to both our reputation and to improve communication by encouraging more frequent visits. There were several comments about receiving newsletters in a paper copy format but unfortunately they are too costly to print. The upload to the website and linked email, means we can share the number of pictures and quality of publication that we are proud to share. It was lovely to hear how much you value seeing what your children are doing in school. We look forward to a Parent Voice session to gain further views from parents on communication, as well as other school topics, in Term 6.

Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Easter Bingo Evening. Over £400 was raised on the night as well as everyone socialising and having fun together!

The Friends of St Aldhelm's are now focusing on their contribution towards the Douling Village Fete which is to be held on Saturday 13th July. Please see the committee if you would like to help ☺

St Aldhelm's Cleaners

We all wish to thank Nat Gilham, who has cleaned at St Aldhelm's for the past few years and left before the Easter break. We thank her for her hard work and wish her well in her new job!

We are delighted to have appointed a new cleaner, Niki Barber, who started work with us last week. She joins Georgie Cullen to make the team that clean and care for our school and make our environment ready for everyone each day. Thank you!



Big Well Done to Caroline Page, our school cook, who completed the London Marathon on Sunday with a time of 4 hours 38 minutes. This is an incredible achievement!

Caroline and her husband ran to raise money for the Orchard Vale Trust, a local charity in Wookey, who support adults with learning difficulties.



St. Aldhelm's Church News

Messy Church Sunday 5th May 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 Joy Lees by Friday 3rd May on 01749 880260

Come and
join us for:



Special Messy Church to be held on Sunday 19th May 4 – 6 pm

This event will begin at 4pm on the Glebeland with fun and games, followed by a 'Prayer Walk Trail' via St Aldhelm's Well and then a BBQ at St Aldhelm's Church.

Please telephone Joy Lees on 01749 880260 or Jan Minchin 01749 880607, if you would like to come or have more details, by Friday 17th May.

Any donations for the 'pot' will be much appreciated.



Douling Produce and Handicraft Show

Thank you to the Douling Produce and Handicraft Show Committee for their very kind donation of a Field Maple Tree to our school grounds. The tree marks the celebration of 50 years of the show running. Staff and children at the school have always supported the event by contributing with competition entries. Look out for this year's show on **August Bank Holiday 2019 weekend**.

Pictured right: Joyce Godden, Chair of the committee with the celebration plaque
Pictured below left: Joyce with husband Harry, Diane Fear, member of the committee and June Stott, eldest and original committee member

Pictured below right: School Council and class representatives helping to plant the tree



RUN FOR ELLIE!

Saturday 11th May, 10am-12pm

Come along for a morning of fun in aid of Ellie Payne and her chosen charity 'Time is Precious'.

With the fantastic and much-loved 'Rocky's Magic Show' MCing and entertaining, it is going to be a really fun event, including face painting, family fitness, mini yoga, bouncy castle and of course the main event - the tot's fun run around the sports field!



The event is aimed at children aged 2-5, though older siblings will of course be welcomed.

Spaces are by donation (suggested £10 per family) – book now on 01749 346644.

For more information contact: Debbie Roberts at Shepton Mallet Leisure on 01749 346644

Douling Village Supporters

Well done and thank you to Mollie & Eden K, Emily & Grace R, Arna N and Bailey P and their parents for their help with the Glebeland 'rabbit hole-filling task' during the Easter holidays. It's a great example of the community working together for the benefit of others.

