

# ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

January 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

Dear Parents

January can be a slow and dark month for many, following the festivities of December. We are lucky at school that this is never the case. Another month goes by where we see children moving on, making breakthroughs in their development and grasping learning with a curiosity that inspires us to further provide.

This month we have been fortunate to build and provide a new outdoor classroom. Nature and the outdoors provide a stimulating and inspiring environment for all to learn from. We know the competition we face from the ever developing digital world, but this will never come close to the benefits of spending time outdoors. Please see [Page 2](#) for more information on our plans for this wonderful new resource and the importance of promoting outdoor learning.

Children in Year 4,5,and 6 gave us all a brilliant experience this week with their amazing production of The Snow Queen. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them for their performance, whether as a main role, group part or stage hand, they all contributed to something very special for us to enjoy. [Page 3 & 4](#)

An insight into some of our school clubs can be found on [Page 5](#). A letter for signing up for next term's clubs will be out in the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> February. Parents' Evenings are coming up this week. Please do make sure you have booked your appointment time to meet with your child's teacher.

Kind regards  
Mrs P Cohen  
Headteacher

## Key Dates for 2019

### Term 3:

- 04.02.19 Fire Safety talks - YR, Y1, Y3 & Y5
- 05.02.19 Safer Internet Day 2019  
See [Page 7](#)
- 06.02.19 Parent Consultation Evening  
3:40-6:40pm
- 07.02.19 Parent Consultation Evening  
3:40-5:30pm
- 11.02.19 Last week for clubs
- 15.02.19 End of Term 3

### Term 4:

- 25.02.19 Start of Term 4
- 28.02.19 Celebration Assembly 2:30pm
- 05.03.19 Cross Country Race, Downside
- 13.03.19 Kilve Residential Trip for Y5  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- 26.03.19 Cross Country race, Glastonbury
- 27.03.19 PTA Meeting 6:30pm at the  
Poachers Pocket
- 02.04.19 Easter Church Service  
- led by Y2, 3 & 6
- 05.04.19 End of Term 4  
Easter Bingo Evening

### Term 5:

- 23.04.19 INSET Day**
- 24.04.19 Start of Term 5 for children
- 24.05.19 End of Term 5

### Term 6:

- 03.06.19 Start of Term 6
- 19.06.19 Budden's Camp for Year 6  
19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June 2019
- 28.06.19 INSET Day**
- 03.07.19 Whitstone Transfer Day
- 04.07.19 Whitstone Transfer day
- 18.07.19 Year 6 Leavers' Church Service  
Celebration Assembly
- 23.07.19 End of Term 6

# The New Outdoor Classroom

It has been wonderful to see the build and completion of our new outdoor classroom this month. We are very grateful to all those who have contributed to make it possible and will be thanking those who enabled the new build to happen in due course. In particular we thank Tesco, Wainwright Quarry and Aggregate Industries.



This new resource is a very welcome addition to our facilities that enable us to offer a good provision for outdoor learning. Our plan is for classes to use the space when they are learning outdoors in any weather, for shelter from wind and rain in the winter months and for shade from sun in the summer months. We endeavour to utilise our outdoor space all year round, as we are all aware of the enormous benefits to learning outside for all children.



## Outdoor Learning

We aim to use our outdoor environment for all children to develop; in character, individually and socially and to broaden their understanding of their surroundings and the wider world. All children have the opportunity to play outdoors, take part in outdoor PE, Science activities and Forest School. Our reception and Year 1 class enjoy weekly Forest School activities all year round. Year 4 enjoyed Forest School activities last term and Year 6 have the opportunity to enjoy Forest School this term. Term 4 will see Year 2 get their go, Term 5 will be for Year 3 and Term 6 for Year 5. On top of these opportunities we also provide a residential experience for Year 5 and 6, where outdoor learning is the main focus.

Well-being and mental health research has shown how important it is to spend time outdoors. There are enormous benefits to fresh air and exercise. Are you making sure you and your child spend time outdoors each day? Do you make the most of our wonderful countryside? What activities do you plan for the weekends?





# The Snow Queen ~ A Production by Y4, 5 and 6

Wow – what a fantastic production! Well done to all our children who took part and provided such wonderful entertainment this week. Lines were learned, songs were practiced and stage directions fulfilled, to put on a very slick and polished production of The Snow Queen. Who knows where these talents may be taken in the future?





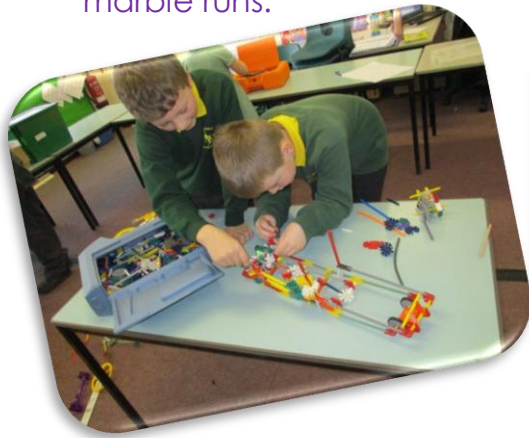


A big thank you goes to the staff team who worked together to make it happen. Thank you Mrs Newman, Miss Hodsm an, Miss Horgan, Mrs Horton, Mrs Manship, Mrs Tizard and Mrs Bassett for your patience, creativity and commitment in leading and supporting the children to prepare and perform. It is quite an achievement to ensure all core learning continues alongside such a venture, and you have all succeeded in doing both. It is an experience we will always strive to include in a busy school year as we know how it supports the development of children's talents and characters and ensures our curriculum continues to be broad and balanced.

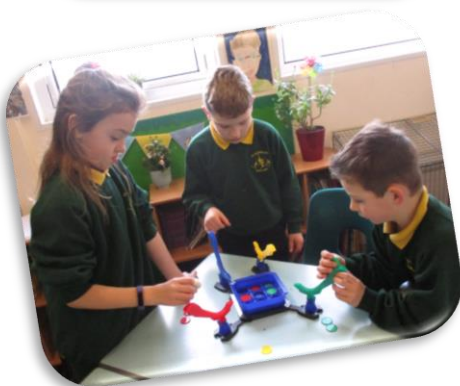


# Clubs at St. Aidhelm's

Each week, **Construction Club** has been tackling a different challenge whether to create a Christmas decoration, Christmas construction or to create something working collaboratively. We've enjoyed using different sets including Lego, K'nex as well as the marble runs.



**Board Games Club** is an opportunity for children to have a quieter lunch time playing games. It has been great to see children being patient, taking turns and working together with children from other year groups. The favourite games this term have been giant snakes and ladders, head bands and beating Miss Horgan at Top Trumps.



In **Book Club**, children have been reading *The Snow Queen* by Hans Christian Andersen to tie in with our production.

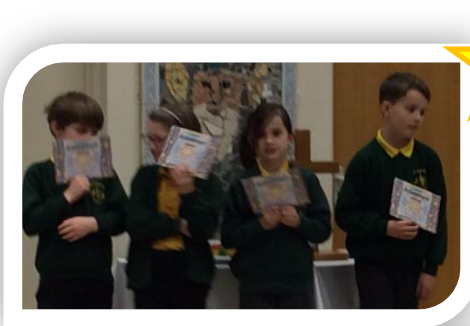
In **Comic Book Club**, children have been reading and studying comics and then creating their own storyboard plans.



Not all clubs have been featured this month – Look out for more from our other clubs next time.







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



# Safeguarding our Children

All adults at school, in our communities and at home, have a duty and responsibility to safeguard our children. This means we ensure their safety and well-being at all times. One of the most challenging situations for parents particularly, is making sure their children are safe online. Please read on below, which comes from the UK Safer Internet Centre about the Global Safer Internet Day 2019 and the link for further information and resources that will be useful to helping.



## What is Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is **celebrated globally** in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people and inspire a national conversation.

Coordinated in the UK by the **UK Safer Internet Centre** the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved to help promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Globally, Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries, coordinated by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission, and national Safer Internet Centres across Europe.

The day offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. It calls upon young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and wider, to join together in helping to create a better internet. Get involved to play your part!

### Parents

#### Don't forget . . .

Don't forget the important part you play in keeping your child safe online at home. Visit the site for information, advice and resources:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs/activities-parents-and-carers>

Can I also bring you attention to the recent local news article **County Lines**. Please be aware and find out information at: <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-is-county-lines>

#### Working with the local police, PC Jane Ellis

As part of our ongoing work to fulfil our safeguarding duties we work closely with other agencies. This educates and helps children know how to keep themselves safe and who to turn to if they do not feel safe. As such, a visit was organised to meet our new local beat officer, PC Jane Ellis. Jane came in to meet and talk with Y6 this week about behaviours and consequences, respect and online communication. The children asked thoughtful questions and talked to Jane about things they have seen or heard. On future visits Jane will meet all other classes and work with our designated safeguarding leads at school. Our designated safeguarding lead is Mrs Cohen, safeguarding governor is Mrs Hellier and deputy designated safeguarding leads are Mrs Phillips and Miss Horgan. Children know that they can talk to any member of staff at school. When a concern is raised, to maintain confidentiality, the safeguarding lead will take the necessary action. Parents concerned will of course be informed.



# School Community News

## Governor News Spring 2019



### Welcome

We are delighted to welcome 2 new governors to our team. Beth Short joins us as a Parent Governor and Rachel Manship as Staff Governor.

### Outdoor Classroom

Have you seen the new outdoor classroom? It's very exciting to see the result of all our hard work funding-raising actually in place and ready for the children to use. The contractors did a great job. A break in the wintry weather on Tuesday morning meant that all the children were able to go outside after morning worship to see the School Council cut the ribbon. Revd Jonathan prayed a blessing on our new learning space. It's an encouragement to look forward to the warm spring and summer days that lie ahead.

### School entrance

Our school has been allocated funds specifically for the upgrading of the entrance and office spaces to make them compliant with safeguarding and disability regulations. We are expecting work to start at half term and take about 9 weeks. It should be completed in the Easter holiday. There will inevitably be disruption but plans are in hand to make sure that the daily life of the school and the Village Hall continues safely and as smoothly as possible.

### Pop-up café

Last year we set up termly pop-up cafes in the Community Room to give parents the opportunity to meet and chat with governors informally before the celebration assemblies. Not many of you were able to get to these cafes so this year we would like to offer different informal opportunities for parents and carers to meet governors. We would love to hear your suggestions as to what form these should take and when would be good times.

Please pass on any suggestions via the Suggestions Box in Reception or to individual governors if you see them at school, or to me at: [staldhelmschair@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:staldhelmschair@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

Governors will be in school on the parent consultation evenings. Do take the opportunity to talk with a governor if you wish to. There will also be chance to share your ideas in a Parents' Survey, coming soon.

### Insight into governors' work

Next term's governor news will include reports from the chairs of our Finance, Communications and Church School Ethos Groups.

Sue Bloomfield, Chair of Governors



# Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

The PTA met on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January for an Extraordinary General Meeting. Thankfully there were enough people to sign off the legal bits to ensure the PTA are compliant. Confirmation of roles is as follows:

Teraza Connock – Chair, Clair Varley – Secretary, Tamsin Prestidge – Treasurer  
Rowan Hawkins – Vice Chair, Anna Miller – Vice Secretary, Chris Pulsford – Vice Treasurer

**The next PTA meeting will be Wednesday 27th March, 6:30pm at the Poacher Pocket.**

**Upcoming date:** Easter Bingo Evening will take place on Friday 5th April (more details to come soon)

The PTA are continuing to try and come up with ideas on how to get more parents involved. Any ideas would be very welcome. The PTA is for all parents of children at the school. Instead of leaving it to the same people all the time, why not get involved yourself and contribute to our school community. You will be very welcome!

Saturday 2nd February: DOULTING VILLAGE HALL FILM:  
CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (PG)

Our apologies that the newsletter was not out in time to promote this event. We hope that those of you who were able to walk to the village hall could enjoy it (if the showing did go ahead!).



Job Vacancy at St. Aldhelm's:

**School Midday Supervisory Assistant**  
**Five days a week (Mon-Fri) – term-time only**

Please see Mrs Barton or the school office if you are interested. This post is being covered in the interim to ensure appropriate supervision of children at all times.



*Job Opportunity*

## St. Aldhelm's Church News

### Messy Church

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 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 1<sup>st</sup> February on 01749 880260**

**Forward date ~ Next month Messy Church will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**