

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

June 30th 2019

Dear Parents

We were really lucky to end the month of June with sunshine and a wonderful theatre performance of 'According to Arthur' from the Paddleboat Theatre Company. Parents also gave feedback that the after school performance in Shepton Mallet was also brilliant. We are very grateful to the Plays in the Playground Project which has provided the wonderful opportunities to watch live theatre. Our upper key stage 2 classes also enjoyed the chance to take part in First Aid Basic Awareness Course in June. The Doultong Village Hall Committee organised and paid for the training, following the installation of the defibrillator to the village. Thank you VHC ☺

In this month's newsletter, read on for Healthy Minds and Bodies Week [page 2-5](#); Celebration Assembly [page 6](#); St Aldhelm's Children out and about [page 7](#); Collective Worship [page 8](#); Year 5 Viking Day [page 9](#); Year 6 Budden's Camp [page 10-11](#); Parent Voice [page 13-14](#); Community News [page 15](#)

We are looking forward to our sports events next month. Our Sports Day colours are:

Lanto	Martio	Scog	Epots	Halvi
green	yellow	white	blue	red

Children are able to wear a t-shirt of their planet colour for team spirit on Monday and Tuesday. Should any child not have a t-shirt they will be able to wear a coloured band which we have in school. Parents are welcome to join us from 1pm for a 1:15pm start on Tues 9th July.

The organisers of the Mendip Mini Olympics have unfortunately cancelled this year's event. We hope it will be able to run again next year.

Next month we hope you will be able to join us for some of our events: our Traditional Sports Day Races, the Doultong Village Fete, our Summer Music Concert, Celebration Worship, Leavers' Service and Assembly. Thank you for your continuous support which so positively impacts your children and our school.

Kind regards
Mrs P Cohen
Headteacher

Key Dates:

- 02.07.19 Assembly led by Shepton Library – Summer Reading Challenge
- 03.07.19 Whitstone Y6 Transfer Day, Wells Blue Y6 Induction Day and Ansford Y6 Transfer Day
Whole School Art Day
- 04.07.19 Whitstone Y6 Transfer day
Muffi Day for all children for Village Fete donations
- 05.07.19 Clubs finish for this year. New clubs will restart in the Autumn term
- 08.07.19 The Planet Games Sports Day Event
Year R Maths Meeting 3:30pm
- 09.07.19 Traditional Sports Day Races – Parents welcome
- 11.07.19 Moving Up Morning – children to spend the morning in their new classrooms
Third Sprite Session – Teddy Bear Picnic pm
- 13.07.19 **Doultong Village Fete**
- 15.07.19 Annual Reports Out
- 17.07.19 Summer Music Concert 9:15am
- 18.07.19 Year 6 Leavers' Church Service – Y6 Parents welcome
Celebration Assembly 2:30pm
- 19.07.19 Guide Dogs for the Blind Talk
- 23.07.19 Leavers' Assembly - Y6 Parents welcome
End of Term 6

2019-2020 Term Dates:

- 03.09.19 Term 1 **INSET DAY 02.09.19**
- 24.10.19 End of Term 1 **INSET DAY 25.10.19**
- 04.11.19 Term 2
- 20.12.19 End of Term 2 - Christmas Holiday
- 07.01.20 Term 3 **INSET DAY 06.01.19**
- 14.02.20 End of Term 3
- 24.02.20 Term 4
- 03.04.20 End of Term 4 – Easter Holiday
- 20.04.20 Term 5 **BANK HOLIDAY 08.05.19**
- 22.05.20 End of Term 5
- 01.06.20 Term 6 **INSET DAY 26.06.19**
- 17.07.20 End of Term 6 **INSET DAY 20.07.19**

HEALTHY MINDS & BODIES

The children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 had a fantastic healthy minds and bodies week. Throughout the week, children participated in a variety of different activities including cooking, music, yoga and art.

MUSIC

During the music sessions, children listened carefully to a variety of music and tried to relate these to different emotions.

Children also had the opportunity to be creative and try their hand at African drumming. Some excellent hidden musical talent was uncovered and brilliant pieces of music were created. A highlight for the children (and Miss Horgan) was the daily performance of Old Town Road!



ART

Children enjoyed working collaboratively to consider 'What makes us unique?' and shared and celebrated their similarities and differences.

Each group were given the same Zebra to decorate however they liked to show how dazzling and unique they were.



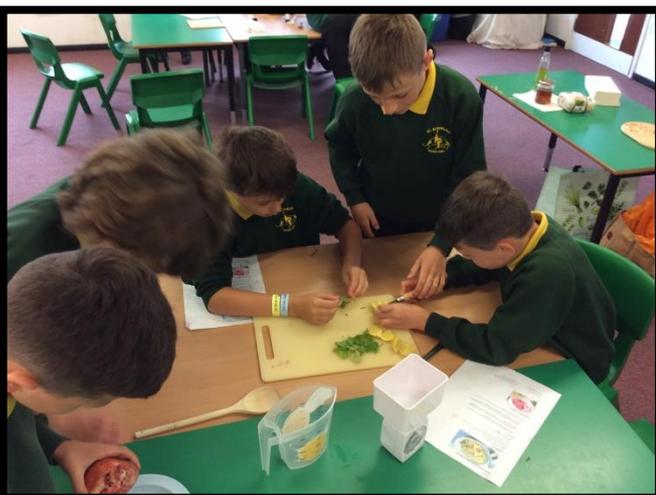


Cooking

With Mrs Newman, the children looked at eating healthily and why it is important to have a balanced diet.

We discussed the importance of hygiene when preparing and cooking food. The children then used their measuring skills to follow recipes and make both a savoury and sweet dish.

A particular highlight was tasting their creations. The Frozen Berry Yoghurt was a favourite. I know the teaching staff enjoyed the food the children created too.





YEAR R & 1
HEALTHY
MINDS AND
BODIES



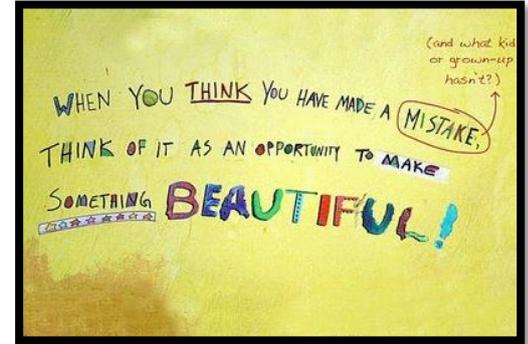
YEAR 2 HEALTHY MINDS AND BODIES

Year 2 tried out many new experiences as part of this year's Healthy Minds and Bodies week. We all enjoyed sampling new activities in our Round Robin afternoons with Reception and Year 1 including creating art using mistakes inspired by the book Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg;

exploring apparatus with Miss Taylor and creating healthy snacks.

Unfortunately on

Tuesday afternoon, our class reading dog Buddy was dognaped. Luckily, he was able to send a help note to let



To Year 2 Magpies,
HELP ME! I am being dognaped. Please find me.
Buddy



us know so that Year 2 could set about finding him. We followed clues of pictures, dog biscuits and a dog bowl and found him in the Glebeland. Phew! We enjoyed exercising and relaxing our minds and bodies with tree hunting, healthy snack tasting and free play. Mango, pomegranate and sugar snap peas were very popular. Many thanks to Mrs Connock and Mrs Pulsford for accompanying us. Finally, in Science, we investigated the best way to



remove germs from our hands using glitter to replicate the germs. We explored whether the temperature of the water and using soap made the germs easier to get rid of. Why not ask you child what we found out and if they are using that idea when they are washing their hands.



HEALTHY LUNCHES & SNACKS

Following our healthy minds and bodies week, can we remind all parents that we promote healthy lunch boxes and snacks for all children. The school's packed lunch policy is developed using guidance from the Children's Food Trust. Balanced packed lunches should include: some starchy foods, such as bread, pasta, potatoes, couscous; 1 portion of fruit and 1 portion of vegetables or salad; dairy food such as cheese or yoghurt and meat, fish, or another source of protein (oily fish once every 3 weeks). The weight of portions is also important, and is the same as for hot meals. Packed lunches should not include sweets or any chocolate bars.

The school understands that healthy snacks can be an important part of the diet of young people.

- In Early Years and KS1, a fruit snack is provided during the morning break.
- Pupils are able to bring fruit or a plain cereal bar (without chocolate) into school to eat at break-times. Other snacks are not permitted.

Thank you for your support in promoting healthy eating. As Holistic nutritionist Gillian McKeith said 'You are what you eat!' – let's continue to educate our children to ensure the best for their health and well-being.





East Somerset Railway

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

Children from St Aldhelm's were invited to the East Somerset Railway this month. The railway has plans to improve its museum and wanted to seek the views of local children to help their planning. Children looked around and considered how best to improve the museum. All children shared their ideas. Lisa was very impressed by their thoughts and creativity! She plans to take these forward to the next design phase. In time she will visit the children at school with the final design presentation. The children enjoyed being a part of this process. We will let you know when the improvements have been made and maybe you'll consider a visit. Thank you to all the parents who transported children so they could take part.



Children from Year 4 took part in the Musical Spectacular at Strode College on the 17th June. They performed a selection of pieces they have learned in their brass lessons this year. Well done to Olivia Comer who played a solo on trumpet – fantastic.

Miss Horgan and Mrs Cohen were very impressed by the behaviour throughout the event. Superstars!

Thank you very much to the PTA for contributing to the costs for the wonderful opportunity of brass tuition.

All Hallows Sports Afternoon

Along with three other local schools, Year 2 competed in a Sports Afternoon at All Hallows School. The children took part in a variety of different activities including football penalty kicks, throwing balls at cricket stumps, touching cones in a specific pattern, running a slalom, netball shooting and hockey dribbling. The children finished with a race along the track to collect their ice lolly! Even though it was a drizzly afternoon, Year 2 showed their energy, competitiveness, team spirit and sporting skills and made Mrs Phillips really proud. We narrowly missed the winning prize of an enormous cake but we had a brilliant afternoon and showed what makes St Aldhelm's pupils really special. Many thanks to Mrs Watts and Mr Pulsford for accompanying us.



Year 6 visited Wells Cathedral for their Spirit of Wells Pilgrim Day. They took part in a series of activities as well as joining together with many other year 6s from across the area for a special worship. This celebration begins the start of the year 6 transition from primary to secondary school. More to follow next month.

Collective Worship at St. Aldhelm's VA Church School

We started the new term with the red table cloth on our worship table, learning about the Christian Festival Pentecost and exploring one of the parts of the trinity, the Holy Spirit.

This week we launched our new Christian Value **Courage**. The whole school looked at images of Daisy launching herself from the jetty, Raeanna zooming down the zip wire and Eden and Freya clinging together at the top of a pile of 14 crates and considered which Christian Value was on display.



Their ideas included perseverance, bravery, friendship and collaboration. After watching a video of Moses from Exodus 3-6, the children once again showed such depth of thinking in what the story of the Burning Bush shows us. They felt that it shows us that that we should have confidence in ourselves and God and that we should push ourselves outside of our comfort zone. Being in worship with our children is always such an inspiring experience, another reason we should be so proud of the community of St Aldhelm's children.

This week, why not share times with your family when you have needed to show Courage. Explore how this has felt during and after the experience.



YEAR 5 VIKING DAY

Year 5's project this term is about investigating the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle. Part of this involved a very exciting day as a Viking. Through drama, cookery, games, stories and artefacts, the children learnt a vast amount about Viking life and what happened when they invaded Britain.



The children handled artefacts and learnt about Viking weapons.



The children learnt about Viking food and made their own bread and butter. They tried it at their Viking banquet.



Year 6 Camp Residential – Budden's Scout Camp

Year 6 went on their adventure filled residential to Budden's camp in Dorset on 19th June, for two nights. They had the opportunity to partake in a range of activities including; Go Ape, kayaking, orienteering, crate stack height challenge, climbing gauntlet and a sandcastle competition. We were all impressed by the perseverance and enthusiasm that all children showed in each activity, with many children overcoming worries and challenging themselves further. Below are a few photo highlights:





St Aldhelm's Readathon 2019

Readathon

Reading to help children in hospital

Earlier this year, children from St Aldhelm's took part in a summer readathon challenge. The money we raise in sponsorship is set to help children in hospital by supplying them with brand new books to read as well as visits from storytellers. For taking part, St Aldhelm's will also receive 20% of what we raise to enable us to update our library. A massive thank you to everyone who has taken part. Please can you ensure all sponsorship money comes in by **Monday 8th July 2019.**



SOMERSET
Libraries

Space Chase

Summer Reading Challenge 2019

Following our assembly from the Shepton Mallet Library this week, children will hopefully be inspired to take up the Summer Reading Challenge this year. Please visit the library for further information and to sign up.



Reminder: We would like to remind the children to start bringing in materials for our art day on Wednesday 3rd July – further information was shared in last month's newsletter. 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.

Parent Voice – June 2019

A Parent Voice session was held at school this month to provide an opportunity for parents to share their views on school matters. The following topics were discussed:

Things parents feel we are doing well...

- Start of day: Headteacher on the gate and members of staff present. Staff can greet, monitor well-being, receive messages and diffuse situations if needed. "Great to see staff out" "Can have face to face contact"
- Newsletters: Love clear information provided and lots of photographs and information about the children. Would rather have lots of pictures and view online than a text based paper version. "Communication is amazing" "I know teacher is first port of call" "There has always been support if I need it"
- The school does have a good reputation. One parent who visits other schools, especially secondary shared: "Good listening and better citizens than other schools" "Smarter uniforms which are enforced" "Secondary teachers very positive about St Aldhelm's children"
- "Children settle really well into Reception class" "All staff in class are very supportive" "Staff take time to listen" "Reception team are great"
- "Happy with teaching and learning"

→ School Dates to be sent as a paper copy, following feedback from the Governor Communication Questionnaire. Some parents would prefer a paper newsletter but appreciated it is not feasible due to the cost implications for printing

→ Parents to update office with email addresses so that both parents can be on distribution list for school emails

→ Photos of Staff and Governors for the new entrance "This really helpful"

Launch of new website

- The plan is to launch at the start of the school year in September
- Content is relevant, up to date and good but there are lots of sections. It takes time to work through
- Only use for wise-pay and newsletter
- Should social media be an option on the new site? Parents are happy with current arrangements. Need to agree how social media should be used for positive communication as some parents are causing upset and negativity. Further consideration needed

→ New website should be easier to navigate

→ Extreme weather communication could be smoother. Communicate closure by 7am on website

→ All school letters (especially for trips) should be on website

Car Park

- Concern that someone may get seriously hurt in the car park. People not getting in time and parking dangerously or inconsiderately, particularly around the zebra crossing, in disabled spaces and in front of bus
- Every parent, therefore driver, has a duty of care
- The car park belongs to the Village Hall, not the school. Need to be more respectful and grateful. Many other schools don't have the luxury.
- Need to have consistent expectations with all users of the car park.

→ Letter to parents or newsletter update, speed coming into car park, disabled bays, not our car park

→ Parents to remind other parents if they see dangerous or inconsiderate parking

→ Access from village footpath across car park could be marked more clearly – work with Village Hall Committee

KS1 meals

- Half portions for KS1 when it is being subsidised by Government
- “Quality has decreased over time as meals are not as tasty” v “My child prefers plain food”

→ Need to provide quality healthy school meals which are not bland

→ Full portions for KS1 needed

→ Offer of seconds for those with a smaller appetite, to avoid waste and putting children off with a large plate

→ Fish allergies – awareness for Fish Friday, not Tuna jacket or alternative with fish ingredient!

Behaviour policy

- Due to safeguarding regulations behaviour matters are not shared with everyone. Staff manage behaviour sensitively and discretely to support both sides. Parents of the child concerned will be informed.
- Can both sets of children and parents come together? In some situations this can work, but it isn't always appropriate
- Idea of ‘Bully patrols’ so that children can talk to slightly older children if they are worried

→ Develop role of Kindness Ambassadors through Planet Worship and at playtimes, to promote positive behaviour and provide peer support - Consider tabards or badges for visibility

For the future...

→ Opportunities within Teaching and Learning for best provision and enhanced educational experience

→ Parent Voice session each term

→ Teaching Structure

Parents thanked staff for their time and found that it was very useful.

Car Park Concern!

A main concern of parents is the continued parking issue at drop off and collection times. Parents remain to be alarmed at the lack of consideration for all others, parents, staff, children and villagers, entering and using the car park, particularly at busy times. The car park does not belong to the school, it is the property of the village hall. As such we are very lucky to have parking near our site (other schools in the area do not have this luxury) and need to treat it respectfully and with due consideration. Largely, there is concern regarding parents who let their children out of the car without pulling into a safe space. The zebra crossing is not a safe space to open car doors and let children get out. Please pull into a space and let your child out. We remind parents that those who drop off in the car park and let their children walk in by themselves do this **at their own risk** and that we do not accept responsibility for the children until they are on school site at 8:40am. It is also important not to double park as this is causing other parents to be blocked in. This is unfair if parents have arrived in good time as they are going onto work and need to leave promptly. I wish to also remind parents that pulling into the coach bay is not permitted as this also creates a hazard. This has restarted since the building works have been completed. If you are late getting to school and there isn't space in the car park, please get out of the close, park on the road and walk into school on the path.

It is not the job of school staff to oversee parking. Parents must ensure they uphold a duty of care and take responsibility for their driving and parking as required by the Highway Code.

If you see any inappropriate driving or parking please speak to the parent involved and remind them of our continued efforts to ensure the approach to school and the car park are safe for everybody.



Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

Don't forget that we will be having a whole school **Muffi Day on Thursday 4th July** and would be very grateful for contributions of bottles and chocolate for the tombola stalls.

Other donations for the fete (raffle prizes, 'Anything goes' stall, etc) will be very welcome. Please bring these into the school office during the week beginning 8th July. Thank you in advance!

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 ☺

Doultling Village Fete ~ Saturday 13th July 2019

**DOULTLING
VILLAGE
FETE**

SATURDAY 13TH JULY 12PM - 4PM

★ Grand raffle - Top prize "Fitbit charge 3"
★ Bar ★ BBQ ★ Games
★ Tombolas ★ Cream Tea Cafe. ★ Cakes ★ Vintage engines ★ And much much more.

Love planet Earth
Environmentally friendly doing our bit! You are welcome to bring your own refillable drinks bottle.

St. Aldhelm's Church News

Messy Church

Sunday 7th July 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 5th July on 01749 880260

Thank you to those who joined us for the Strawberry Tea in June. We are always grateful for the money raised by these events as it benefits church funds.

YOUR SUPPORT IS ALWAYS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!



Community Event Date for your diary...

Guide Dogs for the Blind Coffee Morning

~ Friday 19th July ~

More details to follow ...

