

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

# ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

November 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Parents

This month began with the special commemorations for Remembrance. We marked the occasion at school, and you can read more about this on the next page.

November is always a busy month as we work hard to continue teaching and learning before the inevitable Christmas season comes into full flow! We are making Reading a key focus area this year. Miss Hodsman, who leads English in the school, has looked into ways to inspire, promote and engage children to read and lots of fantastic reading is already embedded across the school. We share with you on page 3 how we plan to drive forward and ways that you can support your child to succeed and acquire a love of reading.

Christmas preparations are getting well under way as we build towards our Christmas performances, fayre, church service, lunch, class craft days and parties. Please read more information about the Fayre on page 6. For the performances, children will need to return to school for 5pm on the two evening performances and doors will open to parents at 5pm too. On the afternoon performance doors will open at 2pm. Letters with ticket requests will come home with the children next week.

We look forward to many of you joining us for events and making you feel Christmassy as we move through the remainder of the term.

Kind regards

Mrs P Cohen  
Headteacher

## December 2018

### Week 1:

05.12.18 MUFTI DAY for hamper donations  
Year 2 Magpie Trip to Wells  
Cathedral

06.12.18 MUFTI DAY for Year 2

### Week 2:

11.12.18 Christmas Production Y1,2 & 3  
Performance 5:30pm

12.12.18 Flu Vaccinations  
Christmas Production Y1,2 & 3  
Performance 2:30pm

13.12.18 Christmas Production Y1,2 & 3  
Performance 5:30pm

14.12.18 Christmas Jumper Day  
Christmas Fair 2:30pm

### Week 3:

17.12.18 Class Crafts (If you can come in to help on the day please speak to class teachers)

18.12.18 Christmas Service – Led by  
YR Robins & Y5 Woodpeckers  
9:30am ~ St Aldhelm's Church

18.12.18 School Christmas Lunch  
**Deadline for booking Christmas lunch is 12.12.18**

19.12.18 Class Christmas Parties

20.12.18 Celebration Assembly  
End of Term for children

**21.12.18 INSET Day**

### Key Dates Coming Up in 2019:

07.01.19 Start of Term 3

15.02.19 End of Term 3

25.02.19 Start of Term 4

13.03.19 Kilve Residential Trip for Y5  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

05.04.19 End of Term 4

**23.04.19 INSET Day**

24.04.19 Start of Term 5 for children

24.05.19 End of Term 5

03.06.19 Start of Term 6

**28.06.19 INSET Day**

23.07.19 End of Term 6

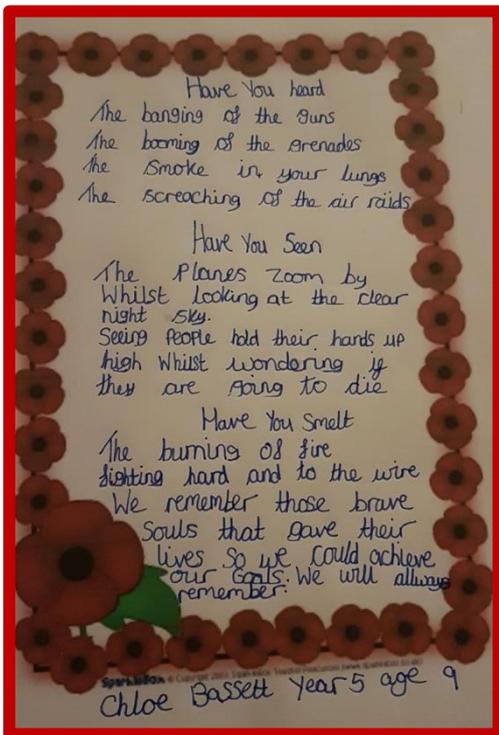


# Remembrance November 2018



Sunday 11th November 2018 marked 100 years since the Armistice was signed and the guns fell silent, bringing an end to one of the bloodiest conflicts in history,

As this month saw the poignant and special commemorations of the end of the First World War one hundred years ago, staff and children gave time and thought to the impact on individual and family lives. Monies were raised for the charity through the selling of poppies and other commemorative items. Some children across Key Stage 2 entered a Royal British Legion Poetry competition. I am happy to announce that two children from St. Aldhelm's wrote poems that were highly commended by the judging panel. Although they did not make the top three, I'm sure you will join me in congratulating Kayla Stevens and Chloe Bassett for such fabulous entries.



Our year 6 children have all the opportunity to look at and write their own poem this month too. Their compositions are brilliant and have been compiled into a class book. The governors enjoyed reading these last night before their meeting and you would be welcome to view at the end of a school day in year 6. As a taster, I've included one particularly thoughtful and well-written poem.

## THE LAND BEFORE THE POPPIES GREW BY KAYLA STEVENS

The land before the poppies grew,  
Old, damp and blood that has turned blue,  
Soldiers, lifeless in the trenches,  
Sat on the floor without any benches,  
Those we remember day by day,  
Those who we will never pay,  
Who sacrificed their lives for us,  
Who fought in the gloom and the dust,  
We see the poppies that will grow,  
Summer, winter and even snow,  
Soldiers fighting for our lives,  
Guns, as painful as knives,  
The battles went on and on,  
None of which were very fun,  
The bangs, the booms,  
The bombs in the gloom,  
The land before the poppies grew,  
The soldiers fought and never knew,  
Would it ever end?  
Will our land ever bend?  
Out of war where everything was new,  
In the land before the poppies grew!

### Poppies

- P- PEACE AFTER THE WAR,
- O- OBVIOUS COURAGE SHOWN,
- P- PEOPLE DEAD,
- P- PEOPLE SURVIVED,
- I- INDIVIDUALS TRIED THEIR BEST,
- E- END OF THE WAR,
- S- SUDDENLY, LOVE FILLED THE LAND.

Kayla Stevens, Year 6



# Becoming lifelong readers

We are launching a new scheme designed to encourage children to read as much as possible. It is vital that children are reading as much as possible, both independently and with an adult or sibling. The amount a child reads has a significant impact on their language development. A child who reads every day for 20 minutes, will hear on average 1,800,000 words per year as opposed to 8,000 words a year, when a child reads for 1 minute a day.

Reading is like breathing in, writing is like breathing out. The profound power of children's literature is that it teaches us how to live, not just how to read. The stories and information that children read, changes them by challenging, nurturing, inspiring, and allowing them to discover and explore the world. Children breathe in the big ideas, people, places, and facts and breathe out their own ideas, theories, and opinions in response. The reading/writing connection is beyond language. The integration of both enriches and enlivens the world of a child's mind and thinking. We want to create an atmosphere where reading is approached with excitement and is viewed as an opportunity to delve into another world or experience a faraway adventure.

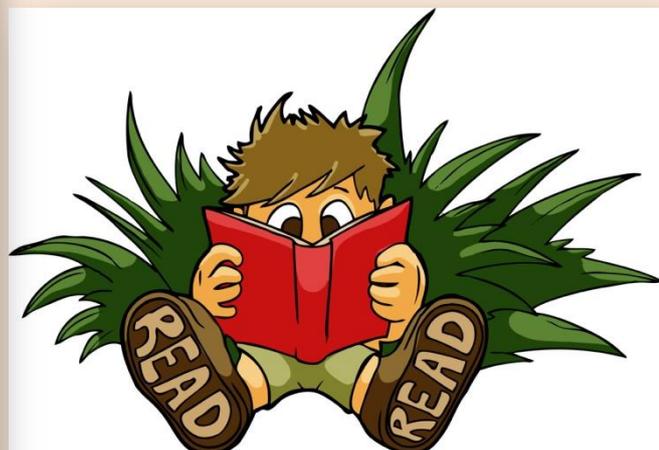
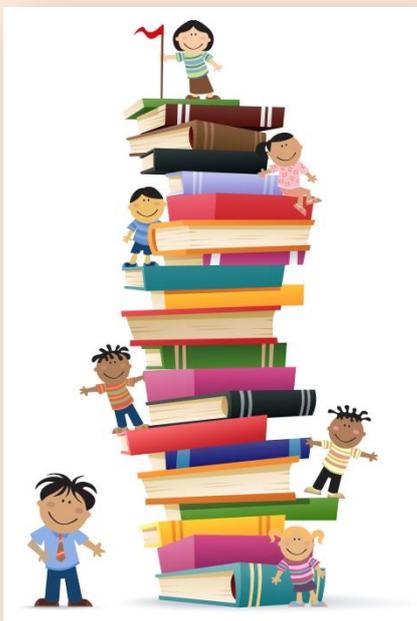
To help facilitate this, children will be able to earn a reading LEARP once a week, which will count towards their planet total. To achieve this, children will need to read at least four times a week a home, either independently or with an adult. Please record this in your child's reading record book. In each class, reading will be celebrated in a variety of ways.

We have created a webpage full of top tips and resources to help read with your child at home. This includes resources for early years, through to year 6.

<http://www.staldhelms.co.uk/page/?title=Supporting+your+child%27s+reading&pid=199>

Later this term, we will be launching a Readathon school wide event. More details will follow.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm in helping your child succeed and develop a lifelong love of reading.





A big well done to all the children who received certificates in November's Celebration Assembly for success and achievement in their learning!





Swimming, gymnastic, mathematical, golfing, carnival and handwriting achievements and successes!



Y2 & Y5 at the Dance Festival at Whitstone School – fabulous performances!





## Staff and Friends of St. Aldhelm's Christmas Fayre

Together, the Friends and Staff at St. Aldhelm's School are looking forward to a great Christmas Fayre this year. There has been lots of planning to make sure we build on what has taken place in previous years, to enjoy a fun and enjoyable afternoon. There may have been a little confusion in the message that came out in last week's letter so hopefully this will clarify the details for you!

The Fayre will take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 2:30pm for parents, grandparents, friends and villagers and for the children from 3pm. There will be teas and cakes, outside gift stalls, children's stalls, tombolas, craft stalls, Santa's Grotto and a fabulous raffle. This sort of event always works better if people contribute and work together and it's well attended on the day. So, how can you help?



### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December/Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December (for Year 2)**

Children can dress in mufti for the day. Rather than asking for a monetary donation we are asking that the children bring a contribution towards their class hamper:

Reception - bottles, Year 1 - pet items such as food or toys, Year 2 - chocolate, Year 3 - party items, Year 4 - pamper items, Year 5 - games and Year 6 – stationery



### **Monday 10th to Friday 14th December**

Children can bring in decorated sweetie jars for the Sweetie Jar competition. Each class will try to collect the most, and these will be used for the tombola on the day. Other donations of chocolate or raffle prizes will also be welcome



### **Friday 14th December**

Donations of cakes will be very much appreciated on the day. Please bring any great bakes to the office.

Arrive at 2:30pm for a look at the gifts and a calm cup of tea with friends

At 3pm children will be able to join you for excitement and fun! Make sure you bring small change for the variety of stalls, games and crafts available.

**Raffle tickets will be sold every day after school, at the office and at the fayre on the day.**

The raffle will be drawn at 4:30pm.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

# St. Aldhelm's Community News

## ST ALDHELM'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER

2:30PM - 5PM



## ST ALDHELM'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

### NEEDS YOU!

**SWEETIE JARS**  
Fill a jar/s with sweets of your choice and hand them into your classroom, the classroom with the most donations wins a treat.

**CLASS HAMPER DONATIONS**  
Multi day is in exchange for your classes chosen items, these donations will be used to create fab hampers.

**HELP**  
Are you able to spare some time to help out at the Fayre? Even if it's just for 15 minutes every little helps. If you can and would like to help it will be very appreciated.

**EXTRAS**  
We are asking for extra chocolate donations for a chocolate tombola, and cakes for the PTA cake stall. Also if you have anything you would like to donate to our raffle that would be amazing.



WARM Wishes

Lenovo Ideapad 130s 11.6 In Celeron 4GB 32GB  
Cloudbook- Grey

MAIN RAFFLE  
PRIZE  
LENOVO IDEAPAD  
WORTH £179



JUST £1  
A RAFFLE  
TICKET

## Fantastic Christmas Fayre Raffle

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Lenovo Ideapad

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Kindle Fire

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £25

Variety of Themed Hampers  
And other prizes

Tickets £1 each



Job Vacancies at St.Aldhelm's:

**School Midday Supervisory Assistant**

Five days a week (Mon-Fri) – term-time only

**School Cleaner**

Five days a week (Mon-Fri) – term-time only

Please see Mrs Barton or the school office if you are interested.



Job Opportunity

## St. Aldhelm's Church News

### Messy Church

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 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 - Special event in preparation for Christmas!

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 30<sup>th</sup> November on 01749 880260

### Crib and Christingle Family Service

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm

A wonderful way to start your Christmas celebrations

If you would like to make a Christingle come to the church from 3:30pm onwards, where you will be given all the necessary ingredients to make your Christingle

### Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11pm at St. Aldhelm's Church

This service will be led by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Right Reverend Peter Hancock

### Christmas Day Service

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 11 am at St. Aldhelm's Church

### Calling all Carol Singers!

Villagers will be carol singing around the village on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December (Chelynych) and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December (Doulting)

If you are available and would like to join in, please meet on both evenings at 6pm on the corner of Chelynych Park. Children will need to be accompanied by parents.

Bring a torch and wrap up warm!

All the money raised will be given to the Elim Conect Centre which works to help the homeless people in both Wells and the surrounding areas.