

ST. ALDHELM'S NEWS

March 29th 2019

Dear Parents

It has been a fantastic month with much to share. Please read further to hear about World Book Day [page 2&3](#), the Y5 Kilve Residential [page 4&5](#), Cross Country and Rugby Successes [page 6](#), and Celebration Assembly Achievements [page 7](#). Our launch of Times table Rockstars is proving very popular, please see [page 8](#) for more details. We have incorporated the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) information into our whole school newsletter [page 9&10](#). We aim for this information to reach all parents in order that everyone benefits from being informed of the latest news, Top Tips and events advertised.

As we approach this point in the year, I've been able to reflect on my first six months at the school and the experience so far. I am so incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment of the amazing staff team at St Aldhelm's. This in turn inspires and promotes the best possible learning and achievement the children experience. Whilst I know things are not always perfect and there will always be areas we strive to improve, the over-riding message is that children at St Aldhelm's are happy, engaged and performing very well. This has been evident in our Local Authority School Improvement Partner Visit, moderation of children's writing with other local schools and through monitoring visits from our governors. We are very proud of the children and all they bring, share and do each day.

We hope many of you will be able to join us for our Easter Service next Tuesday in Church and for the Easter Bingo, led by the PTA. Next month we look forward to sharing the brilliant ideas and knowledge we shared in our Maths Problem Solving Day this week and the children's responses to the captivating theatre performance of Rocket Girl yesterday.

Kind regards
Mrs P Cohen
Headteacher

Key Dates for 2019

Term 4:

- 02.04.19 Easter Church Service
St Aldhelm's Church 9:30am
– led by Y2, 3 & 6
- 03.04.19 Y1 Trip to Lyme Regis
- 04.04.19 Y2 Sports Festival – Whitstone
(Parents have received letters.
Please send slips to office)
- 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
- 29.04.19 Vision Screening for YR
- 30.04.19 YR & Y6 Measures check
- 01.05.19 KS1 (Y2) Assessments carried out
throughout May
- 02.05.19 Photographer for Classes & Y6
- 13.05.19 KS2 (Y6) SATs Week
- 16.05.19 Y5 Group Growing Futures
- 22.05.19 Beacon Hill Wood Outdoor
Learning Day Y3-6
- 24.05.19 End of Term 5

Term 6:

- 03.06.19 Start of Term 6
- 10.06.19 Y1 Phonic Screening Week
- 11.06.19 Primary Sports Day for Y2 at All
Hallows School
- 19.06.19 Budden's Camp for Year 6
19th-21st June 2019
- 24.06.19 Y6 Pilgrim's Day, Wells Cathedral
- 27.06.19 Whole School Science Day
- 28.06.19 INSET Day
- 03.07.19 Whitstone Transfer Day
- 04.07.19 Whitstone Transfer day
- 08.07.19 Planet Sports Event
- 09.07.19 Traditional Sports Day Races
- 13.07.19 Doultling Village Fete
(provisional date to be confirmed)
- 18.07.19 Year 6 Leavers' Church Service
Celebration Assembly
- 23.07.19 Leavers' Assembly Y6 Parents welcome
End of Term 6

World Book 2019

What an exciting World Book Day at St Aldhelm's! The excitement and enthusiasm surrounding World Book Day was infectious and all children enjoyed partaking in a range of activities.

We were all impressed with the thought and creativity that went into the Book-in-a-Jar entries. It certainly made the job of picking a class winner challenging! Below are a few pictures that capture the amazing, creative masterpieces and costumes of our children:





It was an incredibly hard decision to pick an overall winner. After much deliberation, we are delighted to announce the overall winner is Aaron Ramli-Bowley from Year 5. Thank you to the governors for kindly providing a book voucher for the winning entry.

The children and staff had fun dressing up as their favourite character from their Book-in-a-Jar entry. This was a fantastic opportunity to share why these books are our favourites. One of the most given reasons was that books have the power to transport you into another world where anything can, and does happen.

Shared Read Event:



Every teacher picked one of their favourite books to read and the children had the opportunity to pick which one they listened to. This was a wonderful opportunity to mix up the year groups and work with different people. Below are some photo highlights:



Coming soon.....

Keep your eyes peeled for the Summer Readathon Challenge!



Despite the strong winds, we explored the rock pools and found many fossils and sea creatures.



Year 5's Kilve Residential



The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school. All the staff passed remarks on their manners, their focus and their great team work. We were very proud of all that the children achieved.

The children used their orienteering skills to locate clues.



We loved trying to balance the see-saw. It took many children to counterbalance Mrs Newman





The Stream Walk was popular with all. Well done Carys for achieving Mud Monster status.



Grass Sledging



The disco highlighted great talents including flossing and break dancing.



The children faced and overcame many challenges. They supported each other well.





St Aldhelm's Cross Country Team

What a Cross Country season we have had this year! The children who have taken part have been amazing - they have ran in all weather conditions (rain, wind, snow and sunshine) and not complained once. Today all their hard work and dedication paid off in some fantastic results for the school:

Maisie G – awarded 2nd Lower School Girls overall (Y3)
Rhys E - won the Lower School Boys Y3 Trophy (Y3)

Rhys E, Jamie W, Corey L and Harry G - 2nd place team in the Lower School Boys Category

We would also like to say a BIG WELL DONE to the following children - Lola G, Jack P, Harry B, Freddie B, Freya B, Jude E, Stan M, Harley W, Alex O and Freddie G – who have also taken part in races this year. All children who have taken part should be extremely proud of themselves. Parents and staff certainly are!

***Thank you to our parents who support the running club and co-ordinate the team at events. Thank you too Elaine Jeffery for the refreshments - the kids loved the Oranges



St Aldhelm's Rugby Team

Our Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Club took part in the Simon Harris Frome Rugby Competition on Wednesday 27th March.

The St Aldhelm's team were: Thomas G, Jack P, Jamie V, Freddie B (front row) and Harvey D, Harry B, Finley W, Ethan E and Rufus H (back row) with Mrs Bassett and Mrs Manship (very proud club coaches). They played two pool matches and were successful, then went into the winners pool where we played two more matches. All matches were 8 minutes long. Everyone played really well, had a fantastic attitude and showed great sportsmanship both on and off the pitch! The club have only been together for four weeks – a brilliant achievement! Big Well Done 😊





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



We are delighted to have successfully bid for a grant from the National Grid Grant programme, which is intended to benefit pupils in the study of mathematics.

We have decided to use the money to purchase Times Table Rockstars. One of the reasons for our choice of TT Rockstars is because of the introduction of a new national Multiplication Tables Check in June 2020. Recently, details have been released of this check. It will be set for Year 4 starting in June 2020, therefore our current Year 3 class will be the first to take the check. It must be completed on a computer or tablet and this is one of the reasons for us purchasing TT Rockstars so that children get used to inputting their tables online. It will comprise of 25 multiplication questions with a focus on the 6,7,8,9 and 12 times table. Each child will have 6 seconds to complete each question with 3 second gap between each one. However, just because this check will commence with our current Year 3 class this does not mean that Year 4, 5 and 6 should not practise! Rapid and accurate recall of the times tables are vital to mathematical success for all children. Tables are the basis for so many mathematical skills that are used through primary school and within secondary too.

Each child from Y2 to Y6 has had a chance in school to try out TT Rockstars, choose their rock star name and has received their log in details which are stuck in their homework books.

We have chosen to set each child's account to require them to work their way up through the tables and will not be automatically set to their current target.

As well as using the website www.ttrockstars.com, you can also download the mobile app on all iOS and Android devices. This allows students to play on portable devices when outside of the classroom. With the app you can play all 4 game types, customise your avatar, shop for your avatar and view leader-boards. You can also play offline meaning if you are in an area with poor internet connection or do not have internet access you can still practise.

Over the next week and during the Easter holidays, please encourage your child to access the website or help them to download the app so that they can play and improve their tables.

Starting after the Easter holidays, some Maths homework will be set using Times Tables Rockstars. When your child logs in they will automatically see the tasks set. We will still set a small paper table in homework books to let you know that it will be a TT Rockstars homework and to ask you for feedback as we currently do. We have decided that not all Maths homework will be set using the website to allow children to practise in a variety of different ways.

Please do speak to Mrs Phillips or your child's class teacher if you have any questions and we really hope that your child is engaged by Rockstars to help them improve their tables. Happy Rocking!



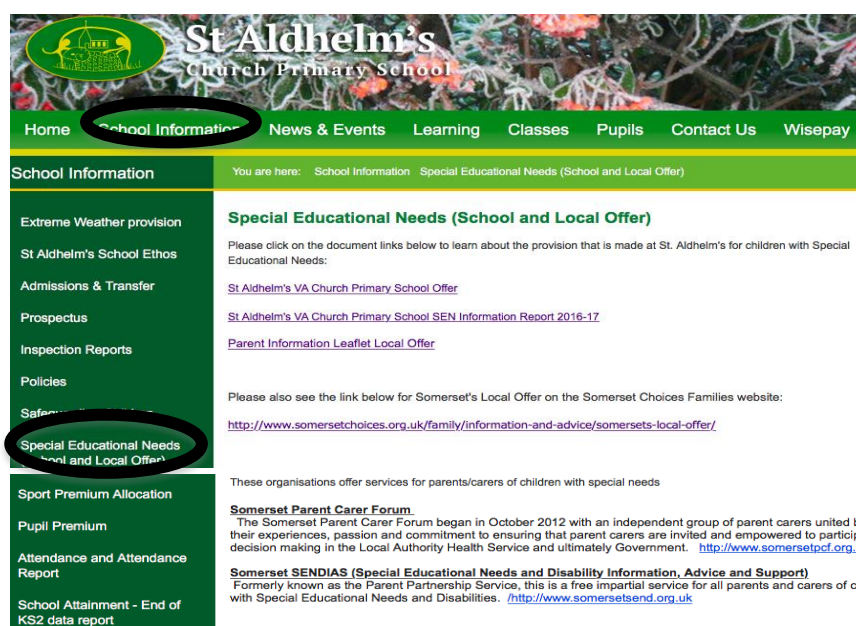


Welcome back to St Aldhelm's SEND Newsletter. These newsletters are for ALL parents, not just parents who have a child with additional needs. These newsletters will come out termly with updates, the popular 'Top Tips,' as well as notices on groups and clubs that Somerset have on offer for children with additional needs.

SEN+D Information Update

I would like to welcome Alison Mann, our new SEND Governor, to the role. She is the Governing Body's champion for learners with SEND and those with inclusion needs who I will be working closely with.

I would like to signpost parents again to the school website, as it is a good source of information about what the school and Somerset offer as support for children and parents/carers. Please take a look.



As the school's SENCo, I am responsible for the day-to-day operation of the SEN Policy. I help to co-ordinate additional support for children with SEND and liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals. If ever you have concerns about your child, please come to see me.

Claire Newman

Our School Vision – Life in all its fullness for all our children

We aim to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith in people's lives and promote Christian values through the experience it offers. We want a school where relationships between people help us all to learn together. To help us achieve this we have four whole school aims:

1. All pupils understand themselves as learners and reach the highest standards they can.
2. Children build positive relationships both within the school and the wider community.
3. All pupils understand how their behaviour and attitudes to school affect their learning and that of others.
4. Pupils participate fully in all aspects of school life, finding areas of success, excitement and inspiration.

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Managing Sleep

Increasing your child's sleep by as little as half an hour can drastically improve school performance, as it can help improve concentration. This can be hard for children who have additional needs like ADHD and ASC, but below are some top tips from professionals to help.

Top Tips

- Exercise daily – at least half an hour of physical activity
- Avoid sugary foods and drinks, especially those containing caffeine in the evening
- Stick to a schedule – create a night time routine that can be stuck to. Use visual charts to help your child know the routine. We can help with these in school.
- Set a bedtime alarm – just as you set an alarm to wake up, consider setting a bedtime alarm so it is not always seen as a parental demand
- Make the bedroom dark or use a very dim night light
- Use a calming scent on your child's pillow that they have helped pick
- Use a weighted blanket.

After school routine

Do some homework									
Chill time									
Tea									
Bit more homework?									
Prepare school bag for next day <small>homework to hand in</small>									
Brain break									
Prepare for bed									
In bed off screens!									

Somerset Clubs and Groups



Children's Autism Outreach Team (CAOT)

A club for children who have a diagnosis of autism and their families. 2nd Tuesday of the month: Hullabaloo Soft Play Centre, Shepton Mallet 5pm-7pm £3 per child
Contact CAOT member for more information: 07919540995 / 07584 175261



Step4ward-in2growth Saturday Club

Once a month on a Saturday: 20th April, 18th May, 15th June. Sensory play, sensory garden, nature walks, music therapy, story-telling and much more!

The Serenity Centre, Shepton Mallet.
For 5-14 years 10am-2pm £10 per person
Call Becky: 07737331174



Mendip Saturday Drop in Club

Delivered in partnership with Short Breaks, CAOT and the Somerset Supporter Service. Come along, have fun, make new friends at our family club.

10am-1pm @ The Mendip School, BA4 4FZ
6th April, 4th May, 1st June and 6th July 2019
0-18 years and siblings welcome.
Contact Joyce on 07584 175247
No need to book, just turn up on the day.

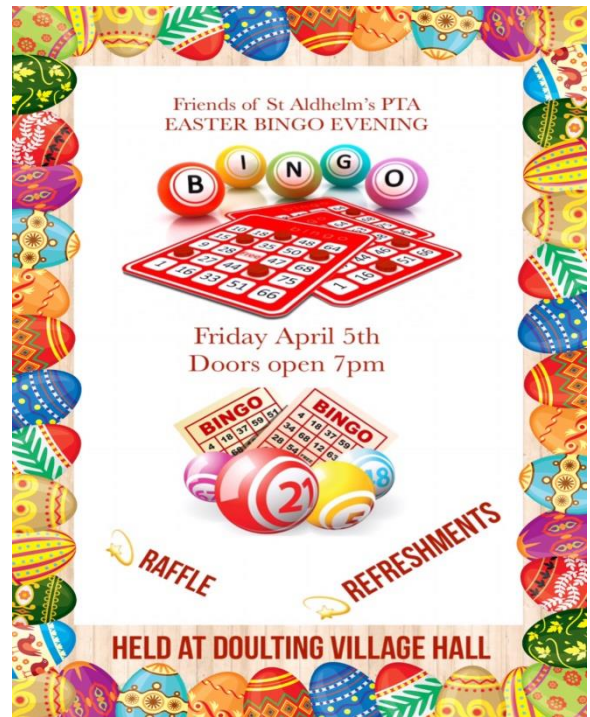
Please see the school website, SEND section, for more links to clubs and groups on offer in Somerset, as well as the Short Breaks brochure.

Friends of St. Aldhelm's PTA

The PTA welcome every family to the Easter Bingo on Friday 5th April 2019 – Thank you for all the wonderful donations!

If you are able to offer any help please speak to one of the committee.

The committee met this week to discuss future fundraising and social events. Thank you to those who came along. More details to follow ...



Thank you to everyone who supported Red Nose Day 2019. We raised £107.62 and have sent this to the charity which I'm sure will be gratefully received and contribute to the overall total. It is an important part of education to be aware of the challenges and difficulties of others less fortunate than ourselves. Children enjoyed the day at school, at Kilve and at home watching the main evening programme.



Job Opportunity

Job Vacancy at St. Aldhelm's:

School Cleaner

**Five days a week (Mon-Fri) –
term-time only plus some deep
clean time in holidays**

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



St. Aldhelm's Church News

Special Celebration for Mothering Sunday on Sunday 31st March at 11am

Messy Church

Sunday 7th April 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 1st March on 01749 880260

Come and
join us for:



The Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society
(Somerset Branch)



COME ALONG AND TRY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

GREAT FUN FOR ALL AGES
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY

FREE CEILIDH

**CARYFORD COMMUNITY
HALL, BA7 7JJ**

**SUNDAY 31ST MARCH,
2.30PM – 4.30PM**

For more info contact: Anita Wilson 01460 929 383

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (Somerset Branch) is organising a series of informal ceilidhs at various village halls in Somerset throughout 2019. We hope to show people the joys of Scottish Country Dancing and encourage them, especially young people, to join one of the local groups. We are keen to attract families to our taster sessions, as Scottish Country Dancing is great fun and great exercise for all ages.

The next of these family ceilidhs is at **Caryford Community Hall, Ansford** on **Sunday 31st March** from **2:30pm to 4:30pm**. No experience is necessary, as all the dances will be easy to learn, and full instruction will be given. No special equipment or clothes are necessary, just comfortable clothes and shoes for dancing. All are welcome; there is no charge and refreshments will be provided.

We suggest that only children aged 8 years and above attend. We must stipulate that all children must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.